
CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE



MEETING SUMMARY – January 5, 2018
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603

Attendees

John Mick II, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.
Elizabeth Evans, Bluestem Communications
Kim Siemens, CDMSmith
Anjolie Cheema, CH2M
Carol Kim, Chicago Park District
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering
Michael Berkshire, City of Chicago Department of Planning & Development
Hal Sprague, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Deborah Stone, Cook County Government
Joel Koenig, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc
Katie Levin, Crown Family Philanthropies
Michelle Parker, Crown Family Philanthropies
Brenna Mannion, Current Water
Ben Shorofsky, Delta Institute
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County
Joanne Young Dill, Friends of the Chicago River
Matt Bardol, Geosyntec
Craig Clarkson, Geosyntec
Mark Wagstaff, GHD
Jeff Macke, Hey and Associates
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Jeff Edstrom, Illinois State Water Survey
Brian Kristall, Loyola University
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Liz Granger, Metropolitan Planning Council
Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Tim Oravec, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Ann Gray, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Ted Haffner, Openlands
Andrew Szwak, Openlands
Sean Kelly, Robinson Engineering
Katherine Moore Powell, The Field Museum
Emily Okallau, The Morton Arboretum
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy
Ludovica Gasse, University of Chicago Energy & Environment Lab
Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian

Member Updates

John Mick from Baxter & Woodman shared that the American Public Works Association Suburban Chapter and the American Society of Civil Engineers are hosting a luncheon on Thursday, January 18 in Rosemont where MWRD staff will discuss the District Stormwater Management Phase II Flood Control Program. For more information about the luncheon, please visit this [link](#).

John Watson from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District announced that they have completed the design for five new schools participating in the Space To Grow Program, and are planning to construct the green schoolyards this summer. The five schools are Cook Elementary, Fernwood Elementary, Field Elementary, Morton Elementary and Nathan Davis Elementary. Space To Grow is a multi-year partnership between the MWRD, CPS, and the City of Chicago, Department of Water Management. To learn more, visit this [webpage](#).

Josh Ellis from MPC announced that an Administrative Assistant position has been posted on their [website](#). Josh also shared that on January 25, 2018 from 5-7 PM at Blue Island Beer Company, MPC will be celebrating the Friends of the Cal-Sag Trail and the Cal-Sag Coalition who were honored with the 2017 Burnham Award for Excellence in Planning for their plan and implementation of the Cal-Sag Trail. Tickets are \$10. For more event information and to register, please visit this [link](#).

Katie Levin from Crown Family Philanthropies announced on behalf of the Alliance for the Great Lakes Chicago Young Professional Council that they will award grants in 2018 that strengthen the role of visionary leaders and community groups working in the Chicago metropolitan area on projects benefiting the Great Lakes. Ranging from \$500 to \$5,000, grants will fund innovative ideas that transform or enhance Lake Michigan. This includes local waterways, watersheds, wetlands, and water systems or the community's access or use of these resources. Deadline is March 2, 2018 at 5 PM. Read more about the grant and application process [here](#).

Emily Okallau from The Morton Arboretum updated that they are partners with the Student Conservation Association for a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant that will plant 600-700 trees throughout the Calumet Region. Trees will be planted on public property, such as parkways, park district land, libraries, schools, and other municipally-owned land. They are looking for community groups or individual residents who might be able to undertake leadership roles in engaging community members to care for the trees during the first three years. Please contact Emily at eokallau@mortonarb.org or (630) 725-2498 if you have any thoughts or leads.

Bob Newport from MPC shared that researchers from US Environmental Protection Agency recently published a report on Factors Contributing to the Hydrologic Effectiveness of a Rain Garden Network. The report quantifies the performance of two rain gardens in different storm events and looks at retention and detention performance. View the report [here](#).

Presentations

Resilient Corridors

Michael Berkshire, City of Chicago Department of Planning & Development

Michael presented on the City of Chicago's work installing green infrastructure projects on city-owned vacant land supported by federal Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief resources. The Department of Planning & Development engaged Hey and Associates and AECOM

to design and construct functioning, beautiful green infrastructure sites that manage stormwater to reduce basement flooding while providing new open spaces in vulnerable neighborhoods. All projects are slated to be completed by June 2018.

The project team identified the most vulnerable areas to apply green infrastructure to the park system, public right of way, and commercial corridors as opposed to residential areas. A variety of lenses were used to qualify as most vulnerable, such as areas with less adequate sewer systems, lower household income, health indicators, etc. As a result, three corridors were selected: Chicago Avenue in Humboldt Park, 16th Street in Lawndale and Ogden Avenue in North Lawndale.

Some features of the Chicago Avenue Corridor will include multi-use playground areas with an outdoor classroom with growing beds featuring permeable pavers and asphalt to drain stormwater from surrounding streets and alleys. The 16th Street Corridor includes an orchard with fruit-bearing trees, community gardens, and the installation of runnels, and a community plaza. The Ogden Avenue Corridor will receive basketball courts that have risers and will provide passive recreational areas around the facility as well as a greenhouse and aquaponics center, incubator gardens and bioswales near permeable pavement plazas. For each project, strong community partners have been engaged in the initial site design and DPD will lease the land to the partners entering into long-term maintenance agreements for the green infrastructure projects.

MWRD Geographical Information System Assistance: Lending GPS Units to Assist Communities with Sewer Atlas Mapping
Ann Gray, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District

Ann gave a presentation about MWRD now offering GPS equipment and related software *at no cost* to provide sewer system owners resources to begin mapping their sewer system in GIS or improve their existing sewer system map. To participate, a municipality must own or operate a sanitary sewer system that discharges directly and/or indirectly to MWRD facilities, or own or operate a sewer system in a combined sewer area within the corporate boundaries of the District. Sewer system owners must enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with MWRD and agree to provide MWRD with their sanitary, storm, and combined sewer data collected.

Data collection with the GPS unit can include catch basins and inlets. There are additional fields where you can input additional information if desired. MWRD provides training documents and field training of GPS unit use upon request. Units are available on a rotating schedule. Already some municipalities are utilizing AmeriCorps grant resources to secure labor assistance for data collection and two municipalities are sharing one GPS unit to collect data faster. To be added to the list for the next available GPS unit, submit a letter of intent to the Director of Engineering per the below. The template IGA and modifiable Letter of Intent are available at wmo.mwrdd.org.

Marcella V. Landis
Acting Director of Engineering
Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611

The slides from the above presentations are posted on the [CSC webpage](#).

Work Group Initiatives Updates

Data + Modeling

Anjulie Cheema, CH2M

Data + Modeling Work Group has been busy updating the Data Mapping Viewer Tool, incorporating helpful feedback provided by the CSC. Since August, the Work Group has changed the interface, included an overview description, and created a user guide. The Data Mapping Viewer Tool provides useful viewing information about regional and local stormwater considerations in an interactive map format. Data layers in the viewer include land use, floodplains, soil types and sewer outfalls. To access the viewer, visit <http://www.chistormwatermapper.com>.

Education + Engagement Work Group

Sarah Cardona, MPC

The Education + Engagement Work Group provided a status update of their 2017 initiatives. The Member Spotlight initiative which aims to collect consistent information on agencies and organizations that participate in the CSC for use in outreach, on-boarding of new members and reporting of the CSC's real world success stories. A total of 17 agencies have responded.

Please take 5 minutes to complete your Member Spotlight [here](#).

The Education + Engagement Work Group is also helping to organize a one-day, solutions-based forum in the Calumet region led by Delta Institute which will provide training for municipalities on existing tools for green infrastructure planning and maintenance. A date and location will be announced shortly. Lastly, the Work Group is finalizing social media hashtags and a simple user guide for CSC social media strategies—including pre-written Tweets— will be provided soon.

Next Meeting

Work group-focused meeting

Friday, February 2, 2018

10:00am to 12:00pm

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

For more information contact:

Sarah Cardona
Metropolitan Planning Council
312.863.6009
scardona@metroplanning.org