
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

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

Attendees

Kim Siemens, CDM Smith
Hal Sprague, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Monica Rockstroh, Christopher Burke Engineering
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Carol Kim, Chicago Park District
Darlene Dugo, Cook County Land Bank Authority
Ray Bell, Faith in Place
Craig Clarkson, Geosyntec
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec
Jeff Macke, Hey and Associates
Annie Turek, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois State Water Survey
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council
Liz Granger, Metropolitan Planning Council
Matt Milkovich, Metropolitan Planning Council
Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council
Sarah Thomas, Metropolitan Planning Council
Mark Castillo, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Ted Haffner, Openlands
Bill Wood, SmithGroup JJR
Katherine Moore Powell, The Field Museum
Melissa Custic, The Morton Arboretum
Emily Okallau, The Morton Arboretum
Jo Pena, University of Illinois at Chicago
Moiria Zellnerr, University of Illinois at Chicago
Gary L'Heureux, Village of Midlothian
Dave Toepper, Village of Steger



Member Updates

Hal Sprague from CNT highlighted their [Green Infrastructure Portfolio Standard program](#) which focuses on increasing green infrastructure practices in urban areas that are unlikely to see new development or redevelopment in the near future. CNT is in preliminary discussions with MWRD regarding this program in Cook County and seeking the District's technical and financial support. Municipalities interested in pursuing this program should email Hal [here](#) for more information.

Saki Handa from Mott Macdonald shared that the Environmental and Water Resources Institute (EWRI) of the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is planning a one-day seminar in November on green infrastructure and how it has been implemented in Northeastern Illinois. This goal is to focus on completed projects and what was learned during the actual construction and how sites have performed since their construction. They are currently looking for project ideas and other suggestions as this event is still in the planning phases. For more information or to suggest project ideas, please contact Jerry McGovern at jeromemcgovern@att.net or Saki Handa at Saki.Handa@mottmac.com.

Kate Evasic from CMAP and Annie Turek from IDNR announced that the Planning and Policy Work Group has completed their work developing the Stormwater Repository. This tool strives to demystify approaches to urban flooding by pulling together curated resources that can help Calumet communities plan, pay for, and implement effective stormwater management strategies. The resources in this database are divided into seven themes: 1) data and tools, 2) design and implementation, 3) education and engagement, 4) funding and financing, 5) planning, 6) policies and regulations, and 7) training and maintenance. Each section contains descriptions and hyperlinks to important resources and guidance. To access the Stormwater Repository, click [here](#).

Sarah Cardona from MPC reminded everyone about the Stormwater Management Training for Practical Implementation that the CSC is organizing in partnership with Delta Institute on Friday, March 9th, 8 am – 12 noon at SSMMA in Hazel Crest. CSC members were invited to help spread the word to their contacts including local government leaders, municipal staff, nonprofit collaborators, planners, engineers, designers and contractors. For more information, visit this [link](#).

Emily Okallau from the Morton Arboretum shared that they are interested in developing partnerships to engage private entities who would like to contribute or participate in community tree plantings. Local businesses or branches interested in participating are encouraged to [reach out](#).

Josh Ellis from MPC announced that [River Day 2018](#) will be on Saturday, May 12. The CSC will again select a site to clean up—location to be determined, so members were asked to Save the Date for this group activity. Josh also announced that the 3rd Annual Dragon Boat Races will take place on Saturday, June 2, 2018 in Blue Island. Lastly, Josh requested CSC members to [let him](#) and [Hal Sprague](#) know if anyone has heard about instances where residential retention ponds separate from the subdivisions they serve go to tax sale and are purchased by third parties. There is a bill being introduced that would require public notice be given to the property owners served by such a facility in advance of the sale, so they would have notice and the ability to buy the pond in advance.

Extended Member Update

Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council & Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council

Pursuing 319 Grants in the Little Calumet and Cal-Sag Channel Watersheds

Danielle and Bob provided an overview of the work MPC led in partnership with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. and MWRD to develop water quality-focused materials for two Calumet-area watershed plans in Cook County: the Cal-Sag Channel watershed (IL_H-01) and the Little Calumet River watershed (IL_HB-01). These materials are supplemental to the Detailed Watershed Plans (DWPs) previously developed by MWRD which have a focus on flooding. Communities and other stakeholders in these watersheds are now eligible to apply to Illinois EPA's Section 319 Grant Program, with an [application deadline of August 1, 2018](#).

Section 319 grant funding is one source to support the implementation of green infrastructure-based stormwater solutions. The plans identify a broad range of types of stormwater controls that would help restore and protect the watersheds. The plans intentionally do not list or schedule specific projects, but rather create a framework under which stakeholders can plan projects that fit with community contexts and priorities and reduce pollutant loadings. This will allow for relatively more flexibility and project options. Note that Section 319 grants can be awarded for projects which capture and control stormwater runoff, such as bioswales and permeable pavement, but grey infrastructure projects such as relief sewers would generally not be eligible.

The watershed plan documents are posted in two places:

[MWRD website](#) (MWRD's DWPs and the supplemental Watershed-based Plans are both available)
[MPC Website](#)

Communities interested in applying are encouraged to seek out more information and get pre-qualified through the State [grants portal](#). Applications are due to IEPA August 1, 2018. Contact the project team with any questions about the approved plans or project ideas: Bob Newport bnewport@metroplanning.org and Danielle Gallet dgallet@metroplanning.org.

The team will be working in 2018 to create supplemental watershed planning materials for Poplar Creek and the Des Plaines River watershed within Cook County.

CSC 2018 Work Planning Recap + Request to Complete Online Survey by 3/29

The March meeting continued the CSC Work Planning process by recapping the fundamental challenges in stormwater management that the Collaborative is committed to addressing, which were affirmed at the February meeting:

- Causes and consequences of non-overbank flooding
- Declining performance and sufficiency of grey and green infrastructure over time
- Perpetuated ineffective and partial interventions stemming from fragmentation of government
- Lack of universal access to—and usage of—relevant data and information

The next step was to set measurable goals to help track the progress being made on each of the fundamental challenges. The main focus of the March meeting was to brainstorm ideas for 3-5 year vision statements for each of the four fundamental challenges followed by ideas for measurable goals to achieve these visions. Members worked in small groups to generate ideas.

Request to CSC members

In order to collect more feedback on measurable goals, all CSC members are invited to complete [this online survey](#) by **3/29** to further share thoughts and ideas. Results from the March meeting and the online survey will be discussed at the April CSC meeting.

The slides from the above presentations are posted on the [CSC webpage](#).

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, April 6.

Next Meeting

Work group-focused meeting

Friday, April 6, 2018

10:00am to 12:00pm

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

For more information contact:

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