
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – April 1, 2016

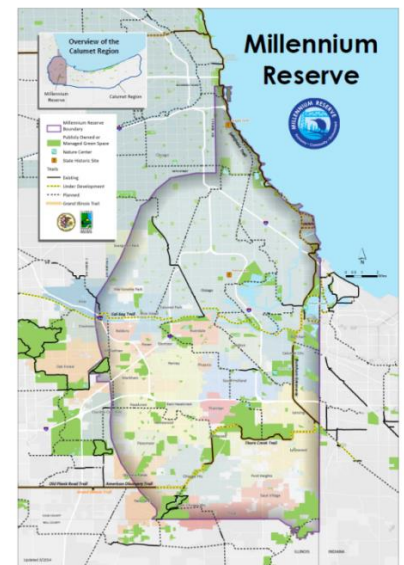
Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400



Attendees

Matt Moffitt, Baxter & Woodman, Inc
Anna Wolf, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Curtis Witek, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Hal Sprague, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Molly Oshun, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Rebecca Raines, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Anjolie Cheema, CH2M HILL
Jason Navota, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Byron Tsang, Chicago Park District
Monica Giermek, Christopher Burke Engineering
Katie Snyder, EDI
Anthony Cefali, Friends of the Chicago River
Lyndon Valicenti, Foresight Design Initiative
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County
Julia Plumb, High Bridge
Catherine Buchalski, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Alexia Paul, Independent Consultant
Jeff Edstrom, Independent Consultant
Mark Wagstaff, M3 Engineering Group
Andrea Bustos, Metropolitan Planning Council
Andy Donakowski, Metropolitan Planning Council
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council
Elizabeth O'Brien, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Kelsey Pudlock, Metropolitan Planning Council
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council
Valerie Poulos, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Beth Hall, Midwest Regional Climate Center,
Sarah Coulter, Millennium Reserve
Melissa Cusic, The Morton Arboretum
Lydia Scott, The Morton Arboretum
Mollie Dowling, OAI Chicago Southland
Ted Haffner, Openlands



Julian Chavez, Sierra Club
Erin Maloney, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Carolina Chantrill, UILABS-City Digital
Todd Degner, Urban Conservation Consultant
Moira Zellner, University of Illinois at Chicago
Dave, Toepper, Village of Steger
Mike Tilton, Village of Steger

Member Updates

Lydia Scott from The Morton Arboretum announced they have finalized part of their urban tree canopy analysis in four different counties. To celebrate their accomplishments they will be planting 30 trees in the city of Blue Island on April 23rd. Folks are encouraged to join them in this fun event. To register, please click [here](#).

Molly Oshun from CNT announced that RainReady will be expanding its program to six more communities in the Calumet region—Blue Island, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Riverdale and Robbins—with the purpose of replicating the Midlothian experience. Additionally, she announced that the Natalie Creek Project in Midlothian was approved, representing a significant relief to people that suffer from urban flooding in the area.

John Watson from MWRD announced the agency is currently working on four new projects related to green infrastructure and flooding.

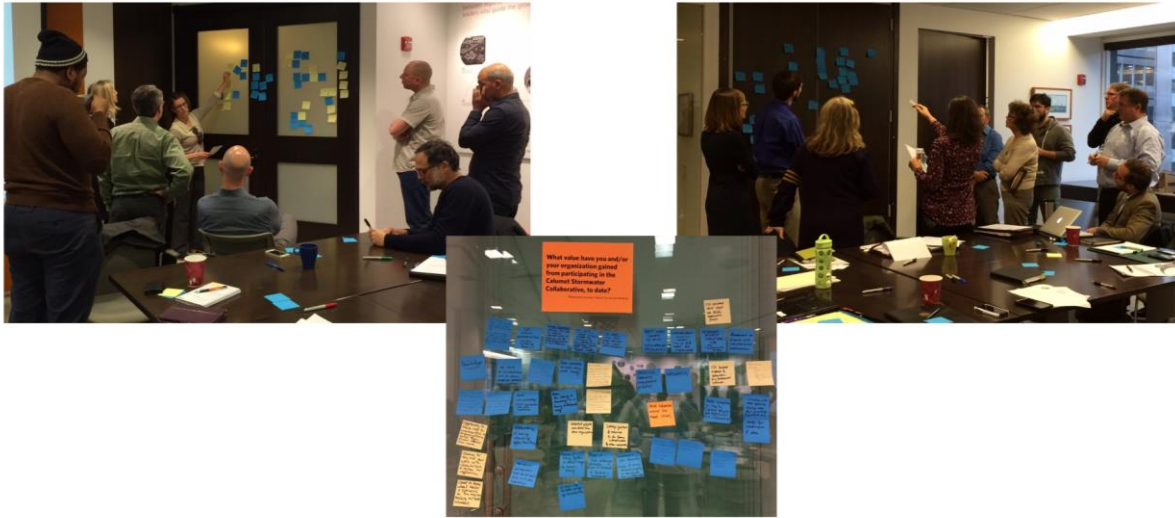
Byron Tsang from Chicago Park District informed the group about the advances in Big Marsh and the activities they have done to restore the brownfield. They recently got rid of a significant amount of invasive vegetation, and are now working on restoring the hydrology of the area. He added that 12 new bald eagles were seen in the area.

Summary and highlights of work planning results

Danielle Gallet from MPC began the conversation by giving a brief summary of CSC's activities and achievements over the last year. She also reminded the group of its' established mission and vision, identified fundamental challenges as well as its year one work plan initiatives and work groups. She also highlighted the feedback received from the group about the value of the CSC to-date. Danielle then began to outline the work planning process that the CSC has been engaged in during the first quarter of 2016. The purpose of this working planning process was to identify what new initiatives the CSC would be working on, and generate an increased focus on the external impact of the CSC's work in the region.

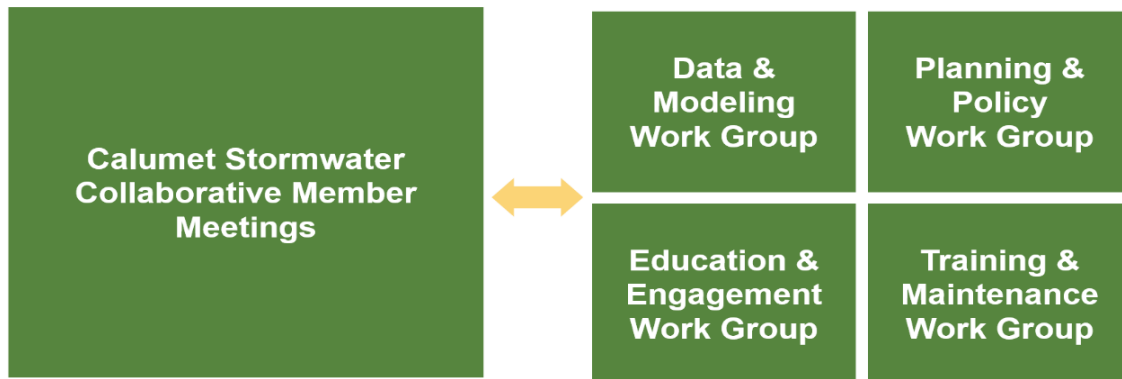


She also reiterated how the members of the CSC drove this work planning process themselves, and that the next work plan will be released later in April.



CSC meeting structure

Gallet continued her presentation by reminding the CSC members about the increased focus on balance between the value and the impact of the CSC for the region. Additional resources and attention will be given to the work groups this year in order to drive new initiatives and increase beneficial impact for the CSC region, as demonstrated by the following image:



Gallet also acknowledged that based-on feedback from the proposed new meeting schedule during the March meeting, MPC is proposing an adjusted meeting schedule in order honor the desire of the CSC to continue to meet on a monthly basis. The monthly meetings of the CSC will remain as scheduled for the rest of the year. Starting in the month of May, the large group meetings that everyone is accustomed to will take place every other month. During the opposite every other month meetings, the meeting structure will be focused on and led by the four work groups. These new work group-focused meetings will feature presentations, group exercises and brainstorming designed

to assist the work groups with initiatives, issues and/or ideas they would like to soundboard with the larger CSC. Time will also be given during these meetings for the four individual work groups to meet and do work together. The main purpose of this structure is to give the work groups an additional opportunity to meet, check-in with the larger CSC and move forward with specific tasks and projects.

The overall response from CSC members was positive, and the proposed meeting structure was approved. Following demonstrates how the CSC meetings going forward will be divided.

New Structure: every other month



Work group chats: planning next steps

Each of the work group leads gave a quick update about the group's activities and initiatives. In addition, a handout was given out to all the attendees to provide them with an overview of each group's purpose and current and potential initiatives. To view this handout, please click on the link provided in the April meeting summary.

So far, most of the work groups have met at least once with satisfactory outcomes. Now they are all starting to move forward with their specific projects. Attendees were encouraged once again to join one of the work groups if they were not part of one yet.

After the work group updates, Danielle personally acknowledged Lyndon Valicenti from Foresight Design on the incredible work she did in helping organize the structure and success to-date of the CSC. It was Lyndon's expertise in how to form cohesive, and mutually beneficial collaboration that has provided a strong foundation for the CSC.

Following the special acknowledgement, all the members of the collaborative were congratulated on a successful completion of the work planning process, followed by a networking and socializing opportunity that included treats to celebrate all the hard work.

Presentation: Friends of the Chicago River—Overflow Action

The final activity of the April CSC meeting featured a presentation by Anthony Cefali from Friends of the Chicago River about Overflow Action Days. This initiative seeks to minimize the amount of water that goes into the sewer system during or after a major rain event. This call to action asks citizens to

make changes in the way they use and treat water in and around their homes in order to help avoid combined sewer overflows into the Chicago River system during and after a significant rain event takes place. To find out more about this initiative, please click [here](#).

Afterwards, attendees gave their feedback and suggestions, mostly related to providing alerts and community outreach via media outlets. Cefali welcomed all suggestions and mentioned they are working on initiatives to make alerts more efficient by using technological tools. To view this presentation, please click on the link provided in the April meeting summary.

Closing remarks and announcements

Josh Ellis gave an important update related to the Millennium Reserve and the possible, future incorporation of the Northwest part of Indiana to the initiative.

Ellis also proposed an idea to the group related to Chicago River Day 2016. Josh asked folks if they wanted to collaborate and coordinate a river site clean-up in the Calumet region during Chicago River Day 2016, which is taking place May 14th. Monica Giermek from CBBEL volunteered to lead the initiative, which is now organized for the CSC! For more information about the event and to register, please click [here](#).

Finally, Danielle Gallet from MPC thanked all the attendees for coming and actively participating in the activities, and let everyone know their collective work plan will be released later this month and featured during the May CSC meeting.

Next Meeting

Friday, May 6, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

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