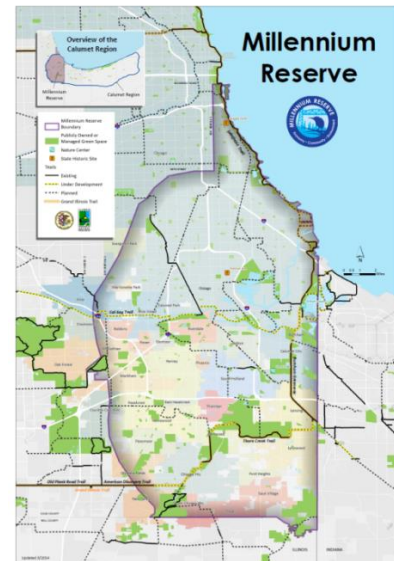

CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – Nov 3, 2017
Metropolitan Planning Council
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



Attendees

John Mick II, Baxter & Woodman
Elizabeth Evans, Bluestem Communications
Edde Jones, CDOT GreenCorps Chicago
Monica Rockstroh, Christopher Burke Engineering
Jason Navota, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Carol Kim, Chicago Park District
K.C. Doyle, Cook County
Sandra Homola, Exp
Ray Bell, Faith In Place
Peter Toth, Foresight Design Initiative
John Quail, Friends of the Chicago River
Julia Plumb, High Bridge
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
James Kessen, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council
Josh Ellis, Metropolitan Planning Council
Liz Granger, Metropolitan Planning Council
Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council
Saki Handa, Mott MacDonald
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
Melissa Cusic, The Morton Arboretum
Emily Okallau, The Morton Arboretum
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy
Mollie Dowling, OAI Chicago Southland
Ted Haffner, Openlands
Sean Kelly, Robinson Engineering
Mary Pat McGuire, University of Illinois
Moiria Zellner, University of Illinois at Chicago
Kathy Caveney, Village of Midlothian



Member Updates

Moiria Zellner from UIC shared the good news that UIC and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago have received grant funding from the Searle Funds at The Chicago Community Trust for a new project in Robbins that has also been selected to receive Local Technical Assistance from CMAP. The project will address flooding along Midlothian Creek, remove approximately 140 acres from the floodplain through proposed stormwater solutions and free that area for potential transit-oriented development.

Moira also announced an upcoming event on November 13th celebrating GIS Day as an opportunity to celebrate innovative projects that use these techniques, network with other users and participate in hands-on applications of the technologies. Join UIC's Urban Data Visualization Lab and the University Library at this free event on 11/13 from 9:45 am to 3:00 pm. For more details and to register, please visit this [link](#).

Mary Pat McGuire from the University of Illinois shared the good news that UofI has been [awarded funding from the Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant College Program](#) for hydro-geologic soil research for green stormwater infrastructure planning and design aiming to develop new methods for adapting urban coastal communities. The team will develop a comprehensive dataset of hydro-geologic soils in the glaciated coastal region, integrated with urban surface design research to disrupt barriers and promote rainwater infiltration. They will work with communities to integrate this research into local landscape infrastructure planning. The team plans to engage the CSC work groups of Education + Engagement as well as Planning + Policy and will be identifying communities to engage and discuss their interest in using this data going forward.

John Watson from MWRD provided an update on the District's call for Green Infrastructure Projects: 20 applications have been selected to receive support. The District will be contacting awarded municipalities in the coming weeks. All are cost-share partnerships with municipalities or government agencies.

Monica Rockstroh from Christopher Burke Engineering announced there is a free seminar in Naperville on November 29 geared toward MS4 communities to inform common green infrastructure practices, focusing specifically on permeable surfaces. Government staff, including stormwater, public works and transportation staff, contractors and others who perform or oversee design and maintenance of public surfaces are encouraged to attend. Registration required by November 20. To review the event agenda and register, please visit this [link](#).

John Quail from Friends of the Chicago River provided an update about the [oil spill at Bubbly Creek](#) which USEPA Region 5 is leading the clean-up. A call to alert authorities was made Wednesday evening, but the pollution was spotted as early as Monday, October 23 when someone reported a goose covered in oil. That delay in reporting makes it difficult to trace the spill source. If you see something unusual or any kind of pollution on the river, please call immediately the MWRD Dump Line: (800) 332-DUMP (3687) or Friends of the Chicago River. Review who to call in what circumstances at Friends' webpage [here](#).

Bob Newport from MPC shared about a funding opportunity with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Wildlife Habitat Council, in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FedEx, and Southern Company which are soliciting applications for the 2018 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program. This program will award approximately \$2 million in grants nationwide. Request for proposals are due January 31, 2018. There is an informational webinar on Wednesday, November 15 from 1-2:30 pm. Visit the grant program [website](#) to find the full request for proposals as well as a tips sheet.

Presentations

Highlights from Calumet region green infrastructure installations – City of Blue Island & James Wadsworth STEM Elementary School Space to Grow

Julia Plumb, OAI, Inc./High Bridge

John Watson, MWRD

Meg Kelly, Healthy Schools Campaign

Ted Haffner, Openlands

To experience the multi-faceted approach to green infrastructure installation and maintenance the CSC embraces, [MPC organized a tour](#) during WEFTEC 2017 to bring conference participants to installations in the Calumet region. At the November meeting, CSC member agencies extended that tour to the wider CSC audience by sharing their insights from working on the ground in stormwater management activities in the Calumet.

Julia and John provided an overview of what began in Blue Island as a bottom-up, community organizing effort to engage residents in sustainability and stormwater through rain barrels and rain gardens. The City of Blue Island and its partners work together with neighborhood residents on significant green/gray investment from multiple sources and agencies, including MWRD and [OAI, Inc./High Bridge](#), a social enterprise focused on green infrastructure installation and local job creation. Julie shared lessons learned including facilitating resident engagement early and allowing for time to adjust to the new aesthetics of native planting. They also learned to provide the community with a menu of plant options to gain further buy-in for what is planted. John mentioned the importance of developing a three-year maintenance plan for permeable pavement installations at the beginning of construction to further ensure maintenance best practices.

Meg delivered an overview of the [Space to Grow](#) program which transforms Chicago Public School elementary schools to dynamic green spaces for students and residents to learn and play. CPS counts with 760 acres of blacktop currently. Innovative green infrastructure practices, such as underground storage, native rain gardens and porous playgrounds are integrated to each schoolyard design in the program. Space to Grow is a unique partnership: [Openlands](#) and [Healthy Schools Campaign](#) co-manage Space to Grow, working with the partners and school communities to ensure the success of the program. Openlands is focused on connecting people to nature and HSC is committed to supporting healthy students. A number of public agencies provide leadership, expertise and funding: Chicago Public Schools, the City of Chicago's Department of Water Management, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. A team from Loyola University and the University of California's Nutrition Policy Institute are important partners helping to measure our health and wellness initiatives and community impact.

The Wadsworth Space to Grow schoolyard officially opened on November 29, 2016 after a \$1.5 million transformation through this program. Currently nine total schools have been retrofitted, six are being designed and many more are planned. All schools are located in high areas of flood risk. This [time lapse video](#) of the work at Wadsworth gives a glimpse at the transformation possible. John and Ted shared how creating a standardized plant list and a template for operations and maintenance procedures for CPS architects to use helped ensure smoother, more consistent O&M practices across all schoolyard sites.

StormStore Project Update: results from feasibility study exploring stormwater credit trading in Cook County

***Josh Ellis and Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council
John Legge, The Nature Conservancy***

The StormStore team gave a recap of the work to date undertaking a feasibility study between MPC, TNC and MWRD to explore the possibility of establishing a stormwater detention credit trading system in Cook County, called "StormStore". The real estate analysis conducted reviewing development projects permitted by MWRD over the past 10 years indicates there would be substantial potential demand for offsite alternatives, with roughly 17% of all project permitted between 2006 and 2016 on sites under ten acres could have benefitted from an offsite alternative compliance option. Results showed potential demand for offsite capacity spread across the six watersheds in Cook County. On the supply side, the land and hydrologic analysis conducted reviewing various land use, topography and soil characteristics throughout Cook County indicates there would be adequate surface area of potential sites to meet the potential demand, again across all six watersheds. Total supply potential for detention was 197,572 acre-feet and 101,056 acre-feet for volume control.

The team also provided an overview of the key issues that have surfaced during the policy analysis which will be further investigated at length as part of the next phase of work. These include no adverse impact, spatial proximity, criteria for credit sites, timing/duration of credits, the role of municipalities in a potential market, how to spark creation of credit sites and equity considerations. There will be a final written report summarizing the feasibility study findings available. Please contact Sarah Cardona at scardona@metroplanning.org if you know of any projects that could be candidates for supply or demand sites, and also if you see a role for your organization in participating in this potential market.

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

Work Group Initiative Update – Education + Engagement

Lisa Cotner, IDNR

Lisa announced to the group about the Member Spotlight initiative that 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.

Please take 5 minutes to complete your Member Spotlight form by December 1 by clicking [here](#).

Next Meeting

Friday, December 1, 2017

Work group-focused meeting

****Includes a Holiday Celebration!****

10:00am to 12:00pm

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

For more information contact:

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