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# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – May 1, 2020  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
Zoom meeting



## Attendees

TOTAL: 49 participants

## Member Updates

Justin Keller from MPC announced the upcoming *Water Resilience in Good Times & Bad* virtual event series, hosted by Elevate Energy, the Metropolitan Planning Council and the Natural Resources Defense Council. The events will take place on consecutive Tuesdays starting at 3:30 p.m. More information is available below and at [metroplanning.org/events](https://metroplanning.org/events):

- **May 5** / [Essential investment: Why water infrastructure should be part of stimulus and economic recovery](#)
- **May 12** / [Water affordability in northeastern Illinois: Trends, policies, and a path forward](#)
- **May 19** / [Clean, safe, and abundant: Solutions for stormwater and water quality](#)

Kira Baltutis from Metro Strategies emailed about the [Civic Innovation Challenge](#), a national research and action competition supporting mobility and resilience and funded by the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Homeland Security.

## Extended Member Update

### Green Infrastructure Maintenance Coordination in Chicago

*Meg Kelly, Healthy Schools Campaign*  
*Daniella Pereira, Openlands*

Green infrastructure maintenance is a challenge across the country. Meg and Daniella are attempting to find a coordinated approach to green infrastructure management, for now focusing on Chicago. With input from CSC members, they conducted a survey and, in November and February, convened a work group with representatives from DPD, Streets and Sanitation, DOT, DWM, CPS, CPD, Office of the Mayor, Assets, Information and Services, and MWRD. They found that groups have different methods for green infrastructure maintenance. There seems to be no standard best practice, but there is general agreement about lack of funding and the need for a trained labor force. As next steps, they will develop potential funding streams and approaches for community stewardship. However, they want to ensure that, if a community group is in charge of maintenance, they have support from trained professionals.

## Extended Member Update

### Shared Services for Green Infrastructure Update

*Mollie Dowling, OAI, Inc.*

OAI is exploring pathways to maintenance of municipally-owned green infrastructure sites and is currently targeting the South Suburbs. Through funding received from the Great Lakes One Water (GLOW) initiative, they successfully completed a one-day training on green infrastructure

maintenance with contributions from many CSC members. Subsequently, they issued an RFQ and entered into a professional services agreement with Cardno. Shared service agreements range in complexity from a simple handshake all the way to annexation or merger. OAI feels a professional services agreement is the best option for this type of service, where neither OAI nor Cardno own the sites but have some liability. The project is now transitioning to piloting on-the-ground services throughout 2020-2021. So far, Midlothian, Blue Island, and Gary (IN) will be involved with more to be added.

## **Presentation**

Theme: advancing the CSC's Goal 4: *Data-driven decision-making is more prevalent in stormwater management planning*

### **City of Milwaukee: Green Infrastructure Plan**

*Erick Shambarger, City of Milwaukee*

The City of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee region have been exploring green infrastructure solutions since 2003. Over the intervening years, there have been many plans produced, each one building out necessary pieces, representing new learnings, bringing on new partners and helping the initiative to grow. The city's 2013 ReFresh Milwaukee Plan set a goal of increasing Green Infrastructure by 10% per year. They secured a grant to build a green infrastructure baseline inventory which helped them quantify existing green infrastructure capacity and get an idea of how much stormwater is being captured.

To build the inventory, they used standard green infrastructure specifications from [Fresh Coast Guardians](#) to estimate stormwater capture rates, with the acknowledgement that, for example, every bioswale is a little different—i.e., they tried to be as scientific as possible, but some assumptions are necessarily built in. The basic work of building the inventory involved a lot of phone calls to different agencies to get their data. The mapping tool then merged Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District data with city data and layered on basement backups by year, etc. to help with planning. Much more information is available in the [City of Milwaukee Green Infrastructure Plan](#), released in June 2019.

Visit the [CSC website](#) to review the full presentation materials.

### **Next Meeting**

Friday, June 5, 2020  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Location: TBD

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