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# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – February 7, 2020  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



## Attendees

Brad Kasberg, Audubon Great Lakes  
Emily Grimm, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.  
Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Emily Okallau, Chicago Region Trees Initiative/ The Morton Arboretum  
Trinity Pierce, Chicago Region Trees Initiative/ The Morton Arboretum  
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering  
Kimberly Nowicki, Cook County Dept. of Emergency Management and Regional Security  
Lyndon Valicenti, Daylight  
Reilly Manz, Delta Institute  
Graig Neville, EDI  
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County  
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River  
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec  
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec  
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates  
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Coastal Management Program  
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program  
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois Coastal Program  
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Kira Baltutis, Metro Strategies, Inc.  
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Adam Slade, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Ryan Wilson, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Dean Alonistiotis, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
John Fox, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Justin Hart, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Dawn Thompson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald  
Bill Wood, SmithGroup  
Moirra Zellner, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

## Member Updates

Moirra Zellner from the University of Illinois at Chicago announced that the Landscape Green Infrastructure Design (L-GRID) model is available for public use. This user friendly tool allows users to simulate flooding in their neighborhood and assess different green infrastructure plans to address it. [Click here to read more and download the program.](#)

Chelsey Grassfield from Friends of the Chicago River said the 2020 Chicago River Summit is taking place on March 12 from noon to 4:30 p.m. There you can learn from experts about how they have developed and employed successful nature-based approaches for coordinated stormwater management and reduced impacts on their cities and natural resources. The current lineup of speakers includes Kevin Shafer from Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Mary Pat McGuire from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Mollie Dowling from OAI, Inc., and Palencia Mobley from Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. [Register here](#).

Emily Okallau from Chicago Region Trees Initiative/The Morton Arboretum said they are partnering with CMAP on the [Trees & Green Infrastructure Ordinance Workshop](#). This workshop will be on February 18 from 9 a.m. to noon at CMAP (233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 800, Chicago). Registration is free, and snacks will be provided.

Jeff Edstrom from IDNR Coastal Management Program gave an update on the Lake Michigan Lakewide Management Plan (LAMP). They are looking for recommended Action Items for the LAMP in the following categories:

- Reducing Nutrient Loss and Bacterial Loading
- Reducing Environmental Toxicity
- Protecting and Restoring Habitat and Native Species
- Preventing and Containing Invasive Species
- Promoting Resilience to Climate Trend Impacts

The drafts will also be distributed for comment. For now, contact Jeff Edstrom ([Jeff.Edstrom@illinois.gov](mailto:Jeff.Edstrom@illinois.gov)) with recommendations, and keep this initiative on your radar.

Justin Keller announced on behalf of Bob Newport from OAI, Inc. that, after much work by the CSC's Training & Maintenance Work Group, a 1-day training covering green infrastructure basics will be offered for the first time (Exciting!) on March 10 at South Suburban College in South Holland. They are currently recruiting candidates to attend the training, so please help spread the news. For more information, email [highbridge@oaiinc.org](mailto:highbridge@oaiinc.org). Depending on demand, they may be able to accommodate a few CSC members at the training.

Justin Hart from MWRD Commissioner Debra Shore's office said MWRD is undergoing a Strategic Planning process and views this as an opportunity to think about what a 21<sup>st</sup> century utility looks like. They are currently looking for a facilitator to help guide the process and are looking for recommendations. If possible, a pro bono facilitator is preferred, thereby allowing the process to start sooner. If they issue a RFP, the process will begin later in the year.

Moira Zellner from the University of Illinois at Chicago also added that she is an Honorary representative for the City of Buenos Aires (Argentina) in Chicago. Authorities from Buenos Aires are very interested in the Space to Grow program and collaboration with a similar program in Buenos Aires. They are hoping to set up a conference call soon with Space to Grow partners to explore possibilities for exchange in information about lessons learned and future plans, within a collaborative framework between the two cities. Please contact Moira at [mzellner@uic.edu](mailto:mzellner@uic.edu).

Danielle Gallet from the Metropolitan Planning Council announced that today (February 7) is her last day at MPC! She is thankful to have been part of the CSC and the great work everyone is doing. She thanked everyone and clarified that she will remain in the region and is not leaving the field of Water!

## Presentation

*Theme: advancing the CSC's Goal 1: Significant reduction in non-overbank flooding, Goal 2: Grey and green infrastructure maintains its designed performance over time, Goal 3: Increase municipal capacity and reduce fragmentation across Calumet government actors, and Goal 4: Data-driven decision-making is more prevalent in stormwater management planning*

### **External initiatives with the potential to influence stormwater management in the Calumet region**

Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council

This month and next month, the CSC is spending time in reflection on the alignment of external initiatives in stormwater, water and the environment. Specifically, IDNR is leading a process to update the State Water Plan, MWRD is updating its 5-year Strategic Business Plan, the City of Chicago is hiring a Chief Sustainability Officer, and there is general alignment around equity and sustainability by city, county and state government administrations.

The presentation began with an update on the status of the CSC's 3-year Workplan, which was launched in October 2018 and is helping us achieve our desired impact, i.e., "[within 10 years] The Calumet region effectively manages wet-weather events today and is resilient to future events under a changing climate". We are currently in the first phase of the workplan and working on four Foundational Activities, each of which is proceeding well. However, the external initiatives mentioned above represent an altered landscape since when the workplan launched. Attendees broke into three groups to discuss what opportunities exist within the external initiatives, either for the CSC or for Calumet stormwater management, generally, and if (and, if so, how) the CSC can influence these initiatives. Next month's meeting will focus on specific action items resulting from the day's discussion.

Visit the [CSC website](#) to review the full presentation materials.

## Next Meeting

Friday, March 6, 2020

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

**For more information contact:**  
Metropolitan Planning Council

Justin Keller  
312.863.6033  
[jkeller@metroplanning.org](mailto:jkeller@metroplanning.org)