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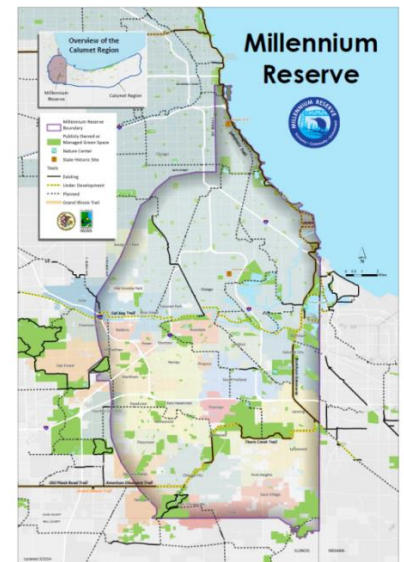
# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – June 2, 2017  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



## Attendees

Sarah Coulter, Calumet Collaborative  
Carol Kim, Chicago Park District,  
Anjolie Cheema, CH2M  
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering  
Monica Giermek, Christopher Burke Engineering  
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Justin Keller, Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Hal Sprague, Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Graig Neville, EDI  
Mark Wagstaff, GHD  
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Annie Turek, Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant  
Chad Kruse, Illinois Pollution Control Board  
Jeff Edstrom, Independent Consultant  
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Ranjita Tiwari, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Shehara Waas, Metropolitan Planning Council  
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District  
Melissa Cusic, The Morton Arboretum  
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy  
Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois  
Andy Johnson, WRD Environmental/ Greencorps



## Member Updates

Josh Ellis reminded everyone the Dragon Boat Races along the Calumet River would be happening on June 3, 2017 in Blue Island. He mentioned that 20-25 teams have registered for the race this year. The Cal-Sag plunge is also taking place at the same day at the same location to raise funds for the Cal-Sag Trail.

Josh also noted that the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund 2017 Request for Proposals has been released. Proposals will be accepted from governmental entities and NGOs for projects intended to: (1) reduce stormwater runoff with green infrastructure; (2) enhance fish and wildlife habitat, or (3) improve public use/access opportunities. The applications are due by 11:00 PM Central Time on July 10, 2017. For more information, click [here](#).

Monica Giermek from Christopher Burke Engineering thanked everyone for being a part of this year's [Chicago River clean-up event](#) on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> in Blue Island. More than 50 people were involved and worked hard to clear 350 ft. of dense bush with hand-tools. Monica received feedback from local stakeholders that the energetic presence in Blue Island and hard work truly meant a lot to the community.

John Watson from MWRD announced the District's call for Green Infrastructure Projects. Government entities and local communities are encouraged to apply (non-profits can be project partners). The application deadline is July 14, 2017. The application is available electronically on MWRD's website, along with more information in [here](#).

Kate Evasic announced that the CMAP's call for Local Technical Assistance projects is open until June 29, 2017. Visit [here](#) to learn more and download the application.

Lisa Cotner announced that IDNR is partnering with Lake County Stormwater to work on updates for Lake Michigan watershed plans. The planning work will include ravine areas in Lake County that drain to Lake Michigan. Many of these ravines have valuable natural features, but have been subject to a great deal of erosion.

Melissa Custic announced that The Morton Arboretum is releasing a Request for Proposal for urban forestry grants/projects. Municipalities, park districts, townships, counties, and local government entities are eligible for grants. Allowable projects include: tree inventories, tree management plans, tree ordinances and tree planting. The deadline for the application is June 30, 2017. Visit [here](#) for more information.

Margaret Schneemann shared that The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) has announced a [request for proposals](#) due July 31, 2017 for the Great Lakes Emerging Champions Mini-Grant Program. The Mini-Grant Program will provide funding to help communities with fewer than 500,000 people improve water quality, manage stormwater, and enhance community well-being. Grants of up to \$20,000 USD will support green infrastructure implementation including GI pilot installations, removing institutional or policy barriers, educational programming, developing partnerships with other agencies, or community GI planning efforts. There is webinar July 10, 2017 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. covering more details ([register here](#)).

## **Presentation**

### *Overview of the Green Infrastructure Needs Assessment – Training + Maintenance Work Group*

Margaret Schneemann, from Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant and co-chair of the CSC Training + Maintenance Work Group, delivered an overview of the recently-completed Green Infrastructure Needs Assessment report. The Needs Assessment project was the brainchild of the Training + Maintenance Work Group funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Illinois Coastal Zone Program.

The persistent lack of maintenance for stormwater infrastructure assets (green or gray) leads to declining performance of infrastructure assets over time and reduced community buy-in due to deteriorating performance and diminished aesthetic value (green infrastructure/nature-based

solutions). The focus of Needs Assessment project was to gather and analyze information to help address this important issue.

The research-based report met the following objectives:

- Present local case studies of green infrastructure in the Calumet region
- Catalog existing green infrastructure training and workforce opportunities
- Document best practices used by other cities in connecting green infrastructure to economic development that are potentially transferrable to the Calumet region
- Offer recommendations to develop capacity to meet green infrastructure service-related needs

Margaret noted there is a good body of information available on technical issues related to maintenance, for example what is involved in properly maintaining a rain garden or bioswale. One of the root causes of the lack of consistent maintenance appears to be that maintenance is not operationalized. There is not a systematic process for planning and budgeting for needed maintenance nor having a scheduling and accountability system to ensure the maintenance activities are carried out. Margaret noted that best practices can be adapted from the wastewater and drinking water sectors, specifically the use of asset management systems.

The report provides important information on the economic value of Green Infrastructure. GI investments positively impact the economy, support jobs, and generate local tax revenues. These types of positive economic impacts can be particularly important in areas with higher than average unemployment and lower than average income.

The slides from Margaret's presentation are available on the CSC website. One of the Training + Maintenance Work Group initiatives for 2017-2018 is to widely disseminate information from the Needs Assessment to key audiences as soon as it is released publically.

## **Work Group Discussions**

Following Margaret's presentation, the remaining CSC meeting time was devoted to break-out meetings of the four Work Groups. The Work Groups are formulating and implementing plans to move forward with their initiatives laid out in the 2017-2018 CSC workplan.

### **Next Meeting**

Friday, July 7, 2017  
10:00am to 12:00pm  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

**For more information contact:**

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