
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – August 6, 2021
Metropolitan Planning Council
Zoom meeting



Attendees

Matt Moffitt, Baxter & Woodman
Maggie Catania, Calumet Collaborative
Cyatharine Alias, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Paul Esling, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Brandon Evans, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Jon Kuta, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Zach Wirtz, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Deb Kutska, Cook County Department of Environment & Sustainability
Kim Nowicki, Cook County Emergency Management and Regional Security
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec Consultants
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants
Megan Lewis, Grantify, LLC
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois EPA Nonpoint Source Unit
Taylor Gendel, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
Ryan Wilson, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald
Dean Alonistiotis, MWRD Office of Comm. Du Buclet
Justin Hart, MWRD Office of Comm. Shore
Kara Riggio, OAI
Matthew Santagata, Openlands
Maggie Cormack, RES
Karen Kreis, residential stakeholder
Jen Jenkins, The Nature Conservancy
Danielle Gallet, Waterwell, LLC
& others

Member Updates

Jen Jenkins said TNC is still looking for projects in the Little Calumet watershed and extended the deadline for the StormStore Opportunity Fund for through September 1. [The Call for](#)

[Projects is available here](#), or contact Jen (jennifer.jenkins@tnc.org) to discuss potential projects. Conceptual projects are OK. No match required.

Justin Hart from MWRD Office of Comm. Shore said the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative (AWLI) is holding its 5th annual advisory committee meeting in November and reached out to him in search of agenda items. If you have presentation ideas, reach out to Justin (hartj@mwrd.org) to be connected with AWLI or visit: www.wolflakeinitiative.org

Jeff Edstrom from the Illinois EPA Nonpoint Source Unit advised that the Notice of Funding Opportunity for this year's [Section 319 grants](#) has been delayed but will be released soon.

Kim Nowicki said Cook County Emergency Management and Regional Security is working to receive ARPA and BRIC funding to support regional projects with MWRD and others. There is a good amount of money coming available, and they want to ensure the region will benefit from it. Contact Kim (kimberly.nowicki@cookcountyil.gov) with project ideas.

Danielle Gallet of Waterwell, LLC, is working with the US Water Alliance on Climate Adaptation, Equity, & Resilience. The US Water Alliance is identifying the most successful actions, investments, and approaches to date that are helping water utilities respond to a changing climate and ensure all communities are resilient. Please fill out this survey on best practices in climate resilience, equity, or both: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FL5ZZZ5>

Ryan Wilson from the Metropolitan Planning Council said the RFP for Our Great Rivers 2021 is now open, with a focus this year of advancing the goals of the [Living rivers theme of the Our Great Rivers vision](#). The LOI deadline is August 27. For more information, visit: <https://www.cct.org/what-we-offer/request-for-proposals-our-great-rivers/>

John Watson from MWRD said the 2021 call for projects for the Green Infrastructure Partnership Opportunity Program is open now, closing September 6. For more information, email John (john.watson@mwrd.org), visit their [project webpage](#), or check out the [informational webinar on YouTube](#).

Though not new to the CSC, Maggie Catania reintroduced herself as the new interim executive director of the Calumet Collaborative. Most recently, Maggie was the planner for the Village of Robbins and has a background in planning, art education, and community development, all of which are a good fit for the Calumet Collaborative's work on Calumet Heritage Area. *(Congrats, Maggie! We look forward to engaging with you in your new role.)*

Kara Riggio from OAI said the Training & Maintenance Work Group hosted an in-person training on June 17 with CRTI, OAI, MWRD, Cardno and others. The main attendees were public works and park district staff, who are responsible for green infrastructure maintenance but didn't know what is required... until now! Kara pointed out the importance of being on site to help with the nuts and bolts of GI maintenance and teach them what they need to know to do their job well.

Justin Keller from MPC said version 1 of the Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory is now complete! MPC is developing a project landing page and will share the dataset soon.

Justin Keller added that there are no new updates on CSC workplanning for 2022. After meetings earlier this year with the work groups, MPC will draft the work plan and re-engage the CSC Steering Committee to discuss.

Next, a short clip was played from a video produced by Saki Handa of Mott MacDonald. The video was originally played at the ASCE Environmental & Water Resources Institute "World Congress" in June 2021. The short clip featured an interview with a resident with a bioswale in front of the property. [The video can be viewed here.](#)

Presentation

Theme: advancing the CSC's Goal 1: *Significant reduction in non-overbank flooding*; and Goal 4: *Data-driven decision-making is more prevalent in stormwater management planning*

Calumet Urban Flooding Baseline: Website and Data Collection Updates

Cyatharine Alias, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Paul Esling, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Jon Kuta, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology

The Urban Flooding Baseline is one of four Foundational Activities in the [CSC's 3-year Work Plan](#), and CNT shared some updates. They built a data collection mobile app and piloted data collection in partnership with some preexisting RainReady steering committees and also with SSMMA. During pilot data collection, residents were assigned to zones and captured flooding after a rain event. CNT used the pilot to work out bugs in app, such as configuring smartphone settings, and incorporated safety considerations, such as providing reflective vests and signs to make the data collectors look more official.

Since the purpose is to make this data accessible, CNT is developing a website which provides an overview of the project and pulls out some data and narrative findings, such as where it is flooding, why, and some of the impacts. To answer these questions, the website incorporates other existing datasets like flood factor, NFIP, catchment areas, flowpaths, and more. Importantly, though the data will be made publicly available, CNT understands the need to protect homeowners from the implications of flood data being widely available. One workaround is to show the closest intersection as opposed to exact address and blurring out identifying features like house numbers.

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

Next Meeting

Friday, **September 10**, 2020

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: virtual

For more information contact:
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