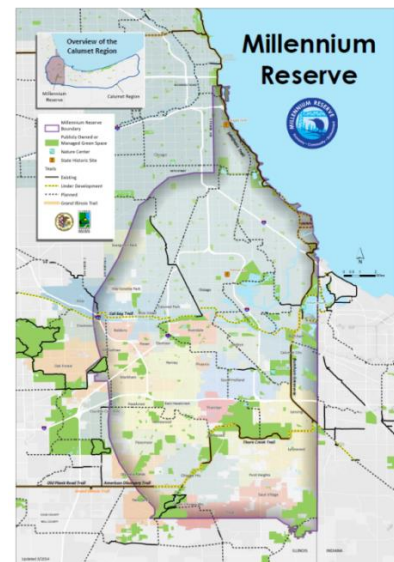

CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

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



Attendees

Emily Grimm, Baxter & Woodman
Sarah Coulter, Calumet Collaborative
Nichole Demario, Calumet Collaborative
Anjolie Cheema, CH2M
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Carol Kim, Chicago Park District
Marcella Bondie Keenan, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Justin Keller, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Dawn Thompson, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Ben Shorofsky, Delta Institute
Graig Neville, EDI
Ramont Bell, Faith in Place
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec
Craig Clarkson, Geosyntec
Mark Wagstaff, GHD
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Annie Turek, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Jeff Edstrom, Independent Consultant
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council
Liz Granger, Metropolitan Planning Council
Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council
Ranjita Tiwari, Metropolitan Planning Council
Shehara Waas, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Mark Castillo, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Ders Anderson, Openlands
Ted Hafner, Openlands
Andrew Szwak, Openlands
Ron Smith, Robinson Engineering
Moira Zellener, University of Illinois at Chicago



Member Updates

Annie Turek from IDNR announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been developing draft flood hazard maps for the Illinois Lake Michigan coastline. You can view the map data for Lake County [here](#) and the one for Cook County [here](#). FEMA is very interested in feedback from local governments. Please send your comments by email to: GreatLakesFloodStudy@starr-team.com.

Dawn Thompson from the Center for Neighborhood Technology proudly announced that CNT received the Green Ribbon Award presented by the Friends of the Chicago River for their RainReady Calumet Corridor Plan. This plan identifies specific solutions factoring in both flood risk and economic development opportunities for six communities in the Calumet: Blue Island, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Dolton, Riverdale and Robbins. Visit [RainReady Calumet Corridor Plan](#) to learn more.

John Watson from MWRD reminded everyone of the July 14 deadline for the District's call for Green Infrastructure Projects. Government entities and local communities are encouraged to apply (non-profits can be project partners). The application is available electronically on MWRD's website, along with more information in [here](#).

Jack Chan from MWRD provided an update on the District's Phase Two stormwater management project in Robbins that involves working with Robbins, local agencies and other stakeholders to address flooding in Midlothian Creek and local drainage problems. The project will provide opportunities for habitat restoration in the proposed stormwater park and will stimulate economic development in Robbins and the surrounding area. They are working with the Village of Robbins on an application to the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund to help jumpstart the project.

Ray Bell from Faith In Place announced that his organization is also applying to the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund to support the installation of rain gardens, distribution of rain barrels and heightened educational outreach in the Calumet area.

Bob Newport from MPC announced that he was aware of an application to the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund for Riverdale Marsh pertaining to supporting ecological restoration and connectivity to the surrounding trail system. Bob also shared about a funding opportunity due July 31: the [Great Lakes Commission Emerging Champions Mini-Grant Program](#) funding for small and medium sized communities to improve water quality, manage stormwater and enhance community well-being.

Nora Beck from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning announced that CMAP is working on a regional stormwater analysis and draft policy directions to inform a flooding strategy paper for ONTO 2050. CMAP is working with the Planning + Policy as well as Data + Modeling Work Groups of the CSC to review and provide feedback on these pieces. Contact [Nora Beck](#) if you are interested in providing feedback.

Danielle Gallet gave an announcement on behalf of Melissa Custic from The Morton Arboretum that they will be holding an event on July 14th called The Future of Our Woodlands & Forests in Cook County at Thatcher Pavilion to discuss protecting oak ecosystems, avoiding another problem like emerald ash borer and managing invasive species like buckthorn.

Presentations

My RainReady Tool for Local Homeowners

Marcella Bondie Keenan, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Marcella walked members through a new tool "My RainReady" which the Center for Neighborhood Technology has developed for residents who may not qualify for the RainReady Program. The online platform guides users through a virtual self-assessment of their parcel's flood risk to help homeowners self-diagnose where flooding is occurring, identify what type of flooding they are experiencing, and identify solutions which might be appropriate to consider.

After inputting a homeowner address, the tool asks a series of questions and offers simple advice for reducing flood risk, providing clarifying descriptions and definitions of terms along the way. A report is generated at the end of the assessment which provides recommendations to investigate and discuss with contractors including the typical cost range for solutions including green infrastructure to further inform homeowners. This tool is confidential to the user. To explore the tool further and send to your networks, please visit <http://my.rainready.org>

Quantifying the benefits of restoring natural areas in forest preserves

Andrew Szwak and Ted Haffner, Openlands

Andrew and Ted from Openlands shared their findings from a study examining the economic value as well as impact on water resources of completed restoration efforts at Deer Grove East Forest Preserve. The study aimed to answer the following two questions: How did restoration impact water resources, namely stormwater flows and water quality? What value did the restoration project have to the local economy? Openlands completed a restoration project in Deer Grove East in partnership with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, City of Chicago Department of Aviation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. After eight years of restoration work, what had once been an abandoned agricultural field circled by dense, overgrown woods is now an expansive wetland, prairie and savanna ecosystem.

The water impact study research team was led by Stantec and WBK Engineers, and they conducted a literature review, data analysis from 50 water monitoring sites over a six-year period and used the USEPA's SWIM model for answering how restoration impacts water. Of the main findings showed a 20% decrease in surface runoff after the habitat restoration due to water being taken up by deep-rooted plants in lower soil levels. The economic study, which used the IMPLAN methodology, revealed that the collective \$5.3 M investment in the restoration yielded almost a two-to-one return right away for the local economy mainly from jobs created by the project. Longer-term economic impacts that were modeled to accrue over a 20-year period and showed cultural services and ecosystem services generated by the project together will have yielded \$33.5M in long-term economic benefit. Combined, the short and long-term benefits add up to a benefit-cost ratio of more than 8-to-1. The overall study indicates a strong case for restoring natural habitats. For more information and to read the reports, visit [here](#).

Work Group Initiative Update – Planning + Policy

Kate Evasic, CMAP and Annie Turek, IDNR

Planning + Policy Work Group initiative leads Kate and Annie gave an update that the online stormwater best practices repository on how to implement stormwater management into community planning and capital improvement projects is 98% complete. The work group expects to have a draft to share with the wider Calumet Stormwater Collaborative members soon.

Next Meeting

Friday, Aug 4, 2017

*work-group focused meeting

10:00am to 12:00pm

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

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