
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

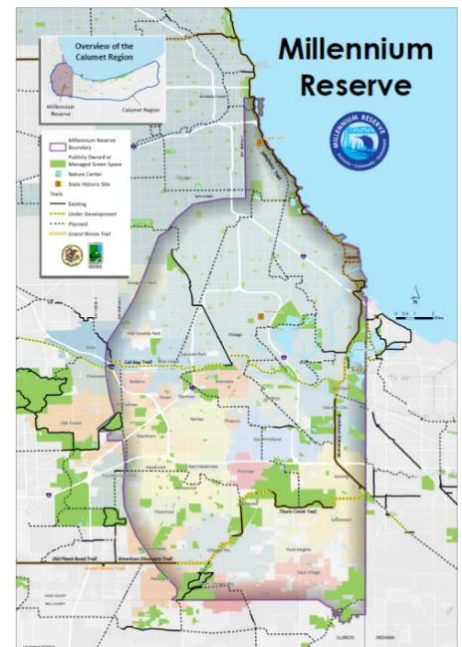
MEETING SUMMARY - August 1, 2014, 10:15 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Blue Island City Hall Annex
2434 Vermont Street, Blue Island



Attendees:

Bryan Swanson, Calumet City
Ryan Wilson, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Mason Throneburg, CH2M HILL
Nancy Williamson, Chicago Wilderness
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Jason Berry, City of Blue Island
Robert Houlf, City of Blue Island
Aaron Koch, City of Chicago
Dominic Tocci, Cook County
Vanessa Roanhorse, Delta Institute
Lyndon Valicenti, Foresight Design
Eric Otto, Forest Preserve District of Cook County
Maddie Mahan, Friends of the Chicago River
Mark Willobee, Geosyntec
Lisa Cotner, Ill. Dept. of Natural Resources
Amy Walkenbach, Ill. Environmental Protection Agency
Margaret Schneeman, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Edith Makra, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Libby Stoeffel, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Abby Crisostomo, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Caroline Rendon, Metropolitan Planning Council
Bana Zayyad, Metropolitan Planning Council
Brent Shraiberg, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Office of Commissioner Debra Shore
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Amy Brawley, Openlands
Andrew Szwak, Openlands
Reggie Greenwood, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Dennis Latto, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Ed Paesel, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Bob Newport, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Mary Pat Mattson, University of Illinois
Sarah Coulter, Village of Park Forest
Eric Neagu, Weaver Boos



Meeting Accomplishments

- The group reviewed the fundamental challenges identified at earlier meetings and discussed the root causes and manifestations of the four priority challenges:
 - Consequences of non-overbank flooding
 - Drain on public resources from repeated, ineffective, partial interventions
 - Drain on private resources from repeated, ineffective, partial interventions
 - Declining infrastructure performance and sufficiency over time.
- The group examined the ten initial intervention ideas brainstormed at earlier meetings and narrowed these to seven interventions that have both collaborative elements and urgency. Each of the seven interventions has a work group leader and two or more other members. Each group will meet in August and report out at the September meeting.
 - Create design guidelines for green infrastructure solutions
 - Articulate data and research needs
 - Assemble data and other materials to frame land bank recommendations
 - Create strategies for implementing smoke testing and downspout disconnections
 - Strategize development of 319 plans for the Calumet region
 - Outline requirements for installation, troubleshooting and maintenance training
 - Evaluate the current state of stormwater modeling and other tools

Agenda Highlights

Introductions

Jason Berry welcomed the group to Blue Island and showed some pictures of recent flooding and stormwater damage in Blue Island as a reminder of the urgency and importance of collaborating on stormwater solutions in the Calumet region.

Update from Springfield

Amy Walkenbach of the Illinois EPA shared updates on the Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant (IGIG) program, which is now gearing up for its fifth year. While the first four years of IGIG raised awareness of green infrastructure with high-visibility projects and grant money only funded green infrastructure project implementation. For the upcoming year, IGIG will likely consider planning and survey projects as well. The deadline (formerly Dec. 15) will also likely be pushed back.

Amy encouraged the Collaborative to send the Millennium Reserve State Agency Task Force a letter soon articulating the group's near-term priorities.

Moving from Challenge to Action

Josh Ellis outlined the goals and process for this meeting. Through review of the ten initial intervention ideas created at the June 27 meeting and via email since then and discussion of these interventions in relation to the four priority challenges, the group should narrow down the list of interventions to those which were ripe for collaboration and had particular urgency.

Josh walked the group through a logic model which identified root causes and manifestations of each of the four fundamental challenges and described optimization for each challenge, ways to measure success and requirements for success. The group provided initial feedback and reflection, and these conversations contributed to the discussions about possible intervention strategies. The logic models, which are included in the August 1 PPT slides, are being distributed to the group for additional feedback.

The rest of the meeting was spent talking through each intervention and its urgency and potential for collaboration.

1. **Smoke testing and downspout disconnections:** Build an inter-jurisdictional collaborative effort for large-scale, smoke testing, downspout realignment and rain barrel deployment throughout Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) communities.
 - a. MWRD and SSMMA feel these are good region-wide first steps. John Watson shared that there may be room in MWRD's infiltration & inflow (I & I) program to incorporate smoke testing and downspout disconnection, since that program is in transition right now.
 - b. Others noted the challenges of enforcing downspout disconnections and the importance of getting municipalities on board with this kind of plan.
 - c. Need to be sure that the diagnostic tool of smoke testing is then followed up with direct engagement with property owners on long-term, property specific solutions.
2. **Design guidelines:** Standardize and deploy shared design guidelines on green stormwater infrastructure solutions.
 - a. The Delta Institute is currently being funded by the Ill. Coastal Management Program to create design guidelines for green infrastructure. They are already connecting with municipalities through SSMMA. Vanessa Roanhorse emphasized the importance of ensuring uniform and widespread education within municipal governments so that green infrastructure knowledge isn't housed with only one person or department.
 - b. Reggie Greenwood said that design guidelines should emphasize the potential co-benefits of green infrastructure, such as the growth of natural habitats and Placemaking.
 - c. Edith Makra mentioned that these guidelines are a good starting point for later inclusion in a mayoral compact.
 - d. Illinois EPA is currently updating their urban GI manual and looking at new GI standards, which may be an opportunity for the Collaborative's work to spread.
3. **Data and research:** Identify data and research needs, as well as necessary information for building common base of understanding stormwater management in the Calumet, in order to support greater strategic investment in leveraging full range of technologies in cost effective way. Assess whether other Collaborative members have some of this information available, or whether it must be secured via other means.
 - a. The work group needs to determine what this might encompass.
 - b. Some felt that this was being done by other groups and did not require the Collaborative's attention.
 - c. Rainfall data collection could be incorporated here (see below, item 6).
 - d. Other initial data needs brainstormed: brownfields and data sharing with CMAP's ecosystem valuation project and the Chicago Regional Trees Initiative.
4. **Stormwater project inventory:** Catalog existing stormwater work in the Calumet Area, including on-the-ground projects, planning, policy, and funding efforts in the region.
 - a. There was a general sense in the group that this was important work but not urgent.
 - b. Aaron Koch mentioned that in addition to cataloging projects, it might be helpful to inventory priority geographic areas and/or opportunity areas.
 - c. Emy Brawley said that this is a good place for working with the land banks.
 - d. This could be more broadly defined to include things like tree planting, which would help with community outreach efforts.
5. **Land bank recommendations:** Jointly recommend policies and practices for the Cook County Land Bank and South Suburban Land Bank so as to deploy those land management tools for stormwater management and related green stormwater infrastructure initiatives.
 - a. Land banks can help with stormwater efforts, especially if the Collaborative can provide them with lists or maps of priority areas. Then they can do acquisitions and assemblage. Now is a good time to take advantage of this, because those properties may not be available in 10 years. This certainly has urgency, and the Collaborative should work on identifying priority areas as well as shoring up municipal support.
 - b. Nancy Williamson said that we have the tools within the Collaborative to collect some of the initial data for land banks.
6. **Rainfall data:** Act together to work with the Illinois State Water Survey to develop climate change projections for potential future rain patterns.
 - a. This is perhaps not collaborative, but it could be incorporated into the data and research intervention.

- b. The City of Chicago is already working with ISWS on this and will share information for all of Cook County.
- 7. Communications assessment:**
 - a. Important but not urgent.
 - b. Will be important to make sure municipalities are telling a consistent story to communities about stormwater challenges and green infrastructure solutions.
 - c. Tabled until results of preceding action items clarify major communications needs.
- 8. Mayoral Compact:** Establish a mayoral stormwater compact, akin to the Greenest Region Compact or Clean Air Counts
 - a. Important but not urgent.
 - b. Tabled until results of preceding action items clarify major commitments needed from local governments.
- 9. Installation, troubleshooting, & maintenance training:** This involves aligning the efforts of multiple groups to train workforce or volunteers in all aspects of installing and maintaining good green infrastructure.
 - a. SSMMA and OAI, Inc. are already gearing up for workforce training programs related to green infrastructure.
 - b. Need to account for training of volunteers as well – i.e. Master Gardeners, people to help with smoke testing results, etc.
- 10. Creation of Section 319 watershed plans:** Identify barriers and opportunities for developing EPA-approved Section 319 watershed plan(s) for the Calumet area, in order to enable area constituents to secure funding for projects that will improve water quality and flooding mitigation.
 - a. This was not listed in the original interventions, but it is a possible role for the Collaborative.
- 11. Stormwater Modeling** Build sewershed and water modeling capacity across Collaborative members, as well as information sharing systems and protocols.
 - a. MPC and CH2M HILL are investigating current state of watershed and sewershed modeling in the region, as well as use of other decision-making support tools for optimizing stormwater investments.

Once the interventions were consolidated and prioritized, leaders and group members volunteered for each intervention action

Next Steps

The intervention groups were charged with holding work planning discussions via phone or in person before the September Collaborative meeting. These meetings would start to identify measures of success and initial steps toward the Collaborative's goals. Individuals may be in more than one intervention group and MPC will help facilitate scheduling so that the meetings don't overlap. Additionally, Collaborative members and Resource Group members not in attendance at the August 1 meeting should contact MPC to sign up for any working groups they are interested in. The groups are:

- Smoke testing and downspout disconnections: Brent Shraiberg and Ed Paesel
 - Dominic Tocci
 - Bob Newport
 - Eric Otto
 - Abby Crisostomo
- Design guidelines: Vanessa Roanhorse
 - Lisa Cotner
 - Edith Makra
 - Eric Otto
 - Bob Newport
 - Mark Willobee
 - Maddie Mahan
 - John Watson
 - Reggie Greenwood
- Data and Research: Aaron Koch

- Brent Shraiberg
- Dominic Tossi
- Bryan Swanson
- Mark Willobee
- Ryan Wilson
- Vanessa Roanhorse
- Land bank recommendations: Emy Brawley and Brent Denzin
 - Vanessa Roanhorse
 - Lisa Cotner
 - Abby Crisostomo
 - Bob Newport
 - Mary Pat Mattson
 - Thomas Burke
 - Bryan Swanson
 - Ryan Wilson
- Installation, troubleshooting, and maintenance training: Reggie Greenwood
 - Abby Crisostomo
 - Emy Brawley
 - Edith Makra
 - Ryan Wilson
 - Sarah Coulter
 - Nancy Williamson
 - Mark Willobee
 - Margaret Schneemann
- Developing 319 plans: Amy Walkenbach and Bob Newport
 - Lisa Cotner
 - Eric Otto
 - Josh Ellis
 - Edith Makra
- Stormwater modelling: Josh Ellis and Mason Throneburg (This group has already commenced meetings, please contact Josh or Mason to get involved)
 - John Watson
 - Aaron Koch
 - Dennis Latto
 - Eric Otto
 - Brent Shraiberg

Objectives for September 5 Meeting

- Report-outs from each intervention group
- Finalize letter to Millennium Reserve State Agency Task Force

Stakeholder Updates

Next Meeting

September 5, 2014, 10am to 12pm

Metropolitan Planning Council Large Conference Room
140 S. Dearborn, Ste. 1400, Chicago

For more questions contact Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council, jellis@metroplanning.org, (312) 863.6045