CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – February 5, 2020
Metropolitan Planning Council
Zoom meeting

Attendees

Brad Kasberg, Audubon Great Lakes
Bob Dean, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Peter Haas, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Preeti Shankar, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Anna Wolf, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Graig Neville, CERA Solutions
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Melissa Custic, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Trinity Pierce, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Elaine Simon, Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability
Jack Eskin, Delta Institute
Mary Mitros, DuPage County
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River
Mary Kate Dempsey, Geosyntec Consultants
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants
Genese Leach, Grand Victoria Foundation
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Christine Davis, Illinois EPA
Eliana Brown, Illinois Extension/Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Layne Knoche, Illinois Extension/Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Matt Callone, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Tara Jagadeesh, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
Ryan Wilson, Metropolitan Planning Council
Jack Chan, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Steve Haucke, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Julie Reschke, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (Comm. Sepúlveda's office)
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald
Becky Nicodemus, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Kara Riggio, OAI
Ted Haffner, Openlands
Bill Wood, SmithGroup
Jen Jenkins, The Nature Conservancy
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian
& others

Member Updates

Justin Keller from MPC shared that the Chicago Region Trees Initiative is offering a [free two-day CSC Green Infrastructure Training](#) for green infrastructure maintenance will take place in two parts, a virtual training on February 19 and a hands-on workshop on June 18.

Justin also discussed the [CSC Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory](#) which is now in the data collection phase. He asked everyone to share the data request with their networks.

Jack Chan announced that MWRD is accepting applications for conceptual projects for the [Stormwater Partnership Program](#) until March 12. Conceptual projects are stormwater projects for areas impacted by flooding where the applicant is in need of resources to investigate and develop potential solutions. An ongoing Call for Projects alternates every year between preliminary engineering and shovel-ready projects. Email chanT@mwrd.org with questions.

Josh Ellis announced that [MPC has an open position for Director of Environmental Policy](#) to please share with your networks.

Josh also announced that there is a [proposed bill in Illinois](#) which looks to enable all municipalities to charge stormwater fees. MPC has neither endorsed nor opposed the legislation.

Patrick Lach shared [Indiana legislation](#) that would remove permit requirements for state regulated wetlands. Indiana Governor Holcomb could veto the bill if it passes; his concerns are reported by the [Indiana Environmental Reporter](#). [Hoosier Environmental Council](#) also opposes the bill.

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

Green Infrastructure Impacts of Property Values
Bob Dean, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Peter Haas, Center for Neighborhood Technology

The Center for Neighborhood Technology released the [CNT Green Values Stormwater Management Calculator](#), designed to help plan green infrastructure solutions to prevent flooding for single buildings and larger scale community spaces. The tool helps the user to develop a scenario for single or multiple sites and large areas where types of green infrastructure are added to determine benefits such as reducing runoff, water treatment and increased property values.

One of the most important benefits of green infrastructure that this tool measures is its impact on real-estate value. Property values have shown to increase from between 0.28% to 0.78%, meaning, for example, that a homeowner with a $250,000 home could see a $700 to $1,950 higher home sale value. A consequence that needs to be dealt with, however, is the effect that

increased home values have on displacement and gentrification. Although not as jarring an impact of, for example, the 606 trail's impact on nearby property values, as green infrastructure projects take place, there must be coordination between developers and communities to provide affordable housing, equitable transit and other measures to avoid such displacement.

Calumet Urban Flooding Baseline: Update and Data Layer Discussion
Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology

Phase 1 of the Calumet Urban Flooding Baseline analyzed gaps in data for urban flooding. The phase defined the geographic scope of the Calumet data analysis of urban flooding and defined urban flooding as flooding that overwhelms drainage systems and waterways. Data exists on the contributing factors to non-overbank flooding, such as heavy rainfall and aging infrastructure. However, there is a lack of documentation on the problem as compared to data on overbank flooding. As such, there was discussion with stakeholders, including the CSC Work Group and municipalities. The main takeaways from Phase 1 are that the primary data collection needs to focus on documenting the problem in order to create better metrics of susceptibility to urban flooding, and secondary data needs to focus on harm reduction.

Phase 2 will involve the development of a visualization tool to collect data on urban flooding in the Calumet region. The pilot project will target a sub area of the target geography. The goals of data collection are to engage, train and compensate residents to take photos of urban flooding during and immediately after rain events. A mobile webpage will be created to upload photos and build pilot infrastructure for future data collection to cover the entire Calumet. The data collection plan will take place in three phases: first, data collection leaders cover three storm events; next, a larger group of data collectors trained by leaders cover 10 storm events; and finally, an even larger group of data collectors cover 10 storm or major melt events. The visualization tool will be used by local government and municipal engineers, public work directors and superintendents, MWRD engineers and model developers, and local resident and advocates. This data will be used to identify problem areas, impermeable surface areas, and bolster fundraising and planning efforts.

After the presentations, attendees were split into breakout rooms to discuss the data collection efforts in more detail. Visit the CSC website to review the full presentation materials.

Next Meeting
Work Group-focused meeting
Friday, March 5, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Location: virtual

For more information contact:
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