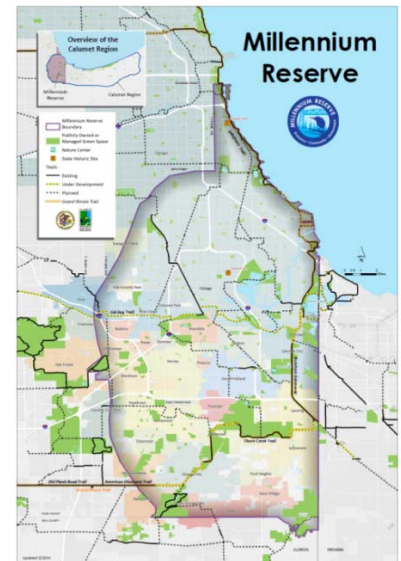

CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – February 3, 2017
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



Attendees

Anjolie Cheema, CH2M
Jason Navota, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Kelsey Pudlock, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Chris Mulvaney, Chicago Wilderness
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering
Monica Giermek, Christopher Burke Engineering
Curtis Witek, CNT
Hal Sprague, CNT
Molly Oshun, CNT
Marcella Bondie Keenan, CNT
K.C. Doyle, Cook County
Ramont Bell, Faith in Place
Peter Toth, Foresight Design Initiative
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec
Julia Plumb, High Bridge
Edde Jones, GreenCorps Chicago
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Emily Clamp, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Chad Kruse, Illinois Pollution Control Board
Jeff Edstrom, Independent consultant
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
Mollie Dowling, OAI
Ted Haffner, Openlands
Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
Moirra Zellner, University of Illinois at Chicago



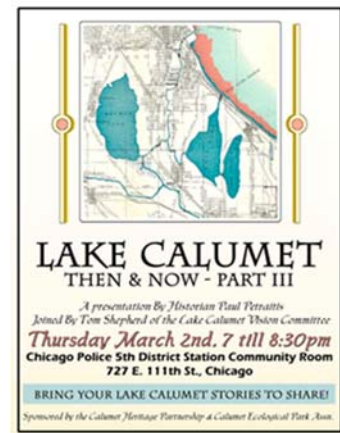
Member Updates

Curtis Witek shared that CNT has completed full drafts of the RainReady Calumet Corridor plans covering Blue Island, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Riverdale and Robbins. The plans were developed in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and with support from Cook County. The draft plans are being circulated to the project Advisory Group, and there will be a launch party on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, from 5:30-8:00p.m., at South Suburban College. To learn more and register, please use this link: <http://www.cnt.org/events/rainready-calumet-corridor-launch-party>.

John Watson announced MWRD is starting up a GPS equipment loan program. GPS devices will be available to sewer system owners for work such as improving a community sewer atlas. There will be an inter-governmental agreement for equipment loans. Interested communities should contact Ann Gray at ann.gray@mwrdd.org.

Nora Beck announced that CMAP, CNT and MPC have been invited to speak at several national conferences (including the American Planning Association, the National Adaptation Forum and WaterCon) about CSC-related topics. Nora will focus on CMAP's LTA program, Molly will cover RainReady and Danielle will provide overarching information and accomplishments from the CSC.

Margaret Schneemann announced that a presentation about Lake Calumet, "Then and Now (Part III)" will be held on Thursday, March 2 at 7pm at 727 E. 111th St. with Roseland and Pullman historian Paul Petraitis. This event is sponsored by the Calumet Heritage Partnership and Calumet Ecological Park Association. For further information please contact Tom at 773-370-3305.



Mollie Dowling provided an update on High Bridge, noting this initiative is an outgrowth of the CSC and has been going strong for two seasons. High Bridge is a transitional jobs and social enterprise company founded by OAI which coordinates green infrastructure installation and ongoing maintenance, hiring local labor and helping advance technical skills for residents of the Calumet region. Mollie and Julia Plumb are working with the Booth School to develop a business plan, and are currently planning the green infrastructure-related work to be done this upcoming season.

Chris Mulvaney announced Chicago Wilderness is accepting nominations for a new recognition program, the *Force of Nature Awards*. Awards will be considered for projects/sites, individuals, or organizations where there is a significant conservation component. Nominations are being accepted through February 28 via an on-line form found [here](#). The Force of Nature Awards will complement the Excellence in Ecological Restoration Program, which focuses on high quality restoration of remnant ecological landscapes (100 acres or more). The awards ceremony covering both programs will be April 4.

Marcella Bondie Keenan of CNT highlighted that <http://my.rainready.org/> is up and running. On this website a user can type in an address and obtain a site-specific flood risk profile.

Danielle Gallet provided an update on behalf of Melissa Custic (Morton Arboretum) who was not able to attend. There will be an informative CRTI and Morton Arboretum workshop about Transportation and Trees. Come hear from experts about what a tree needs to be successful along major transportation routes and why trees are beneficial infrastructure. March 2, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Illinois Tollway Offices in Downers Grove. To register go to <https://goo.gl/forms/jc5R3imMTItlUK3x1>.

Danielle also announced that in addition to the national conference Nora spoke about, she will be presenting about CSC and sustainable stormwater practices as part of a webinar organized by the International Water Association this month, which is providing international visibility for our work.

Danielle also reminded the group that the national Water Environment Federation conference (known as *WEFTEC*) will be in Chicago this September. Danielle is working to plan a tour similar to the green infrastructure tour the CSC organized two years ago at the same conference. The tour will focus on maintenance of green infrastructure sites and stormwater practices. Current tour stops include Blue Island, a Space to Grow school, and a third tour stop is still being determined. Please contact Danielle if you have suggestions for a tour site, especially ideas for a commercial/industrial site.

Josh Ellis also provided updates:

1. Chicago River Day is May 13. Last year the CSC organized a volunteer clean-up event; volunteers are welcome to organize a CSC clean-up event again this year.
2. The 2017 Dragon Boat race will be June 3, 2017, which may also coincide with another fundraising plunge into the river event as well.
3. The Chicago Community Trust has announced [Our Great Rivers Fund](#), a new funding opportunity to support river activation of the Chicago, Calumet and Des Plaines rivers and riverfronts. The Request for Proposals due May 31, 2017 sets the stage for eligible projects that align with one or more of the Our Great Rivers' three themes. The Trust will make up to 15 grants under this RFP, ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000 with the possibility of renewal.
4. On February 22, MPC is hosting a workshop for neighborhood organizations that would like to activate a stretch of one of Chicago's Rivers. This workshop will consist of presentations and case studies that will provide information about placemaking, physical improvements, programming, permitting, grant opportunities and proposal support. The event includes the opportunity to workshop your idea with experts such as architects, engineers, community organization leaders, arts & cultural programming professionals, etc. Register for this event [here](#).

CSC 2017 Work Planning Session

The February meeting was devoted to CSC work planning, which began by highlighting the accomplishments over the past year, and then looking ahead to drafting a new work plan for April 2017-2018.

After a grounding presentation by Danielle Gallet about the history, mission and accomplishments thus far of the CSC, each of the four work groups did a work planning exercise lead by work group leads, which focused on:

- The structure of the work group: what worked, what needed improvement and what new strategies for working together they wanted to put into action.
- What initiatives the work group would like to work on during the next work plan year (April 2017-2018). Initiatives might include work currently in progress to take across the goal line, a revamping of initiatives not accomplished during the current year, and possible new initiatives that the group thought timely and important.

Work groups discussed focusing on quality over quantity of initiatives and identifying those projects that would be valuable to communities with their on-the-ground stormwater management needs. There was also a strong emphasis on identifying potential synergies across the work groups for the new work planning year. For example, all the work groups could collaborate on a half day forum for Calumet communities focused on bringing all the resources, tools, and assistance the CSC has available for local communities.

Upon ending the work group-focused exercise, each work group reported out to the larger group what work group strategies and potential initiatives they are planning to put in place. The next step for each of the work groups is to convene a conference call or in-person meeting between now and March 17th to follow-up on the discussions during this CSC meeting, and solidify what initiatives their work group intends to include in the next CSC work plan. The deadline to submit these finalized initiatives is March 20th.

Meeting Wrap-up and Final Remarks

Danielle thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for the continued work and commitment to advance and improve stormwater management in the Calumet region. She also reminded everyone of the next CSC meeting, which will be Friday, March 3. The agenda for the March meeting will include presentations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and CNT.

Next Meeting

Friday, March 3, 2017
10:00am to 12:00pm
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

For more information contact:

Danielle Gallet
Metropolitan Planning Council
312.863.6016
dgallet@metroplanning.org