

Urban Stormwater Working Group Meeting

September 8th, 2020 2pm

In attendance: Eliana Brown, Illinois Extension; Kate Gardiner, Illinois Extension; Layne Knoche, Illinois Extension; Lisa Merrifield, Illinois Extension; Ted Kratschmer, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (NGRREC); Mary Mitros, DuPage County; Kelly Thompson, Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group; Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program; Christine Davis, Illinois EPA; Colleen Ruhter, U of I Environmental Compliance; Austin Omer, Illinois Farm Bureau; Steve Brendel, Madison County Stormwater Coordinator; Stephen McCracken, The Conservation Foundation and DRSCW; Heidi Leuszler, National Green Infrastructure Certification Program at Parkland College; Betsy Liggett, UI Environmental Compliance; Leslie Heath, City of Champaign; Sally McConkey, Illinois State Water Survey; Trevor Sample, Illinois EPA; Allison Neubauer, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant; Kate Evasic, CMAP; and Donna Twickler, Sierra Club; Anna Marshall, University of Illinois; Jeff Edstrom, IDNR Coastal Management Program

Summary

Welcome

Eliana Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and took attendance.

Updates

Eliana Brown is speaking at the Southern Illinois workshop on September 22 about her team's experience building the Red Oak Rain Garden on campus.

Layne Knoche is working with the cities of Champaign and Urbana to develop a video on the basics of parkway plantings. The project will also include an ordinance FAQ sheet.

Stephen McCracken shared that his team is working on a leaf litter study and a multi-year analysis on phosphorus and stressors on aquatic life. Their point source plants are due to go to 1 mg/L and they are looking at various trading options to optimize that move.

National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP)

The next NGICP class has been approved to be delivered online. Next course is in October 2020, register at: shorturl.at/ckt08. They were able to decrease the cost, which is helpful too. Please spread the word to interested parties.

Course time commitment: In addition to online course work, class meets for required LIVE online discussions from 7:30-9:30 PM on Oct 8, 15, 22, and 29. Approximately 40 hours.

Practices covered: Bioretention (rain gardens, curb cuts, stormwater planters/tree boxes, tree trenches, and bioswales) Permeable pavements (porous asphalt, pervious concrete, pervious pavers) Rainwater harvesting (rain barrels and cisterns) Rooftop detention practices (green roofs and blue roofs) Dry wells Stormwater wetlands.

Participants typically are employed in the GI field. Course developed by WEF.

Contact: Heidi Leuszler hleuszler@parkland.edu

Rainscaping Course

Rainscaping classes are expected to start being offered by Extension in spring 2021. They are conducting “Train the Trainer” for educators this fall.

Course time commitment: Five, 3-hour training modules in a workshop setting. Includes a hands-on demonstration rain garden build. Practices covered: Focuses on rain gardens. Participants typically are: Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, others with baseline gardening and/or stormwater knowledge. Created by Purdue Extension Rainscaping Team.

More info: <https://extension.purdue.edu/rainscaping/> and go.illinois.edu/rainscapingpilot.

Contact: Eliana Brown brown12@illinois.edu

Stormwater Tracking Subgroup Update

Tracking Subgroup met August 26 to discuss Green Infrastructure Inventory.

Extension is applying for a grant to fund a graduate student to add a stormwater GIS layer to an existing NGRREC project that is mapping agricultural practices to GLTG. The subgroup approved support for this application. An informal poll of USWG members showed they approved the Extension application.

Demonstration: Great Lakes to Gulf Visual Observatory - Ted Kratschmer, Field Station and Special Projects Manager, NGRREC

Ted Kratschmer gave a demonstration of the Great Lakes to Gulf data portal. The purpose for developing the data portal was to unify water quality data and bring it together for easy viewing and exploration in order to better inform policy and management. Their mission is to add value to work already being done in the watershed, especially for nutrient reduction.

The portal also has storyboards for users to explore and data scientists to explain their data. Ted showed the Illinois NLRs storyboard as an example. They are working with multiple University of Illinois researchers, like Reid Christianson and Kaiyu Guan, to add GIS mapping layers to the portal and provide data synthesis which will provide context to the data in the application. They would be interested in working with Lisa and Eliana to add a green infrastructure mapping layer.

If anyone has questions or feedback on the application, they can reach out to Ted at ekratsch@lc.edu or 618-468-2840.

Discussion and Next Steps

USWG voted to support the Tracking Subgroup’s recommendation to support the grant proposal.

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 6, 2pm

Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Eliana Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and took attendance.

Updates

Eliana Brown is speaking at the Southern Illinois workshop on September 22 about their experience building RORG.

Layne Knoche is working with the cities of Champaign and Urbana to develop a video on the basics of parkway plantings. Each city will have 5 minutes to discuss. I will be delving into the use of plants, which includes natives and nativars, that catch urban stormwater. Finished product will be that video, which will be shared. There will also be an ordinance FAQ sheet deliverable. Cities will be taken ordinance-related questions.

Stephen McCracken: We're working on a couple nutrient related items for our nutrient implementation plan, which sets out for the next decade in the DuPage River and Salt Creek. Items working on most immediately is the leaf litter study, which they helped fund in Wisconsin, that showed sources of phosphorus in urban runoff. We are also doing a multi-year analysis on phosphorus and stressors on aquatic life. Their plants are due to go to 1 mg/L and they are looking at various trading options to optimize that move.

National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP)

Heidi Leuszler spoke about NGICP. The next class has been approved to be delivered online. Next course is in October 2020, register at: shorturl.at/ckt08. They were able to knock off the cost, which is helpful too. Please spread the word to interested parties.

Course time commitment: In addition to online course work, class meets for required LIVE online discussions from 7:30-9:30 PM on Oct 8, 15, 22, and 29. Approximately 40 hours.

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Contact: Heidi Leuszler hleuszler@parkland.edu

Discussion:

Lisa Krause: Is this the first online NGICP course in the country?

Heidi Leuszler: Yes, it's the first one to go. WEF has an online curriculum available, but it's never been used to my knowledge. So this will be the first. Eliana is my co-instructor, so we will develop presentations to go along with it rather than just a PowerPoint.

Lisa Krause: Wow! Great work, this is fantastic!

Rainscaping Course

Illinois classes expected to start being offered by Extension Spring 2021.

Conducting "Train the Trainer" for Educators this fall.

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Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, others with baseline gardening and/or stormwater knowledge.
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More info: <https://extension.purdue.edu/rainscaping/> and go.illinois.edu/rainscapingpilot

Contact: Eliana Brown brown12@illinois.edu

Discussion:

Colleen Ruhter: Have you seen any info on the Watershed Stewards Academy in Maryland? It's similar to this Rainscaping Course and is phenomenal. It's been going on for a decade now. I can put you in touch with them if you would be interested in reaching out for information.

Eliana Brown: Thank you!

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Demonstration: Great Lakes to Gulf Visual Observatory - Ted Kratschmer, Field Station and Special Projects Manager, NRGREC

Ted gave a demonstration of the Great Lakes to Gulf data portal. The purpose for developing the data portal was to unify water quality data and bring it together for easy viewing and exploration. As they went forward with the project, they determined their mission was to add value to work already being done in the watershed, especially regarding nutrient reduction. Since they NRGREC is located in Illinois, they are starting in Illinois. They are working with Trevor Sample, Gregg Good, etc.

The portal also has storyboards for users to explore and data scientists to explain their data. Ted showed the Illinois NLRs storyboard as an example. They are working with Reid Christianson on bringing his conservation practice inventory to GLTG and doing something similar by marrying this type of analysis and stories to the water quality data portal. They are in the mockup stage of determining what it will look like on the portal. They are also doing something similar with Kaiyu Guan, who is looking at cover crops in the MARB. What we talked about with Lisa and Eliana and the team was doing something similar with a green infrastructure inventory.

What we're really trying to do is add value to existing efforts and help raise awareness and understand progress on the projects. If anyone has questions, they can reach out to Ted at ekratsch@lc.edu or 618-468-2840.

An informal poll of USWG members showed they approved the Extension application.

Discussion and Next Steps

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 6, 2pm

Stormwater Education/Outreach Subgroup will receive a Doodle Poll to complete for a meeting. If you are not on the subgroup, but would like to be, just email Eliana at brown12@illinois.edu.