
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – February 2, 2018
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603

Attendees

Eugene Yan, Argonne National Laboratory
John Mick II, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.
Rebeca Bell, Bluestem Communications
Anjolie Cheema, CH2M
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering
Monica Rockstroh, Christopher Burke Engineering
Hal Sprague, CNT
Marcella Bondie Keenan, CNT
Brenna Mannion, Current Water
Svetlana Taylor, Current Water
Ramont Bell, Faith in Place
Peter Toth, Foresight Design Initiative
Andrew Donakowski, Friends of the Chicago River
Craig Clarkson, Geosyntec
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Annie Turek, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois State Water Survey
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council
Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council
Shehara Waas, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald
Mollie Dowling, OAI Chicago Southland
Bill Wood, SmithGroup JJR
Holly Campbell, SSMMA
Jose Alarcon, SSMMA
Katherine Moore Powell, The Field Museum
Melissa Cusic, The Morton Arboretum
Emily Okallau, The Morton Arboretum
Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign



Member Updates

Danielle Gallet from MPC announced that the Little Calumet and Cal-Sag Channel watershed plans have been approved by IEPA which opens up EPA Section 319 grant opportunities for the communities in those areas. The CSC conceived the idea for updating these watershed plans with water quality supplemental materials in order to open up this funding stream for communities. The project team comprised of MPC and Christopher B. Burke Engineering worked closely with MWRD on these supplemental materials, and took a different approach to the watershed plans by focusing on performance standards and types of projects that actors can undertake, such as green infrastructure, so that communities have more flexibility in the future to conceive and design projects that would be eligible. MPC is coordinating with MWRD to post these materials alongside the existing DWPs on MWRD's website. The team is now working on updating the watershed plans for Poplar Creek and the Lower Des Plaines River watersheds in 2018.

Melissa Cusic from the Morton Arboretum shared on behalf of Delta Institute that the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative, in partnership with Delta Institute and SSMMA, is organizing a free, practical half-day training on Friday, March 9 from 8 am – 12 noon at SSMMA, 1904 174th St., Hazel Crest, IL. This practical training is for Coastal Management Zone municipalities, practitioners and other interested parties, geared toward local government leaders, municipal staff, nonprofit collaborators, planners, engineers, designers and contractors. The implementation-focused morning will cover a suite of green infrastructure tools, which include siting green infrastructure for performance, procuring green infrastructure services, using existing design templates, and practical guidance for setting up projects for success. There is no cost to attend. For more information and to RSVP, please visit this [link](#).

Andy Donakowski from Friends of the Chicago River announced that the 2018 Chicago River Summit is taking place on Wednesday, March 7 from 12 noon – 4:30 pm at 250 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL. The theme this year is Ending the Waste Stream: Pathways to a Garbage-free Chicago River. For more information, please visit this [link](#).

Extended Member Update

Mary Pat McGuire, UIUC Department of Landscape Architecture
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois Indiana Sea Grant

Soils-based GI Planning and Design for the Calumet

Mary Pat and Margaret provided an overview of the hydro-geologic soil research they were awarded in Fall 2017 to conduct with the goal of increasing knowledge about soils, knowledge about infiltration potential, and disseminate findings so they can be integrated with existing stormwater planning. Over a two-year study period, the team aims to create a Calumet-region geologic soils database, filling in the gaps with data sampling. They will also conduct hydrologic performance modeling for Calumet communities and identify where green infrastructure can take advantage of this data, targeting impervious and urban design issues. Research findings will be disseminated to Calumet region municipalities within the study area: Blue Island, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Midlothian, Riverdale and Robbins.

This effort has already received wide stakeholder and partner involvement from the beginning, including the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative, as well as active CSC member agencies: the Center for Neighborhood Technology, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the Metropolitan Planning Council as well as the National Resources Conservation Service.

There are opportunities for municipalities to participate in the research starting as early as this Spring. Mary Pat and Margaret are seeking 2-3 municipalities interested in participating, and which may have different soil types so they can be representative of other municipalities.

Contact Mary Pat McGuire mpm1@illinois.edu or Margaret Schneeman mschneeman@cmmap.illinois.gov to learn more about participating in the study.

CSC 2018 Work Planning Kick-Off

The February meeting kicked off the CSC work planning process to take stock of where the Collaborative has been and where it is headed for maximum collective impact on stormwater management in the Calumet region.

Sarah Cardona started with a grounding presentation highlighting the CSC's history, purpose, mission and vision of the Collaborative, which has been convening since 2014. There was also an interactive poster exercise where CSC members recorded ideas about the progress being made in stormwater management both nationally and regionally, as well as thoughts on some of the emerging barriers both nationally and regionally in stormwater management.

The session transitioned to a reflective small group exercise to revisit the key fundamental challenges articulated through facilitated dialogue at the outset of the CSC that the Collaborative agreed it could make an impact on, and absent the intervention of the CSC, would not get solved:

- Causes and consequences of non-overbank flooding
- Declining performance and sufficiency of grey and green infrastructure over time
- Drain on public and private resources from repeated ineffective and partial interventions

Small groups discussed whether or not these challenges are still relevant in the Calumet region, and if these challenges still resonate with what the Collaborative is currently working on. There was also opportunity to comment on other fundamental challenges. In the large group report out, there was a strong emphasis on some emerging actions or tactics that could be taken to continue solving these challenges that still seemed relevant and resonating. For example, some groups mentioned reframing the narrative around what's already being done and in a more positive tone. Other groups mentioned the opportunity for heightened monitoring of green infrastructure performance, and the continued challenge of sharing resources and articulating a regional vision for stormwater management in the Calumet.

The collective feedback from the February session will be synthesized and incorporated into the March work planning session and activities.

Meeting Wrap-up and Final Remarks

Sarah thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for the continued collaboration and energy behind the Collaborative and its efforts to improve stormwater management in the Calumet region. She also reminded everyone of the next CSC meeting, which will be Friday, March 2.

The large group meeting concluded and the Work Groups met for the remainder of the time where they started assessing their Work Group initiatives from the current Work Plan.

Next Meeting

Friday, March 2, 2018
10:00am to 12:00pm
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

For more information contact:

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