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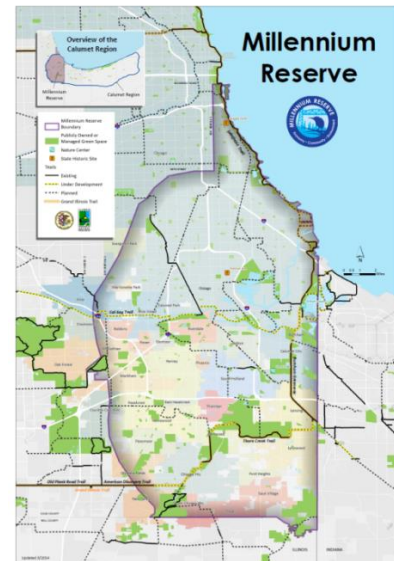
# CALUMET STORMWATER COLLABORATIVE

MEETING SUMMARY – Sept 8, 2017  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603



## Attendees

Marcella Bondie Keenan, Center for Neighborhood Technology  
Carol Kim, Chicago Park District  
Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Graig Neville, EDI  
Ramont Bell, Faith in Place  
Eric Otto, Forest Preserves of Cook County  
Craig Clarkson, Geosyntec  
Lisa Cotner, Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Jeff Edstrom, Independent Consultant  
Sarah Cardona, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Danielle Gallet, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Liz Granger, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council  
Mark Castillo, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District  
John Watson, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District  
Aislinn Gauchay, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Mollie Dowling, OAI Chicago Southland  
Ted Haffner, OpenLands  
Melissa Cusic, The Morton Arboretum  
Erin Maloney, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Karen Kreis, Village of Midlothian  
Gary L'heureux, Village of Midlothian



## Member Updates

Melissa Cusic from The Morton Arboretum shared that the Chicago Region Trees Initiative has added new features to [their website](#), including the fall update to the [Nursery Tree Inventory List](#) that details what nurseries carry each of the 200+ tree species that grow well in northern Illinois. This information will help communities and other arborists find the trees best suited for project areas. Another update is a new curated [Resource Library](#) to help communities, residents, and professionals find technical guides, brochures, fact sheets, websites, and more to improve their capacity to plant and care for trees.

Marcella Bondie Keenan from CNT announced that UIC is hosting a workshop focused on planning for inclusion and diversity on October 5<sup>th</sup> from 3-5:00 pm organized by the APA-IL Diversity Committee and UIC CUPPA Alumni Association. The afternoon features a moderated panel followed by a networking event. This is a great opportunity to connect with emerging professionals

and encourage inclusion in planning work. Please follow this [link](#) for more information and to register for the event.

John Watson from MWRD provided an update on the District's call for Green Infrastructure Projects: 47 applications were received, and the District is currently evaluating them to determine which can be supported. All are cost-share partnerships with municipalities or government agencies. John also gave an update on projects funded in prior cycles that are progressing. A green alleys project in Berwyn is almost completed, and a bioswales and permeable pavement project in Niles is nearing completion. A project in Skokie which includes infiltration practices near the police station and a large rain garden at an intersection prone to flooding will be bid soon. The Space to Grow projects lined up for implementation are expected to begin construction next year.

Mollie Dowling from OAI announced that the Civic Leadership Academy program designed to develop a pipeline of talented leaders to help nonprofits and government agencies thrive is accepting applications until October 10 for the 2018 Civic Leadership Academy. Mollie recently completed this program and encouraged emerging and high-potential leaders in nonprofit organizations and local government agencies within the City of Chicago and Cook County interested in developing leadership skills apply. Visit this [link](#) for more details.

Danielle Gallet from MPC reminded everyone about the Water Environment Federation's Annual Technical Exhibition and Conference ([WEFTEC](#)) taking place in Chicago from September 30 – October 4. During the conference, a panel of speakers from MPC, CMAP and CNT will present on the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative, showcasing the great work of this effective regional collaboration. MPC has also organized a tour for conference attendees featuring green infrastructure sites around the Calumet region. Tour stops include the City of Blue Island, a Space to Grow schoolyard site, and green infrastructure features at the Method Soap Factory in Historic Pullman.

Danielle also called for volunteers to join the Holiday/End-of-Year Celebration planning committee to help plan a fun celebratory meeting during the December 2017 CSC meeting. She reminded the group of the highly-competitive CSC trivia contest that was part of last year's event. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email Sarah Cardona at [scardona@metroplanning.org](mailto:scardona@metroplanning.org).

## **Extended Member Update**

### ***Legislative overview on current and pending urban flooding and stormwater bills Hal Sprague, Center for Neighborhood Technology***

Hal delivered a presentation on bills worked on in the State legislature last cycle and still pending for the next legislative session. Hal provided a summary of the Urban Flooding Awareness Act report completed in 2015, and work that has been done to follow up on some of the recommendations related to policy and legislation. A key bill in the last session (SB 1337) dealing with authority for counties to adopt countywide stormwater ordinances, projects and programs passed the Senate. This bill did not pass in the House, but a parallel bill (HB 2756) did.

## **Presentations**

### **ON TO 2050 Stormwater and Flooding Strategy Paper – Update on Regional Flooding Susceptibility Index and Policy Recommendations**

***Nora Beck, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning***

Nora provided an overview of the Stormwater and Flooding Strategy Paper, which will inform CMAP's ON TO 2050 regional comprehensive plan. One key component of the work has been to develop a Regional Flooding Susceptibility Index, which can be used to identify priority areas across the region for flooding mitigation activities. CMAP has noticed some very interesting patterns in the data, for example, areas developed before 1974 and areas with combined sewers are generally more flood-prone than more recently developed areas with stormwater practices and separate sewers. In addition, the flooding susceptibility index results help identify areas that have conditions making them more susceptible to flooding, such as Chicago, Elgin, Aurora, and Joliet, which are some of the older and combined sewer areas.

Nora concluded by summarizing the Strategy Paper's policy framework approach and emerging recommendations, which led to a group discussion for providing feedback. The Strategy Paper is due to be released in November, with the Regional Flooding Susceptibility Index continuing to be refined with partners this Fall/Winter.

### **Chi-Cal Rivers Fund – Priorities and Interactive Discussion on Strategic Support of Stormwater Initiatives**

***Aislinn Gauchay, Program Director, Great Lakes, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation***

Aislinn presented on the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund green stormwater infrastructure strategy and priorities. For background, she reviewed the mission of the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, which is to restore the health, vitality and accessibility of the waterways in the Chicago and Calumet region, and its funding categories; green stormwater infrastructure (GSI), habitat enhancement and public-use improvements. Since 2013, the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund has awarded 22 grants with a total investment (including grantee match) of \$16.1 million. Specifically for stormwater, 11 green infrastructure projects have been funded since 2013 and 4.5 million gallons of stormwater storage have been installed with the support of the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund. In 2017, the number of green infrastructure applications significantly increased from previous years.

Aislinn discussed the green stormwater infrastructure funding category priorities and solicited feedback and suggestions from the CSC around the barriers that exist to designing and implementing GSI projects, and where the funding community can help address these needs. The two topics that garnered the most attention were providing support for maintenance of practices after installation, and providing support for planning/design work. Other suggestions included helping to foster aggregation of small projects to achieve economies of scale and improve opportunities for funding as well as having experienced grant recipients serve as mentors to new/inexperienced grant recipients.

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

## **Work Group Initiative Update – Planning + Policy**

***Kate Evasic, CMAP***

Kate gave an update on behalf of the Planning + Policy Work Group about the Stormwater Repository. The Repository is a curated database of resources useful to communities and other practitioners which now has a new, more user-friendly format and appearance. Next steps include making the various sections consistent across the database and aligning formatting and appearance with other CSC work products. The Repository will be shared with CSC members, and will be included as practical resources and tools in the CSC forum for communities planned for 2018.

## **Meeting Wrap-up**

***Sarah Cardona***

Sarah highlighted two significant MPC events coming up and invited the CSC to participate. MPC has been working with the City and nine prominent architectural firms on the Chicago River Edge Ideas Lab, an exhibit that demonstrates innovative concepts for placemaking and how to create a continuous and accessible pedestrian and bicycle path with integrated open spaces along the Chicago River edge. Different riverfront visions are on display at Expo 72 Gallery (72 E. Randolph) until January 7, 2018 as part of the 2017 Chicago Architecture Biennial. Ultimately, the design ideas and public input will inform the development of updated river edge design guidelines for future projects along the Chicago River. For more information, or to schedule an event at the gallery, please visit: <https://www.chiriverlab.com/>. Sarah also mentioned that MPCs Annual Luncheon is Friday September 22, featuring keynote speaker Tom Ricketts, owner of the Chicago Cubs. CSC members were encouraged to attend.

## **Next Meeting**

Friday, Oct 6, 2017

**\*work-group focused meeting**

10:00am to 12:00pm

Metropolitan Planning Council

140 S. Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago

**For more information contact:**

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