
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – April 7, 2017
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



Attendees

Matthew Ince, AECOM
Sarah Coulter, Calumet Collaborative
Anjolie Cheema, CH2M
Mason Throneburg, CH2M
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Kelsey Pudlock, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Carol Kim, Chicago Park District
Byron Tsang, Chicago Park District
Monica Giermek, Christopher Burke Engineering
Marcella Bondie Keenan, CNT
Hal Sprague, CNT
Curtis Wittek, CNT
Tylon McGee, Cook County
Katie Snyder, EDI
Ramont Bell, Faith in Place
Peter Toth, Foresight Design Initiative
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec
Craig Clarkson, Geosyntec
Julia Plumb, High Bridge
Annie Turek, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Chad Kruse, Illinois Pollution Control Board
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council
Ranjita Tiwari, Metropolitan Planning Council
José Alarcón, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Melissa Custic, The Morton Arboretum
Moiria Zellner, University of Illinois at Chicago
Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois
Kathy Caveney, Village of Midlothian



Member Updates

Curtis Witek shared that CNT has completed a final plan for the RainReady Calumet Corridor Plan covering Blue Island, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Riverdale and Robbins. You can access the plan [here](#).

Marcella Bondie Keenan from CNT announced that the Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, Inc. has grants available for flood damage assistance to owner-occupied, single-family (1-4 unit) homes in suburban Cook County. For more information, please use this link: <https://www.nhschicago.org/flood/cook-county-flood-damage-assistance/>.

Melissa Custic announced an upcoming Urban Forestry Training event hosted by the Chicago Region Trees Initiative on Tuesday, April 11th 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>

Nora from CMAP made an announcement about the [Alternative Futures](#) engagement phase for ON TO 2050 to engage the public around five possible alternative future scenarios that could significantly shape our region for decades to come. These are [Changed Climate](#), [Walkable Communities](#), [Innovative Transportation](#), [Constrained Resources](#), and [Transformed Economy](#). Each month through August, CMAP will feature one of the five futures, starting in April with Changed Climate. Use hashtag #2050Bigideas on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). CMAP will carefully consider all input while drafting the plan prior to its adoption in October 2018. Email onto2050@cmapp.illinois.gov with any comments or questions, [or to inquire about hosting a kiosk or workshop](#).

CMAP is also hosting its 2017 Technical Assistance Symposium on Tuesday, May 16, at Roosevelt University (Murray-Green Library, Auditorium Building, 430 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago), co-hosted by CMAP and the RTA. The symposium will mark the release of the 2017 [Call for Projects](#) for the LTA and Community Planning programs. In addition to learning about potential technical assistance opportunities, attendees will have the chance to discuss best practices with past award recipients and get one-on-one input on the application process. Elected officials, municipal and county planners and staff, community-based organizations, nonprofits, civic organizations, and consulting firms that work with communities are encouraged to attend. The cost is \$30. To register, click [here](#).

Monica from Chris Burke Engineering has graciously agreed to organize the CSC's river clean-up event along the Calumet River as part of this year's [Chicago River clean-up event](#) on Saturday, May 13th, 9 am – 11 am. She invited everyone to save the date as the official location of the clean-up site is being finalized and registration details will be made available soon—stay tuned!

Josh Ellis reminded everyone that the 2017 Dragon Boat race will be Saturday, June 3, 2017, and shared that 20 teams have already signed up for the race compared to 10

teams last year. To register for the Dragon Boat Race, visit: <http://chicagodragonboats.com/>. He also mentioned the 2017 Cal-Sag Plunge event is also on June 3 at the same location. Anyone interested in participating in the Plunge to raise money for the Cal-Sag Trail can register [here](#).

Josh also noted that the Chicago Community Trust's Our Great Rivers RFP is due on May 31st. Local nonprofit organizations and government entities are encouraged to apply for funding to administer rivers-related planning, programming and projects. Suburban riverfront communities along the Calumet River that are eligible include Burnham, Calumet Park, Calumet City, Dolton and Riverdale. For more detail, click [here](#). Lastly, Josh invited everyone to join MPC for its [Urban Think & Drink: Force of Nature](#) event on Thursday, April 20 from 5 to 7pm featuring author Arthur Melville Pearson of the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.

Moira Zellner from UIC announced that her team received grant funding to present on its green infrastructure participatory planning and engagement tool, and will be presenting on this at the American Planning Association's National Conference in NYC this May.

Danielle announced on behalf of Openlands an upcoming family-friendly canoeing opportunity at Ping Tom Park on Saturday, April 29 from 1:30–5:30 pm to explore the South Branch Chicago River and help clean up a nearby park. Please direct questions or RSVP to Diane Banta at 708-280-3890 or email: diane_banta@nps.gov. Danielle also announced the Biomimicry Deep Roots Workshop to be held on April 21st; for more details visit [here](#).

Presentation

Mapping Viewer Tool & Practical User Scenarios:

Anjulie Cheema, CH2M (CSC Data + Modeling Work Group)

Anjulie provided a quick overview of the Mapping Viewer Tool the CSC Data + Modeling work group produced, which is a free, ArcGIS-based viewing tool. She also outlined practical user scenarios for how different types of users such as a planner, an engineer or a public works director might use this resource. The Mapping Viewer Tool is an easy to access online mapping tool with several layers that are helpful for stormwater planning. It aggregates 25 different datasets at a single location and makes it readily available for anyone to access for free. Most of the data is concentrated in Cook County and provides information on Infrastructure, Hydrology, Stormwater Specifics, Planning, Soils, etc. The viewer is capable of answering questions related to watersheds, sewer systems, flood hazard zones, land use, rain gauges, TARP, stormwater modeling extents and more. A combination of layers can be used by planners or engineers for several purposes.

Anjulie explained how to use the map with two quick scenarios: how an engineer and a planner could make use of the mapping tool online to answer questions such as what neighborhood is at high risk of flooding, as well as how a user can change basemaps and turn on specific layers according to their needs and desired viewing purposes. Following the large group presentation, the CSC broke-up into small, interactive group discussions where CSC members were able to ask more detailed questions of the Data & Modeling work group about the tool, and shared how they anticipate using this tool to help advance their work in neighborhood planning, identifying different types of sewer systems, for writing grant proposals and more. Members also provided feedback on suggested improvements to the tool, pointing to the usefulness of tutorials and definitions for the various layers, for example.

The tool will be posted to the CSC website soon for anyone to use. In the meantime, to access the Mapping Viewer Tool, please click [here](#) and please send questions or provide feedback by emailing collaborativestormwaterviewer@gmail.com.

CSC Work Group Updates

Each of the Work Group leads gave a brief highlight of their initiative plans for the 2017-2018 CSC Work Plan, which will be released in May 2017. Their initiative plans are as follows:

Education and Engagement:

The work group's purpose is to raise awareness of the CSC and engage communities in the resources coming out of the CSC. Some of the plans the group has for the year include organizing a solutions-based training in the Calumet region, streamlining social media, as well as developing a newsletter targeted at municipal communities.

Training and Maintenance:

The work group's goal is to share the importance of green infrastructure and the need for maintenance and related trainings to successfully implement installations. Some of the plans the group has for the year include widely sharing the finalized needs assessment it worked on, moving to implement recommendations from that assessment, and developing a GI maintenance guide based on best practices.

Planning & Policy:

The work group's focus is in creating and promoting effective planning practices and policies that advance the integration of stormwater best management practices. They have set forth initiatives including developing a distribution strategy for the stormwater repository it created, summarizing relevant UFAA recommendations for the Calumet communities, and, where possible, providing assistance to SSMMA and MWRD on Sewer Atlas programs.

Data & Modeling:

The work group's goal is to focus on how models, tools and data can be developed, shared and applied to support the overall objectives of the CSC. This year, the work group will continue to refine the Mapping Viewer Tool as well as feature the tool in a solutions-based training in the Calumet region by partnering with the Education & Engagement work group.

Meeting Wrap-up and Final Remarks

Danielle Gallet from MPC thanked the Data & Modeling Work Group for the successful creation, completion and demonstration of the Stormwater Mapping Tool. She thanked everyone for coming to the monthly meeting and keeping up the good work, with a reminder of next month's meeting on Friday, May 5.

Next Meeting

Friday, May 5, 2017
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