

LAKE MICHIGAN WATERSHED PLAN MEETING REPORT

LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

3010 GRAND AVE, WAUKEGAN, IL 60085

JUNE 05, 2019

1:30 PM – 3:30PM

Meeting Purpose: Bring together a diverse group of watershed stakeholders, review issues and opportunities and develop watershed planning goals and objectives.

Introductions

Mike Prusila, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, led self-introductions. A list of the meeting attendees is included within this meeting report.

Meeting Report from April 24, 2019

The meeting report from the April 24th, 2019 Kick-Off Meeting was reviewed and approved by consensus.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Coastal Management Program Overview

Jeff Edstrom provided an overview of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Program. Illinois was officially approved as a coastal management program in 2012. The purpose of the program is to support partnerships among governmental agencies and organizations, strengthen local stakeholder capacity, and initiate and continue effective coastal management. These goals are achieved through a variety of efforts including the coastal clean waters, clean marinas, coastal zone grant, sand management, and non-point pollution control programs. Specifically within the Lake Michigan watershed planning area, the Illinois Coastal Management Program has provided funding for invasive species removal and sustainable shoreline planning within the Waukegan Harbor area of concern (AOC), septic system identification, ravine water quality assessments, Lake Forest ravine education, and Illinois Beach State Park beaver control and habitat protection.

Watershed Issues and Opportunities Summary

Mike Prusila summarized the watershed issues and opportunities identified during the kickoff meetings, which provide the foundation for plan goals and action recommendations. The issues and opportunities were grouped into four major categories: ravines and streams, stormwater and flood risk/damage, partnerships and coordination, and water quality (assessments and pollution causes). These categories were translated directly into goals. Issues and opportunities that are not addressed by these categories will either be included in objectives for goals, or individual action recommendations.

Goals and Objectives

Mike Prusila explained how goals and objectives inform watershed planning and led a discussion on the proposed goals for the Lake Michigan Watershed-Based Plan. The revised goals based on stakeholder input are listed below. Stakeholder input that was not directly reflected within the goals will be included in other parts of the plan. This input is listed in the Q&A section.

Goal #1: Restore and manage stream, ravine, Lake Michigan shoreline and bluff systems to preserve and enhance stability, hydrology, beneficial functions and conveyance as part of a watershed green infrastructure system.

Goal #2: Mitigate the effects of increased runoff volumes, including ravine erosion, reduce flood damage and prevent future flooding from worsening.

Goal #3: Preserve, restore and enhance a green infrastructure network and system of terrestrial and aquatic natural resources including stream corridors, wetlands, beaches and upland resources to provide for natural hydrology, native plant and wildlife communities and buffers for aquatic and high-quality natural resources.

Goal #4: Watershed residents, property owners, students and communities have adequate knowledge, skills, resources, motivation and stewardship opportunities to implement the watershed plan and recommended programs.

Goal #5: Improve water quality and address modified hydrology.

Goal #6: Improve coordination, engagement and decision-making between public, private and non-profit stakeholders to implement the watershed plan.

Q&A

Q: Should the term green infrastructure be used in the goals? There is a potential that this could be misinterpreted as BMPs that are more suited for urbanized areas.

A: SMC uses a two-tiered definition of green infrastructure, which includes regional and local scales. Local green infrastructure refers to site specific practices, such as rain gardens and porous pavement, that are often used in urban areas. Regional green infrastructure is the interconnected network of open spaces and natural areas that mitigate stormwater runoff, naturally recharge aquifers, and improve water quality while providing recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat. The green infrastructure included in the goals refers to regional green infrastructure. SMC's definition of green infrastructure will be clearly outlined in the plan to minimize confusion.

Q: Is there another place to add in a subset of needed inventories such as chorus frog communities?

A: Needed inventories can be added as action items within the monitoring section of the plan.

Q: Should water quality reporting be incorporated into the watershed goals?

A: Water quality reporting will be included in other parts of the plan. This can be included in the objectives, indicators, and/or action plans.

Q: Will the existing AOCs within the watershed be included in the plan?

A: AOCs will be included in the plan, likely within the objectives and/or action plan. We will not include actions that are already required by other legal mechanisms.

Q: The goals should be driven by problems identified in the assessment. How can we make goals if the assessment isn't completed?

A: We have the assessments from the Dead and Kellogg plans. We are using these as a starting point. We will revisit the goals once the most recent assessment is completed and make revisions as needed.

Meeting Attendees:

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Adam	Mike	Lake County Health Department
Arrigoni	Josh	Stantec
Balasubramanyam	Vidya	IDNR Coastal Management
Beardsley	John	Illinois State Water Survey
Bodden	Chuck	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Boeckler	Jeff	Northwater Consulting
Bouchard	Chris	RHMG Engineers Ins. -Beach Park
Dall	Carol	Lake Forest
Edstrom	Jeff	IDNR Coastal Management
Ells	Robert	Lake Forest
Frank	Chuck	Sierra Club
Girmscheid	Tim	Waukegan Park District
Grill	Rebecca	Park District of Highland Park
Haffner	Ted	Openlands
Heilemann	Rosemary	Sierra Club, League of Women Voters (Lake Michigan)
Huaracha	Ernesto	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Johnson	Chris	Sierra Club
Jozefowski	Jacob	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
London	Ryan	Lake Forest Open Lands Association
Nagelbach	Stefanie	Shabica
O'Herrin	Keith	City of Highland Park
Ower	Diane	Sierra Club
Ower	Doug	Sierra Club
Papakos	Tatiana	Highland Park Resident
Peck	Todd	Zion Park District
Prusila	Mike	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Roberts	Ray	City of Zion
Schrieber	Susie	Waukegan Harbor Citizen Advisory Group
Schwartz	Amalia	Park District of Highland Park
Sentell	John	Lake Forest Open Lands Association
Strelcheck	Ashley	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Surroz	Sarah	Openlands
Vitt	Pati	Lake County Forest Preserve District
Waller	Barbara	First Baptist Church Cool Learning Experience
Wardon	Nimrod	City of North Chicago