



# Urban Stormwater Working Group

November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 12:30 – 3:00 pm

## Conference call

*In attendance:* Steve Brendel, Madison County; Tyler Carpenter, Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission; Reid Christianson, University of Illinois; Jeff Edstrom, Illinois DNR; Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County; Holly Hudson, CMAP; Heidi Leuszler, Parkland College; Lisa Merrifield, Illinois Extension; Mary Mitros, DuPage County; Allison Neubauer, IISG; Trevor Sample, Illinois EPA; Kelly Thompson, Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group; Eliana Brown, Illinois Extension; Kate Gardiner, Illinois Extension; and Layne Knoche, Illinois Extension

## Introductions and Updates

*Roll call followed by an opportunity for members to provide updates on their projects.*

Steve Brendel shared that Madison County is engaging in watershed planning.

Tyler Carpenter shared that Greater Egypt is engaging in lots of outreach, including stormwater management brochures, a stormwater mapping service on their website, an activity book for students, and several workshops. They are also doing watershed planning. They are meeting with local officials from 9 cities regarding a shared approach to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulations and issuing a massive water quality survey specific to watershed and stormwater issues in the Carbondale area. Steve Brendel commented that sharing resources has worked well in Madison Co, where they have quarterly meetings.

Jeff Edstrom shared that Illinois Department of Natural Resources is updating their coastal program and they have a better sense of state laws dealing with nonpoint pollution in urban areas. They are now looking at a Lake County ordinance, as they funded Lake County to find their coastal septic tanks. They found that 75% of them have permits, therefore the ordinance is working. He's also finding the realtors are playing a bigger role in regards to septic tanks.

Mary Beth Falsey shared that DuPage County received funding for their 604(b) grant for the East Branch DuPage River watershed plan, so they should be starting that any day. The watershed covers about one-third of DuPage County. They have also opened up their 2020 cycle for water quality projects in DuPage County – applications are due the first week of January. On Dec. 4, they have a green infrastructure training for municipal staff; they expect 150 attendees. They also will have a residential focused watershed workshop; topic to include streambank stabilization.

Holly Hudson cheered that lots of USWG members are engaging in watershed-based planning. She shared that the Fox River Watershed completed the Mill Creek watershed plan, which identifies best management practice opportunities they hope residents will undertake. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is beginning the Indian Creek watershed plan soon. CMAP published a "Guide to Flood Susceptibility and Stormwater Planning" July 2018.

[https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/402128/FSSP\\_072318.pdf/dbc9b6cb-49b2-de04-9e9e-cbb696fa3fbc](https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/402128/FSSP_072318.pdf/dbc9b6cb-49b2-de04-9e9e-cbb696fa3fbc)

Heidi Leuszler announced that Parkland is offering their next National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP) training program this January, starting the 13<sup>th</sup>. There are a few seats left, but it can be opened up to more if there's interest. Parkland is starting to plan for the spring training as well, they are hoping to have two week-long trainings per year. The Water Environment Federation did pilots of online training this summer, she's waiting to hear back on if it will be opened up to additional trainers. Parkland College also received a workforce development grant, so they are working to incorporate NGICP training into that grant. Jeff Endstrom mentioned that OAI received funding to do GI maintenance training and perhaps they should have a conversation.

Lisa Merrifield runs Illinois Extension's Sustainable Communities Initiative, which helps communities reach their sustainability goals. The Sustainable Communities Initiative is piloting a program to connect a faculty member with a small community to develop a watershed plan. This spring, they'll be looking for their next community. With the help of a graduate student, they could likely help additional communities. She's also doing a needs assessment regarding GI workforce development equity issues.

Allison Neubauer shared that at Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, pollution prevention is one of their main focuses. The Lawn to Lake Program helps inform communities about natural lawn care and ways to prevent excess nutrients from getting into Lake Michigan. This year, the program received funding to create educational materials, which she will use for displays at libraries and tabletop displays at events. Right now, Allison is revising current materials and will be running focus groups in January to further refine the publications. She also plans to host a series of natural lawn care workshops for homeowners next spring. She's partnering with Conservation@Home as well.

Eliana Brown announced that her team, which includes Kate Gardiner and Layne Knoche, finished planting the Red Oak Rain Garden this fall. The project will be complete in the spring with the addition of a boardwalk across the garden and an educational sign. She also said that her Stormwater@Home video series was completed, which received interest from the National Association of Realtors.

## **2019 Biennial Report: Stormwater Chapter**

Eliana provided background on the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (NLRS) – the strategy was released in 2015 and provided a framework for implementation. The first biennial report was released in 2017 and provided data for benchmark year (2011) and the first report year (2017) for source sectors: agriculture, point source, and urban stormwater. The second biennial report will be released this week.

Eliana reviewed what was reported for years 2017-18 and explained the logic model used in the strategy and biennial reports. For the stormwater sector, 2018 was the first year that Extension asked everyone to complete the spreadsheets. There were three organizations who submitted – DuPage County, Greater Egypt Regional Planning Commission, and Parkland College. The three submitted spreadsheets show that we reached about 6,000 people and spent about \$1M.

Lisa Merrifield spoke about her analysis of MS4 reports and shared her results.

As there was in the 2017 biennial report, there is a section listing partner programs and updates. We'll look at the IWEA's watershed webpage for additional programs.

The next biennial report to be released in 2021 will cover activities from 2019 and 2020. Resources and Outreach spreadsheets are due January 31, 2020.

## **Subgroup Updates**

### *Education Subgroup*

The education subgroup explores ways to provide stormwater education resources and to make audiences aware of stormwater issues.

This subgroup had two initiatives:

1. Resource Repository – housed at IAFSM website
2. Stormwater 101 PowerPoint Presentation

Next Steps:

- Any additional resource repository information is due by Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

### *Tracking Subgroup*

The tracking subgroup explores ways to track stormwater BMPs for Biennial Report and ways to capture this information.

Updates:

1. Calumet Stormwater Collaborative is exploring a tracking effort.
2. Eliana attended stakeholder meeting in July. Their effort is similar to ours.

Next Steps:

- Invite the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative to speak at an upcoming meeting
- Determine an incentive for tracking. Asset management?
- Consider a basic MS4 template that would streamline data collection.

## **Next Steps**

- Attend the 2019 NLRS Partnership Conference Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Springfield Crowne Plaza
- Partner spreadsheets are due Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- Any additional resource repository information is due by Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020
- Look at IWEA Watershed committee for additional

## **Next Meeting Topics and Potential locations:**

- Potential topics or speakers?
  - Statewide Stormwater Network
  - Incorporating Leaf study information
  - BMP inventory
  - Tracking subgroup can explore whether we could develop a basic tracking spreadsheet.
  - Oak Meadows and/or Harborside Golf Course
- Potential locations?
  - Chicago Botanic Garden
  - Springfield Crowne (as part of the IWEA Watershed track)
  - IDNR is compiling a venue list. Jeff Endstrom will provide when completed.