
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – May 6, 2016

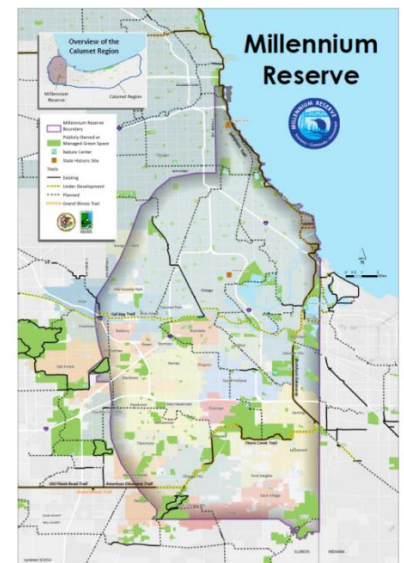
Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



Attendees

John Mick II, Baxter & Woodman, Inc
Curtis Witek, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Anjolie Cheema, CH2M HILL
Mason Throneburg, CH2M HILL
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Byron Tsang, Chicago Park District
Chris Mulvaney, Chicago Wilderness
Monica Giermek, Christopher Burke Engineering
Craig Neville, EDI
Ramont Bell, Faith in Place
Lyndon Valicenti, Foresight Design Initiative
John Quail, Friends of the Chicago River
Craig Clarkson, Geosyntec
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec
Annie Turek, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Danielle Nelson, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Emily Clamp, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Alexia Paul, 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
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Richard Fisher, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Beth Hall, Midwest Regional Climate Center
Melissa Custic, The Morton Arboretum
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy
Mollie Dowling, OAI Chicago Southland
Rennie Heath, Southeast Environmental Taskforce
Dennis Latto, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association



Dave Toepper, Village of Steger

Member Updates

John Watson from the MWRD announced the agency is launching an initiative to monitor the Space to Grow green infrastructure installations on participating Chicago Public Schools property to analyze performance. Also, the Cermak/Blue Island Sustainable Streetscape is undergoing a monitoring effort in partnership with the USGS, with results anticipated in one to two years.

John also mentioned MWRD's new "Restore the Canopy, Plant a Tree" Program which was designed to restore the urban tree canopy and its affiliated benefits in managing stormwater, as well as other environmental benefits. The agency has begun distributing free oak tree saplings every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Calumet, Egan, Kirie, Hanover Park, O'Brien and Stickney water reclamation plants. The saplings are available in bulk supplies with free delivery to non-profit organizations, schools and municipalities. For more information about this project, please click [here](#) or call 312-751-6633.

Melissa Custic from the Morton Arboretum's Chicago Region Trees Initiative announced that there is a new Nursery Tree Inventory online tool available to help property owners select the most optimal tree and plant species for specific site conditions, including which species to avoid, and a list of nurseries that currently have species in stock. To access this list, please click [here](#).

Monica Giermek from Christopher Burke Engineering announced an upcoming public event "The End of Water As We Know It" featuring Seth Darling from Argonne National Laboratory on Wednesday, May 18 at the University of Chicago. To RSVP to this event, please click [here](#). She also reminded everyone about the River Clean-Up Day in the Calumet region on Saturday, May 14 as part of Friends of the Chicago River's citywide event.

Dennis Latto from SSMMA announced that they were awarded a Chi-Cal Rivers grant last year. This grant is destined to help improve waterways in the Chicago and Calumet region.

Josh Ellis from MPC announced that Tuesday, May 24 Great Rivers Chicago will be hosting a public meeting to discuss the vision and action agenda for the future of the Calumet river region.

Sarah Cardona from MPC invited CSC members to share any anecdotal evidence about road salt's impacts on green infrastructure performance as examples to be used in her next story in a blog series examining the role of salt throughout our region.

Curtis Witek from CNT mentioned that CNT won an award for their RainReady Midlothian Plan.

Presentation: John Legge, The Nature Conservancy – Green Infrastructure Language Study

The Nature Conservancy recently completed a national public survey of voters and thought leaders focused on exploring attitudes toward "nature-based solutions" to infrastructure needs. This study resulted in the following key communications recommendations based on positive feedback from voters polled during this extensive research program, framed below as quick rules to follow:

1. Use “nature-based solutions” as opposed to “green infrastructure”
2. Position nature-based solutions as complimentary to engineering solutions
3. Talk about communities, as opposed to using the term cities
4. DO NOT talk about “resilience” except with thought leaders

To access the full report of this study, please click [here](#). To view the PowerPoint presentation, please click on the link provided in the May meeting summary

CSC River Clean-Up Day, May 14

Monica Giermek reminded CSC members that they are all welcome to participate in the River Clean-Up Day organized by Friends of the Chicago River on May 14. The meeting point will be Ann Street in Blue Island at 9am. To learn more about this event and to register please click [here](#).

Summary of CSC 2016-17 Work Plan

Danielle Gallet from MPC gave a quick summary of the 2016-2017 Work Plan. She started by giving a brief recount of the CSC’s progress in the work planning process. After the introduction, she talked about where the CSC is headed in terms of the new work initiatives and meeting structure. The CSC still meets monthly, alternating between traditional CSC meetings and CSC work group-focused meetings. After her overview, each of the work group leads explained their initiatives for 2016 and what their upcoming activities will be, including a call for new work group members for anyone interested in joining at this time. To view the PowerPoint presentation about the updated work group initiatives, please click on the link provided in the May meeting summary.

After the work group presentations, Gallet introduced some ancillary, useful initiatives related to the CSC’s work. These include:

- A Calumet region community contact database (MPC);
- Map of existing projects/activities by agencies in the Calumet region related to stormwater (CMAP);
- Request for lead on: Calendar of events, workshops, etc. created and maintained for CSC and partner agency outreach opportunities.

MWRD Stormwater Phase II Presentation by Richard Fisher

Richard Fisher from MWRD presented an update on the Stormwater Master Plan for the Little Calumet River/Cal-Sag Channel Drainage Area currently being developed. He explained in detail the project’s background, the alternatives and recommendations being developed, the general findings, possible replicability and the lessons learned. He specified that the criteria used to select problem areas was related to the following aspects:

- Historic flooding area within or near pilot area
- Evidence of flooding during recent extreme events
- At least one problem area per municipality

- Municipal staff preference
- Number of potential flood-affected structures
- Potential flooding causes

He also dedicated a section of the presentation to explain the specific advantages and disadvantages of using green and gray infrastructure as alternatives to address the flooding issues in the area.

He took some time during the presentation to answer different questions and comments from the audience. Specific questions were related to feasibility, data collection and verification, selection of the project areas, community engagement and sources of funding.

To view the PowerPoint presentation, please click on the link provided in the May meeting summary.

Closing remarks and announcements

Danielle Gallet from MPC thanked all the attendees for coming and actively participating in the activities, and reminded everyone about the new meeting structure that will begin in June, which will be the first CSC work group-focused meeting.

Next Meeting

Friday, June 3, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Work group-focused meeting

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

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