

---

# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

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



## Attendees

Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Jason Navota, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Carol Kim, Chicago Park District  
Byron Tsang, Chicago Park District  
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering  
Monica Giermek, Christopher Burke Engineering  
Curtis Witek, CNT  
Rebecca Raines, CNT  
K.C. Doyle, Cook County  
Eve Pytel, Delta Institute  
Graig Neville, EDI  
Ramont Bell, Faith in Place  
Peter Toth, Foresight Design Initiative  
Andy Donakowski, Friends of the Chicago River  
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec  
Craig Clarkson, Geosyntec  
Mark Wagstaff, GHD  
Edde Jones, GreenCorps Chicago  
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Annie Turek, Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Amy Walkenbach, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Jeff Edstrom, Independent consultant  
Kaitlyn McClain, Indiana Coastal Program  
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Josh Ellis, 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  
Melissa Custic, The Morton Arboretum  
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy  
Justin Keller, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Moiria Zellner, University of Illinois at Chicago



Kathy Coventry, Village of Midlothian  
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian

## **Member Updates**

Andy Donakowski made several Chicago River event announcements, which included mention of 2017's Chicago River Summit, taking place on Thursday March 9, from noon to 4:30 p.m. Access event information [here](#).

He also mentioned the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chicago River Day! This annual event will be taking place on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, and is made possible through the participation of several community organizations, corporate teams, school groups, families, and dedicated individuals. You can access the event page [here](#).

Curtis Witek shared that CNT has nearly completed a final plan for the RainReady Calumet Corridor Plan 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—with support from Cook County—and will be celebrated at RainReady's launch party on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, from 5:30-8:00p.m., at South Suburban College. Rebecca Raines from CNT also shared that expected guests at the launch include Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, and MWRD President Mariyana Spyropoulos. To RSVP, either call Rebecca at 773-269-2217, or visit this [link](#).

John Watson provided information regarding MWRD's borrow out program for high-accuracy GPS units. He announced that GPS devices/software would be available at no cost for 6 months to sewer system owners to begin mapping their sewer system in GIS, or improve their existing sewer system map. Sewer system owners must enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with MWRD (draft IGAs are already available), and provide the District with their sanitary, storm, and combined sewer data. To learn more about this program, contact Ann Gray at [fritza@mwrdd.org](mailto:fritza@mwrdd.org).

Also, John noted that the MWRD, CPS, and the City of Chicago's Department of Water Management are continuing their partnership to design 5 additional sustainable schoolyards as part of the Space to Grow program. These schoolyards are currently being designed, and are expected to be constructed this summer.

Byron Tsang introduced Carol Kim, his colleague at the Chicago Park District, who will be the new CPD liaison to the CSC. Welcome to the CSC, Carol—we are happy to have you on-board!

Nora Beck and Jason Navota announced CMAP's official call for new LTA projects, which will open May 5<sup>th</sup>. Potential applicants will be invited to a panel-based symposium at Roosevelt University on May 16<sup>th</sup>. LTA projects do not have to be limited to watershed plan improvement projects approved by the EPA, but rather can include subject matter related to general water resource management (including flooding) as well as water quality improvement projects.

Melissa Custic announced an upcoming Urban Forestry Training event hosted by the Chicago Region Trees Initiative on Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:30-3:30 pm in Park Forest, IL. To learn more and register, visit: <http://www.mortonarb.org/courses/crti-urban-forestry-basic-training>

Sarah Cardona from MPC provided an update on behalf of Chad Kruse, Illinois Pollution Control Board. The Alliance for the Great Lakes' Young Professional Council (YPC) is excited to open its first ever grant application process. The YPC awards grants that strengthen the role of leaders and community groups working in Chicago on projects benefiting the Great Lakes. Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000. Use the following link for more information: <https://greatlakes.org/2017/03/young-professional-council-grant/>

### **Extended Member Update**

Amy Walkenbach, Illinois EPA Bureau of Water

Amy Walkenbach, from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Water's Watershed Management, provided the CSC with an extended member update about the Bureau of Water's programs in Illinois. Amy began by identifying and describing the Bureau's two priority pollution issues for 2017: Nutrients and Chlorides.

Much progress has been made on nutrient issues over the past 2 years. There are six working groups focused on implementing elements of the State's [Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy](#). The groups are currently compiling data for a progress report which will be released in the fall. Amy also mentioned there will be a Nutrient Reduction Strategy workshop in November or December 2017 which will include detailed information on watershed planning.

The data on nonpoint source load reductions shows very significant reductions have been achieved, which is encouraging. Out of the 220 major point sources in Illinois, 67 have permit limits for phosphorus or a compliance schedule. These 67 facilities together are responsible for 81% of the flow from point source discharges. 213 facilities are monitoring for phosphorus, and 212 are monitoring for nitrogen. Watershed approaches are being used to plan and implement integrated point and nonpoint source controls in several watersheds including the Fox River, the DuPage River, as well as Salt Creek and Hickory Creek.

When asked about the potential for water quality trading, Amy responded that Illinois is still investigating this topic area, although the watershed planning examples do have provisions where nonpoint source load reductions can *offset* point source reductions. Missouri recently set up a framework that watershed groups can use.

Amy also discussed progress that has been made on the agricultural nonpoint source front. There have been 30 "road show" events, focused on approaches to reduce

“nutrient loss.” Farmers are generally bought in to the idea of reducing nutrient loss, i.e., by keeping nutrients on their land, and this has proven to be a good avenue for working with the agricultural community.

Walkenbach mentioned work to develop water quality standards (specifically nutrient parameters) for moving waters. Illinois has a nutrient science policy committee working on this. One aspect being explored, which would be an input for setting standards, is looking at the nutrients present in the water in pristine areas.

Amy described that the State Revolving Fund (SRF) can be used where facilities need to implement new point source controls, and can also be used for BMPs under a watershed plan. A major complication with regard to use of the SRF for BMPs is how to pay back the loan. In applying for a loan the applicant must show what the steady stream of revenue is that will be available to repay the loan. In some instances it may be possible for BMP implementers to work through a municipality or wastewater agency.

She also mentioned that chlorides are a significant and growing concern in Illinois. Some areas of the State are now facing the issue of water quality related to chlorides since some areas are not meeting the standards. Legislation recently signed in Springfield will allow the IPCB to approve a watershed-based approach for reducing chloride loadings. Entities can get together and develop a plan, and BMP implementation will in some way be reflected in the point source permits, and may be tied in with decisions about variances.

Walkenbach acknowledged the difficulties recently with the State's budget issues as well as work with IEPA grantees being further interrupted by a changeover in the IT systems used to manage grant and payments information.

Illinois EPA is getting ready to award the 2017 round of Section 319 grants, and Amy is optimistic the program will continue in 2018, but there is no assurance of that as budget deliberations proceed in Washington. She also mentioned that a national MS4 rule was updated in late 2016. The rule deals with the public review and comment on individual MS4 NOIs and stormwater plans. There is also a possibility in the future for leveraging 319 watershed planning with FEMA mitigation plans. For example, green infrastructure features may support both water quality protection and flood reduction; Illinois may be a pilot for some work on this concept.

Amy also communicated important personnel updates: Alec Messina is now the Director of Illinois EPA and Sanjay Sofat is now the Chief of the Bureau of Water. Amy is

continuing as the head of watershed planning work and 319 grants, but will no longer have the SRF under her purview.

## **Presentation**

David Bucaro, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

David Bucaro provided a thorough presentation about USACE and its various work programs that are offered to communities and potential partners to work together on projects. Below are the three areas he covered within the presentation:

- USACE and Chicago District Overview
- Civil Works Programs & Select Authorities, including example projects
- How to Partner with the Corps

The USACE puts to work \$150-\$200 million each year from water resources-related projects, and much of that money is devoted to flooding-related work. There is good potential for communities and CSC members to partner with USACE.

To view the presentation slides and learn more about those opportunities to partner with USACE, please see David's slides posted in the March 2017 meeting materials on the CSC webpage.

## **CSC Work Group Updates**

Work Group leads from each of the four work groups in the CSC spent the remaining ten minutes of the meeting sharing updates on each group's progress to generate and finalize work plan initiatives for the upcoming work plan year (April 2017 to April 2018). Through calls and in-person meetings, each work group is steadily working to meet the March 20<sup>th</sup> deadline for initiative finalization. Great work! The goal is for each group to have a plan for moving forward with the work envisioned. One idea that was discussed is to plan a municipal forum to hear from communities and/or a workshop to present information to communities and stakeholders on tools and work products developed by the CSC. This idea is being further flushed out, and a decision will be made on how to proceed as a collaborative on this potential event.

## **Meeting Wrap-up and Final Remarks**

Sarah Cardona from MPC 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, April 7<sup>th</sup>. The agenda for the April meeting will include a training hosted by the Data + Modeling group on the use of the Regional Mapping Viewer—a tool created by this group for the CSC and communities in the Calumet region.

## Next Meeting

Friday, April 7, 2017

\*work-group focused meeting

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](mailto:dgallet@metroplanning.org)