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# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – August 5, 2016

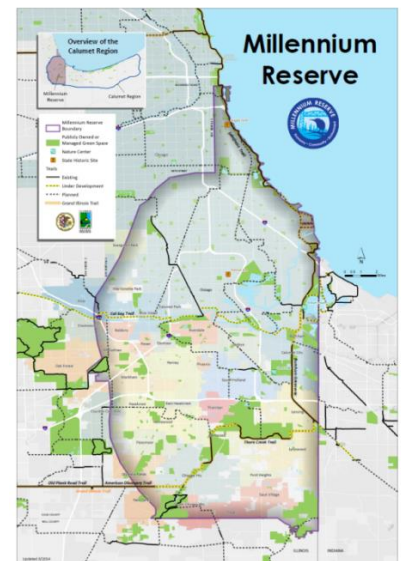
Metropolitan Planning Council

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



## Attendees

Brent Shraiberg, Argonne Laboratories & MWRD  
Anjolie Cheema, CH2M  
Mason Throneburg, CH2M  
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Monica Giermek, Christopher Burke Engineering  
Tylon McGee, Cook County Dept. of Homeland Security & Emergency Response  
Graig Neville, EDI  
Lyndon Valicenti, Foresight Design Initiative  
Peter Toth, Foresight Design Initiatives  
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County  
Andy Donakowski, Friends of the Chicago River  
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Annie Turek, Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Margaret Scheemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Jordan Lillybridge, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Mark Wagstaff, M3 Engineering Group  
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Jennifer Cunningham, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Jack Chan, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago  
Marina Jawad, The Morton Arboretum  
Michael Stuat, The Morton Arboretum  
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy  
Ted Haffner, Openlands  
Sean Kelly, Robinson Engineering  
Erin Maloney, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Andrew Boysen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Maira Zellner, University of Illinois at Chicago



## Member Update

Brent Shraiberg, Argonne Laboratories and MWRD, asked the group if anyone knew of any water rate studies being done in the area. Margaret Scheemann from the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant program said they have been doing some extensive work on collection of water and wastewater rates in the region and would be happy to chat about their work with him.

Tylon McGee from Cook County's Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Response announced the Department has received a \$1.7M federal grant from FEMA to put toward the buy-out of specific properties in the County that have experienced repeated flooding.

John Legge from The Nature Conservancy took the opportunity to share with the group a NOAA grant opportunity for FY2017 funding with a heavy emphasis on resilience. Eligible grants range between \$50,000-300,000, and letters of intent are due by August 24-26<sup>th</sup>. Lisa Cotner from Illinois Department of Natural Resources offered to assist with required letters of support from the governor's office. Please click here for fact sheets and points of contact: <http://cpo.noaa.gov/GrantsandProjects/ClimateProgramOfficeFFO.aspx>.

Kate Evasic from CMAP shared a webinar opportunity being hosted by the Association of State Floodplain Managers on September 1, 2016 titled *Funding for Floodplain Restoration: Breaking Down Incentives to Develop Floodplains & Recent FEMA Policy Updates*. For more information, and to register for this webinar please click here: <http://www.aswm.org/watersheds/natural-floodplain-function-alliance/2783-future-webinarsconference-calls-schedule.html>.

Jack Chan from the MWRD provided updates on some of the agency's projects related to green infrastructure. Three new [Space to Grow](#) projects have been designed and will be moving to installation for three area schools, bringing the count to 10 schools participating. He also mentioned the initiatives taking place in Skokie, Niles, Kenilworth, Northbrook, Berwyn and Crestwood ranging from green alleys to rain gardens and permeable parkways are advancing positively. The MWRD also has a contest that everyone is encouraged to participate in: [Name that Biosolid](#).

Monica Giermek from Christopher Burke Engineering announced that the Illinois Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) will be having a [centennial celebration with a three-hour boat tour](#) on the Chicago River on August 12 from 5:30 – 8:30pm. Tickets are \$50 and will include food and drinks as well as presentations from guest speakers at the MWRD.

Lisa Cotner from IDNR also reminded the group about the great upcoming workshops being hosted by CNT's RainReady Program – including one on August 23<sup>rd</sup> that features Brian Eber from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources presenting a Floodplain 101 workshop. To learn more and register for this and other workshops please click here: <http://rainready.org/SouthSuburbs>.

Josh Ellis from MPC shared information about two upcoming events along the Calumet River. First, the Chicago Southland Dragon Boat Festival is Saturday, August 13 from 9 am to 4pm, come cheer on the racing teams, and enjoy a day along the water. For more information visit: <https://www.panamdragonboat.com/races/chicago-southland-dragon-boat-festival-blue-island-il/>. Second, on Saturday, August 27, at 1 pm in the heart of Blue Island, Josh and several others will take a plunge into the Cal-Sag Channel to help raise money for completion of the Cal-Sag Trail. More details about the event can be found here: <http://www.calsagtrail.org/event/cal-sag-plunge/>.

## 2 Work Group Updates

Two work groups had the opportunity to provide an update to the group on their progress over the last few months on respective initiatives.

### ***Planning & Policy***

Nora Beck from CMAP updated the CSC on the progress of the Planning & Policy work groups three current initiatives:

1. Progress has been made on the stormwater repository. This online resource will be a curated resource of best practices and key considerations aimed at CSC members to help them equip Calumet communities to better manage stormwater and urban flooding issues.
2. The work group has also been reviewing and prioritizing the community-scale recommendations from the Urban Flooding Awareness Act to identify which recommendations the work group might be able to help recommend within the Calumet region.
3. Investigating the possibility of creating/updating sewer atlases for communities in the Calumet region through a partnership between the MWRD, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) and local communities is also moving along.

### ***Data & Modeling***

Mason Throneburg from CH2M gave an update on the progress of the Data & Modeling work group, which has been working on three particular initiatives, which include:

1. A regional stormwater mapping tool that will be hosted by SSMMA;
2. A data sharing portal
3. A modeling extents layer

Mason also reminded the CSC that the Data & Modeling work group is designed to be a resource for the members of the CSC, and if anyone has questions about data or tools to feel free to reach out to this work group. The work group is also currently conducting a survey of the CSC member agencies to better understand what needs and tools they use, or would like to have in order to help refine the work group's plans for the year. To provide comments, please email Kate Evasic: [kevasic@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:kevasic@cmapp.illinois.gov).

## **2 Work Group Presentations and Engagement Exercises**

The other two work groups of the CSC had the opportunity to engage meeting participants in interactive discussions to help them refine their current initiatives.

### ***Training & Maintenance***

Margaret Schneemann from Illinois Indiana Sea Grant Program provided instructions for the CSC on an engagement exercise which asked participants to provide written feedback on either 1) their experience in working on a green infrastructure implementation project, or 2) a green infrastructure program case study template for capturing lessons learned from other programs across the country. Meeting participants then took the time to fill out their feedback for the work group.

## **Education & Engagement**

Lisa Cotner from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources provided instructions for the CSC on an engagement exercise which asked participants to provide written feedback on some items the Education & Engagement work group has been developing:

1. Survey questions for Calumet communities on how the CSC can best assist them
2. A one-pager being developed with key background information about the CSC
3. A PowerPoint presentation being developed also about the CSC for use by anyone CSC member in speaking engagements

## **Meeting Wrap-up and Final Remarks**

Danielle Gallet from MPC reminded everyone that the CSC work groups are where the “rubber meets the road” as far as impact by the CSC in assisting communities in the Calumet region, which is the purpose of this collaborative effort. She then thanked the work group leads for all their leadership and great work thus far, and she also thanked all the meeting attendees for coming and actively participating.

Upon final wrap-up of the formal monthly meeting, work groups were given 45 minutes to hold private, working sessions on their respect initiatives, which lasted until shortly after 12:00 p.m.

## **Next Meeting**

Friday, September 9, 2016 10:00am to 12:00pm

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

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