
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – September 6, 2019
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



Attendees

Curtis Witek, Antero Group
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Trinity Pierce, Chicago Region Trees Initiative/The Morton Arboretum
Kimberly Nowicki, Cook County DHSEM
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec
Katie DeMuro, Greenleaf Advisors
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates
Cody Eskew, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Prairie Research Institute
Casey Sebetto, IDNR Prairie Research Institute
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois Coastal Program
Iyana Simba, Illinois Environmental Council
Michele Davies, Independent
Francine van den Brandeler, Independent
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
Adam Slade, Metropolitan Planning Council
Dean Alonistiotis, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Tony Fuller, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Jessica Hanlon, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Justin Hart, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Matthew Buerger, Mott MacDonald
Kathy Chavara, Mott MacDonald
Ted Haffner, Openlands
Bill Wood, SmithGroup
Katherine Moore Powell, The Field Museum
Eric Boria, University of Illinois at Chicago
Dean Massey, University of Illinois at Chicago
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian

Member Updates

Drew Williams-Clark from CNT gave a special member update about the Urban Flooding Baseline initiative which came out of the CSC 3-year Work Plan. CNT is close to securing funding and hopes to start the work in late December. Phase 1 includes creating shared definitions, developing a descriptive assessment, defining the geography of analysis, inventorying previous local efforts, etc., and their team plans to work closely with the CSC as an iterative and collaborative effort. Contact Drew (drewwilliams-clark@cnt.org) with any questions.

Bob Newport from OAI discussed WaterNow Alliance's [Tap into Resilience Toolkit](#). This toolkit has information and resources potentially useful for folks working on grey and green infrastructure initiatives, with answers to financing, tax, accounting, and legal questions that arise when scaling investment in decentralized solutions. For more information, check out the [webcast](#) on September 24.

Vidya Balasubramanyam from IDNR Prairie Research Institute announced a free two-day training on [Adaptation Planning for Coastal Communities](#). Many CSC members attended the NOAA Facilitating Collaborative Meetings training; this training is similar, but geared towards climate adaptation planning. Attendees will learn about developing an adaptation framework, comparing and prioritizing adaptation strategies, stakeholder engagement tools, and more. The event will be held October 1-2 at the Evanston Ecology Center. Register [here](#) by September 13.

MPC's Danielle Gallet announced the [Drinking Water 1-2-3 Academy](#) event scheduled for Thursday, September 12 from 8am-noon in Barrington. MPC is bringing in experts from around the country to talk about incorporating water supply needs and goals into community master plans. This first-ever programming for our region is sure to be exciting!

Kate Evasic reminded us about CMAP's [Small Plans, Big Ideas event series](#), which will culminate with the next LTA Call for Projects. She highlighted the event on October 3 in Calumet Park, "Planning for an equitable water future", which will feature speakers and resource tables from CSC member agencies. More information on the October 3 event is available [here](#). Also, click [here](#) for more information about the ON TO 2050 Symposium on October 10.

Josh Ellis said MPC is still accepting applications for either an Associate or Manager to [join our Water Resources team](#). This position will work on initiatives related to the CSC, StormStore, and more. He also said that the Illinois Environmental Council posted a job opening for a [Policy Director](#). IEC works on a range of Illinois environmental issues from pig farming to recycling, energy and more.

Chelsey Grassfield from Friends of the Chicago River announced that they are hosting the [Chicago River Revival Festival and the 3rd annual Big Jump](#). Along with other festivities, local officials will jump into the Chicago River at Ping Tom Memorial Park on September 7.

Presentations

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

Calumet Soils & Stormwater Design: Update on research outcomes and process

Mary Pat McGuire, RLA; Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture, UIUC

Margaret Schneemann; Water Resource Economist, IISG/CMAP

Drew Phillips, PhD; Quaternary Geologist, Illinois Geological Survey

Green infrastructure (GI) is designed to mimic the predevelopment landscape, meaning a better understanding of pre-urban soils will allow for better GI design. In the pre-urban landscape, small areas did not receive stormwater loads from large areas of impervious surface. Expecting GI installations to do the same is unreasonable; they don't perform adequately and easily become clogged with debris. Simultaneously, it is not possible to convert the entirety of our urban environments to permeable surfaces, but what ratio of pervious to impervious will achieve the desired results? For example, when retrofitting a parking lot, what ratio should be converted to GI

to handle the expected runoff? They found that coordinated GI investments are better than “opportunistic” GI, and soil properties are the foundation of GI design performance with a goal of improving cost efficiency, i.e., allowing stormwater practitioners to install less GI and achieve the same outcomes.

Using research on soils—which found a “layer cake” of course-, mixed- and fine-textured soils beneath the communities they tested—they designed “sample cakes” to see which GI types would be most effective for different loading ratios, and the team is currently piloting the program in Midlothian and Calumet City. As part of CMAP LTA plan for Midlothian, the designs reintroduce predevelopment patterns of soil infiltration. As opposed to putting GI where there is flooding, the design considers side streets, backyards, and schools to attack flooding on a neighborhood scale and make better communities. The methodology can be replicated in other communities, and the team will be reaching out to CSC member agencies soon for additional input.

Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019 Update

Kimberly Nowicki; Regional Planner, Cook County Homeland Security and Emergency Management

After the 2013 flooding, people were surprised to learn that Cook County did not have a hazard mitigation plan and was, therefore, not eligible for FEMA funding. A hazard mitigation plan was produced in 2014, and Kim and her team have been working on the 2019 update which should be approved by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency soon. They were able to include 122 of 135 Cook County municipalities in a comprehensive engagement process which included a Steering Committee, online survey, public meetings, knowledge sharing system, and webinars and workshops for municipal points of contact. At the workshops, some municipalities brought their entire planning team, public works dept., etc., which helped reinforce for neighboring communities the importance of this effort. Also, it illustrated the need for better collaboration on projects and applying for grant funding.

Three meetings were held to present the draft plan update, and each community was required to come up with at least one new mitigation action item. New for the 2019 plan is more stakeholder engagement, increased coordination, and new county-level participation and action items (covering unincorporated areas, which has a larger influence than most people realize). Importantly, the team is planning to ensure sustained engagement via annual regional meetings, annual progress updates, and a better website to access all of the information. Check out cookcountyhomelandsecurity.org > Hazard Mitigation > Hazard Mitigation Corner. Kim will be reaching out for resources produced by CSC and CSC member agencies.

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

Next Meeting

****Work Group-focused meeting****

Friday, October 4, 2019

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S Dearborn St., Suite 1400, Chicago

For more information contact:
Metropolitan Planning Council

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