
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – February 5, 2016

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400



Attendees

John Mick II, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.

Burrell Poe, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Molly Oshun, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Anjolie Cheema, CH2M HILL

Mason Throneburg, CH2M HILL

Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Chris Mulvaney, Chicago Wilderness

Monica Giermek, Christopher Burke Engineering

Gene Ryan, Cook County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Response

Tylon McGee, Cook County Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Response

Jeffrey Wiseman, Cook County Department of Planning & Development

Alex Simmons, Cook County Land Bank Authority

Ben Shorofsky, Delta Institute

Graig Neville, EDI

Lyndon Valicenti, Foresight Design Initiative

Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Anthony Cefali, Friends of the Chicago River

Julia Plumb, High Bridge

Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Amy Walkenbach, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Karen Bireta, Independent Consultant

Jeff Edstrom, Independent Consultant

Mark Wagstaff, M3 Engineering Group

Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council

Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council

Valerie Poulos, Metropolitan Planning Council

Kelsey Pudlock, Metropolitan Planning Council

John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Waleska Valle, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

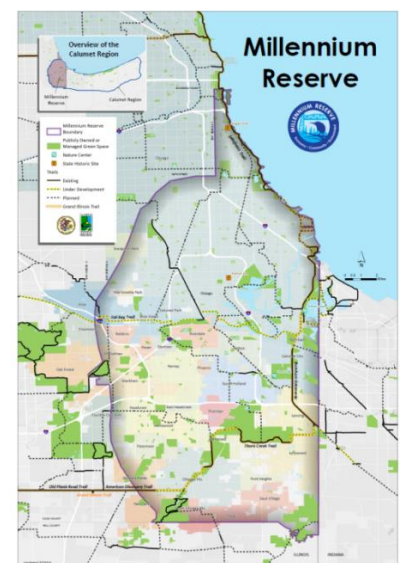
Sarah Coulter, Millennium Reserve

Rennie Heath, Southeast Environmental Task Force

Melissa Cusic, The Morton Arboretum

Andrew Szwak, Openlands

David Bucaro, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Erin Maloney, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Carolina Chantrill, UILABS-City Digital
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian

Member Updates

Lisa Cotner from IDNR announced the EPA would be hosting a webinar related to green infrastructure and greening vacant lots on February 9th. While the webinar has since past, please click [here](#) for more information about this webinar and other upcoming webinars.

Molly Oshun from CNT announced there are new job openings within the RainReady program. For more information about employment opportunities with CNT, please click [here](#). She also shared that the federal Urban Flooding and Awareness Act language is currently in an Omnibus Bill, which would grant FEMA the authority to conduct a study nationwide that will provide a comprehensive understanding of urban flooding at a national level. Update since meeting: Thanks to CNT and other CSC member efforts, and the leadership of Representative Mike Quigley and Senator Dick Durbin, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been asked to conduct a national study of urban flooding. The Congressional directive is included in an appropriations bill signed by President Obama, and specifically requires FEMA “to evaluate the latest available research, laws, regulations, policies, best practices, procedures, and institutional knowledge regarding urban flooding. . . .”

Karen Kreis from the Village of Midlothian, announced that its RainReady community plan is now complete. Midlothian is the first community in the U.S. to have created a RainReady plan. To view this plan, please click [here](#).

Melissa Custic from The Morton Arboretum announced their agency will be hosting a workshop this month about tree care and improvement. For more information about this and other events hosted by the Arboretum, please click [here](#).

Danielle Gallet from MPC updated the group about the National Disaster Resilient Competition, letting everyone know that none of the applicants from Illinois who competed were awarded grants. This was a big disappointment. However the work of the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative (CSC) continues, and is as important as ever in bringing partners together for solving stormwater issues in the region.

Overview of work planning process: value, impact, actions...

Gallet from MPC reminded everyone about the work planning process the group is currently conducting. In January, the meeting was centered on identifying the value and desired impacts of the CSC. Using that knowledge, February's meeting is focused on brainstorming and identifying specific goals and actions the CSC intends to accomplish going forward. The March meeting will be a refinement of the actions, and a discussion about the structure of the CSC to ensure it is supportive of the intended impacts. This will culminate in the creation of the 2016-2017 work plan of the CSC in April.

Review of 2015 CSC work plan & working group accomplishments

Gallet then began a discussion with the group about the accomplishments of the CSC in 2015. These included the following:

- Creation of the first CSC work plan, and WEFTEC session and tour (led by MPC)
- Development and release of design templates for GI (working group led by Delta Institute)
- Completion of a RainReady Plan for the Village of Midlothian (working group led by CNT)
- Improved data sharing and usability efforts (working group led by CH2M & CBBEL)
- ITMT logic model complete (working group led by IISG & OAI/Highbridge)
- Grant application submitted to EPA for watershed plan improvements for 319 funding (working group led by MPC & EPA)

A matrix of these accomplishments was passed around to all attendees, and the leaders of each of the seven working groups shared what their sub-committee had accomplished. Each working group was congratulated for their hard work and accomplishments by the larger CSC members.

Breakout Group Exercise: Impacts to Actions – identifying initiatives of the CSC for the 2016 work plan

To kick-off the small group exercise, Gallet provided an overview of the impacts the group identified during the January meeting. She stated that the impacts provided by the CSC were organized into four specific categories, from which impact statements were created. They are as follows:

1. Education & Engagement

Impact Statement: Millennium Reserve region (regional agencies, local governments, community-based groups and residents) is actively engaged and working to identify hot spots, increase awareness about flooding issues, determine effective strategies and find necessary resources for managing stormwater.

2. Planning & Policy Change

Impact Statement: Effective planning is utilized to support and ensure the integration of stormwater BMPs into future comprehensive and capital plans and projects; while policies are developed and advanced to realize the improved management of stormwater.

3. Training & Maintenance

Impact Statement: Advance standardization of training for installation and maintenance of GI to improve its effectiveness overtime.

4. Data & Monitoring

Impact Statement: Access to stormwater data and feasible monitoring approaches in order to improve knowledge sharing and decision making across the region.

Gallet stated that many of the specific impacts the group provided in January could be grouped into two underlying themes that should be a focus within each of the four impact categories:

1. Identifying and establishing funding for necessary infrastructure projects, and financing of CSC related initiatives is important to the overall success of these efforts.

2. The CSC can be a mechanism and model for effective collaboration, implementation and engagement and opportunities to promote this cooperative initiative are beneficial for everyone.

Each of the four tables in the room had a tent sign denoting each of the four categories of impact. Participants were encouraged to sit at the table whose topic was most interesting or relevant to them. Each table had an established moderator who led their group through a brainstorming exercise to identify a handful of specific actions and/or goals that could be accomplished by the CSC in 2016. Examples of manageable actions were provided to each group to help jump start the activity. Gallet reminded every one of the CSC's mission and vision (see below), and that identified activities by each group should be centered on actions that can only be accomplished in collaboration (by the CSC), and to be mindful of not focusing on activities that are already being done, or could be accomplished by individual agencies.

Mission Statement

The Calumet Stormwater Collaborative builds intergovernmental and cross-sector *partnerships to increase the effectiveness of stormwater management initiatives* for the communities and ecosystems of the Calumet region through knowledge sharing, coordination and deployment of interventions at appropriate scales.

Vision Statement

The Calumet Stormwater Collaborative will be a model of coordinated deployment of knowledge, technology and financial resources to minimize the negative impacts of precipitation and maximize the positive to make the Calumet region a better place to live, work and recreate.

Large Group Discussion: Group reporting on identified actions and next steps for work plan

After the breakout group exercises were complete, each table shared the results of their group's brainstorming discussion, which included:

1. Top priority actions the group identified relative to the theme of their table
2. Specific agencies and/or stakeholders that would be important to have involved in the priority actions identified
3. Any potential barriers to the priority actions identified

The meeting concluded with Danielle Gallet from MPC thanking all the attendees for their time and hard work. A synthesis of the identified action ideas will be created and provided back to the CSC during the March meeting, which will include further refinement of these actions, and a discussion on the overall structure of the CSC going forward.

Next Meeting

Friday, March 4, 10:00am – 12:00pm
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

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