
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

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



Attendees

Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Graig Neville, CERA Solutions
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Kelsey Pudlock, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Melissa Custic, Chicago Region trees Initiative
Trinity Pierce, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Mason Throneburg, Confluency
Jack Eskin, Delta Institute
Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County Stormwater Management
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec Consultants
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants
Megan Lewis, Grantify, LLC
Patrick Lach, Hey and Associates, Inc.
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois EPA Nonpoint Program
Eliana Brown, Illinois Extension/IISG
Sarah Bury, LWC Illinois/Sierra Club Chicago/Anthropocene Alliance
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Dylan Haber, Metropolitan Planning Council
Sarah Howe, Metropolitan Planning Council
Tara Jagadeesh, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Hart, MWRD Office of Commissioner Shore
Kara Riggio, OAI
Ted Haffner, Openlands
Bill Wood, SmithGroup
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian
Danielle Gallet, Waterwell, LLC
& others

Member Updates

Vidya Balasubramanyam from the IDNR Coastal Management Program said their competitive grant proposal is now live. The pre-application deadline is April 14, and an informational webinar will be held on March 16 at 10:30 a.m. [Register here](#). This grant is for projects on coastal habitats, public access, recreation, coastal community resilience, and stormwater management

is an important component of each of these. [Grant guidelines, application materials, and other resources are available here](#). Reach out to Vidya (vidya.balasubramanyam@illinois.gov) for scoping advice as it relates to the project.

Vidya also said the [Request for Proposals for the 2021 National Coastal Resilience Fund is available here](#). This year, the National Coastal Resilience Fund will invest in projects in four priority areas: 1. Community Capacity Building and Planning, 2. Site Assessment and Preliminary Design, 3. Final Design and Permitting, and 4. Restoration and Monitoring.

Lisa Krause from the IDNR Coastal Management Program discussed the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program, which provides grants to reduce nutrients and sediments entering the Great Lakes. Applicants are invited to submit proposals for sediment and nutrient reduction activities associated with one of three project types: 1) agricultural non-point; 2) stormwater; and 3) Great Lakes shorelines and streambanks. A webinar for applicants is offered on March 12, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern. For more information, please contact Lisa at lisa.krause@illinois.gov.

Josh Ellis from the Metropolitan Planning Council announced a webinar on March 17 titled, “The City of Joliet Proposed Diversion – Understanding Where the Great Lakes Compact Ends and the Illinois' Lake Michigan Allocation Begins.” This Lunch & Learn webinar is hosted by Metropolitan Planning Council, the Alliance for the Great Lakes, and the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition. The event is invite-only; email Josh (jellis@metroplanning.org) for the calendar appointment.

Josh also invited everyone to [MPC's Trivia Night on March 25](#). It is the de facto farewell party for Josh, and he said, “Whether you want to say goodbye or good riddance, please join us!”

A farewell to Josh Ellis: Some of you know Josh as the guy who sits in the back during CSC meetings, at least when we still met in person. [But he's largely responsible for getting the CSC off the ground back in 2014](#), and he facilitated the CSC for a number of years. Though he has been in the background while Danielle, Sarah, and now Justin facilitated the meetings, he has continued to be a major contributor to the Collaborative. Josh, thank you for everything. You will be dearly missed!

Presentations

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

Envisioning the Digital Watershed

Mason Throneburg, Confluency

Does more data lead to better stormwater outcomes? As a society, we are using data more and more: for navigation, to choose restaurants, etc. But are we getting to better solutions using this wealth of data? The digital watershed concept explores this idea, pulling together data, models, and real-time information about infrastructure systems to meet specific needs, identify problems,

explore contributing factors, develop and prioritize solutions, and, later, monitor how they are impacting conditions in the field. A digital twin, a digital representation of a system which pulls together real-time sensor data, can model changes such as, “if i change this, what will the impact be?” This is a very tech-heavy solution, and increasingly, people are understanding that technology alone will not solve our problems. People need to be involved.

Modeling can help identify where stormwater management measures are most needed and pinpoint where it will be the most effective. This digital transformation can lead to smarter solutions, but individuals (a single engineer responsible for the model, for example) can become a bottleneck. Self-service architecture is important, e.g., using an API to pull specific data from model runs that have been processed in the past to answer questions. This requires a paradigm shift in how data is stored and shared. Rather than doing analysis and putting results into report, we must think of ourselves as data providers and contributors to a distributed data management system. At the end of the presentation, conversation focused on how this framework can be applied in the Calumet.

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

Next Meeting

Friday, April 2, 2020

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

Location: virtual

For more information contact:
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