
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – September 10, 2021
Metropolitan Planning Council
Zoom meeting



Attendees

Alex Wood, Antero Group
Brandon Evans, Center For Neighborhood Technology
Drew Williams-Clark, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Zach Wirtz, Chicago Region Trees Initiative
Thomas Burke, Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Deb Kutska, Cook County
Emily Jenkins, Farnsworth Group
Akwasi Nketia, Farnsworth Group
Chelsey Grassfield, Friends of the Chicago River
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec Consultants
Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants
Vidya Balasubramanyam, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program
Margaret Schneemann, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant
Taylor Gendel, Metropolitan Planning Council
Justin Keller, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Annie Wright, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Matt Buerger, Mott MacDonald
Dean Alonistiotis, MWRD Office of Comm. Du Buclet
Kara Riggio, OAI, Inc.
Karen Kreis, unaffiliated
Jonathan Shaw, Village of Calumet Park
& others

Member Updates

Vidya Balasubramanyam from the IDNR Coastal Management Program said FEMA is seeking public comment on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). The CRS is a voluntary point-based incentive program to recognize and encourage floodplain management practices. FEMA is accepting written comments through the [Federal eRulemaking Portal](#) using Docket ID: FEMA -2021-0021 through September 22.

John Watson from MWRD said they received 50 applications for their Green Infrastructure Partnership Opportunity Program. That might be a new record or at least knocking on #1's door. Exciting! John also reported that MWRD is making progress on design and securing IGAs for the Garfield Park eco orchard. They are also working with Northwestern University to monitor the GI effectiveness. They hope to break ground in the spring.

Kara Riggio said OAI recently collaborated with partners at Cardno and IDNR to produce a video about the importance of green infrastructure and maintenance. They think it is important to continue to remind residents and community members about the important role GI plays and the need for maintenance. Additional maintenance videos are planned for the fall and will focus on more specific topics. [Click here to watch the video](#), and please share with your network.

Margaret Schneemann from IISG said the Training & Maintenance Work Group is proceeding with trainings and working on a work plan update.

Drew Williams-Clark from CNT said many people expressed interest in participating in a review of the Urban Flooding Baseline website. CNT is planning to finish beta testing this month, have a soft launch in January, and make the site fully live sometime in 2022.

Justin Keller from MPC said the Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory is done! Of course, just one phase of the work is done. Now it's time to transition to working with stakeholders to use the resource, but he expressed his appreciation to the CSC for their guidance and support along the way. [Click here to view the new project landing page and access the dataset](#).

Justin Keller said MPC began synthesizing feedback from CSC Work Groups meetings and the CSC Steering Committee into a draft CSC Work Plan 2022. In late September, the Steering Committee will convene again to discuss the work plan draft, followed by a meeting with the CSC Work Groups in early October. A draft will be shared with the CSC for feedback in November, and the plan will, ideally, be adopted at the December holiday party.

Panel Discussion

Theme: informing the development of the CSC's Work Plan 2022

Municipal Perspective on Stormwater Management

Karen Kreis, former Trustee, Village of Midlothian

Jonathan Shaw, Director of Parks & Recreation, Calumet Park

The CSC's current 3-year work plan ends this year. Throughout 2021, the CSC Work Groups and the CSC Steering Committee had discussions to develop a one-year work plan for 2022, and the consensus was not to do something new but to build on current accomplishments – e.g., green infrastructure maintenance training, service sharing, the Green Infrastructure Baseline Inventory. During these discussions, it was recommended that we invite some municipal representatives to speak about the challenges faced by Calumet-region elected officials and staff in managing stormwater and, with this information, identify how the CSC can best support communities in 2022 and beyond.

MPC's Justin Keller was joined by former long-time Midlothian Trustee, Karen Kreis, and Calumet Park's Director of Parks & Recreation, Jonathan Shaw. Topics discussed included: flood-related concerns expressed by residents; advocating for residents' concerns among staff and elected officials; building coalitions to tackle flooding challenges; and the balancing act of municipal priorities (police, fire, utilities, public health, etc.) and how to bring flooding relief to top

of the agenda. NOTE: This portion of the meeting was not recorded to allow for open and candid discussion.

Presentation

Theme: informing the development of the CSC's Work Plan 2022

Addressing Flooding in the Calumet Region – Calumet City and Crestwood

Emily Jenkins, Farnsworth Group

Akwasi Nketia, Farnsworth Group

Farnsworth Group is a full service architectural and engineering firm. In the Village of Crestwood, some example stormwater projects include designing new inlets and upsizing sewer infrastructure, a drainage basin on FPCC property to manage overflows from Tinley Creek, and meeting detention and volume control requirements of the MWRD ordinance for a new commercial hub. In Calumet City, they submitted an application to MWRD's Green Infrastructure Partnership Opportunity Program to install permeable pavers/asphalt in four alleys to capitalize on stormwater management co-benefits in an alley paving project.

In both municipalities, the majority of flooding occurs in the older sections. When working with communities, they often have to construct new sewers and inlets based on current rainfall data. This, in addition to more stringent requirements, can cause difficulties for understaffed, under-resourced communities. When working with clients, they recommend routinely scoping, cleaning, and televising grey infrastructure; knowing the condition allows communities to better plan and budget. For green infrastructure, they recommend regular inspection and maintenance and education for public works staff. For funding, in addition to adopting a stormwater fee, other opportunities exist, including MWRD's Green Infrastructure Partnership Opportunity Program, StormStore, the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, IEPA's GIGO program, and FEMA's BRIC program.

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

Next Meeting

Friday, October 1, 2020

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

Location: virtual

For more information contact:

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