Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Lower Salt Creek Watershed-based Planning

Thursday, December 7 2017 ◆ 1:30 p.m.
Village of Itasca – Second floor meeting space
550 W. Irving Park Road, Itasca, IL 60143

DRAFT Meeting Notes

1. **Welcome and Attendee Introductions –** *Holly Hudson & Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP*
   Holly Hudson welcomed the attendees and thanked everyone for coming. Holly reviewed the meeting agenda and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

2. **Local Spotlight: Itasca's Water Quality Protection Initiatives** – *Fred Maier, Village of Itasca*
   Fred Maier welcomed meeting participants to the Village of Itasca. Fred has been with the Springbrook Nature Center for over 30 years and now serves as the Village's Environmental Services Coordinator. He highlighted a few successful projects during his tenure that were aimed at enhancing water quality. One project was the acquisition and transformation of private property to public open space. With the help of the Park District, Itasca was able to buy floodplain areas along one edge of Springbrook Creek and create a riverwalk. The resulting open space has allowed people to access and work in the stream channel. DuPage County hosts an annual river sweep volunteer cleanup event at Springbrook Creek. The creek also supports a variety of other work days such as those held by the youth group, Junior Naturalists. In more recent years, habitat restoration has been a popular activity along the creek. Volunteers have tagged stumps and participated in buckthorn and ragweed removal. A second project was initiated when the creek began experiencing severe erosion in the early 2000s. In 2002, the Village started a streambank stabilization project where the creek flows through the Springbrook Nature Center grounds. Partially funded by a Section 319 grant, streambank and channel stabilization was accomplished using a combination of dead brush fascines, J-hooks, and cross veins. The cross veins and J-hooks added riffles and pools to the stream channel and continue to help direct flow away from the banks during low flow periods. A third project that was also partially funded by Section 319 funding was the daylighting of an stormwater outfall to Springbrook Creek. The pipes kept falling because of bank erosion, so sections of pipe were removed and an off-channel, outfall pool created. Unfortunately, the Village hasn't had any success growing emergent vegetation in this pool.

3. **October Meeting: Brief Recap, Questions, etc. –** *Holly Hudson, CMAP*
   Holly gave a quick summary of the October public meeting held at the Village of Westchester. Topics that were covered included the watershed resources inventory, nonpoint source pollution control practices, potential Section 319 projects identified in the plan, and ways in which to monitor the plan's success over time. Holly noted the presentations given by the

Mary Beth Falsey, DCSM, on pollution reduction estimates; Mary Mitros, DCSM, on people's perception of stormwater and watershed planning; and Deanna Doohaluk, DRSCW, on sensible salting policies. Holly asked the meeting participants to review and provide comments/edits to the October meeting notes, as needed.

4. **2016 Biological, Physical, and Water Chemistry Data & Trends –** *Deanna Doohaluk, DRSCW*
Deanna presented on DRSCW's recently acquired 2016 biological, physical, and water chemistry data for the main stem of Lower Salt Creek. She highlighted that there are three major components to DRSCW's water quality monitoring program: continuous dissolved oxygen (DO) monitoring, bioassessment sampling, and post project monitoring. DRSCW operates three DO monitoring stations along the Lower Salt Creek main stem where sondes record dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH, and conductivity at hourly intervals. Data is collected from June through October. Although diurnal swings are common, collection during these months helps understand this variability. There are numerous bioassessment sampling sites throughout the Lower Salt Creek watershed. These sites are sampled for fish, macroinvertebrates, habitat, nutrients, metals, organics, and sediment chemistry every three years. Data from these sites allows development of Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) scores for fish and macroinvertebrates. These scores are a way to measure overall stream health. A couple of overarching trends are that fish habitat tends to disappear in close proximity to dams, and macroinvertebrate habitat is considered fair—there are only a few sites that meet the "good" IBI score range. Another index that is derived from the sampling data is the Quality Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI), which is more commonly known as the "habitat" index. Similar to fish IBI scores, the QHEI tends to drop in close proximity to dams. Water and sediment monitoring is helpful for assessing water quality as the samples are focused on the chemistry of the water column and sediment. Other pollutants measured include chlorides, nitrate, ammonia, TKN (sum of ammonia, organic nitrogen, and reduced nitrogen), and total suspended solids (TSS). Deanna concluded her presentation with a project case study of a the Oak Meadows dam removal and bank naturalization project along the Salt Creek main stem that used DRSCW's data to identify locations for the bank interventions. She also gave a brief summary of DRSCW's application of the data. DRSCW developed a causal analysis (statistical model) called IPS (Identification and Prioritization System), which evaluates monitoring sites according to priority stressors. The output are an IPS score and recommendations for future projects.

5. **Nonpoint Source Pollution Control BMP Projects, Programs, Policies**
   5.1. Online Submittals via BMP Identification Survey – *Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP*
   Kelsey gave the final update on the BMP proposals received to date. As of November 30, there were 37 participants which identified 208 BMP opportunities. Participants also identified 14 BMPs that are currently underway and 41 BMPS that have been completed within the last ten years. Villa Park, Elmhurst, and Oak Brook identified the most BMP opportunities followed by Itasca, Addison, and Westchester. The top three types of BMP opportunities identified were stream channel restoration (e.g., riffles), streambank protection/stabilization, and porous/permeable pavement. Kelsey noted that these will be included in the final plan and thereby will be eligible for Section 319 funding. DCSM will also continue to calculate potential pollutant load reductions for applicable site specific projects and cost estimates that will also be included in the final plan.

5.2. **Watershed-wide BMP Scenarios: Overview & Input** – *Mary Beth Falsey, DCSM*
Mary Beth shared a table of watershed-wide BMP scenarios broken out by subwatershed. The table shows the percentage of each subwatershed treated with selected BMP types, namely bioretention, bioswale, permeable pavers, Filterra system, Bacterra system, detention basin retrofit, green roof, oil & grit separator, infiltration trench. Mary Beth noted that the pollutant loads are based on land use. Some subwatersheds contribute larger pollutant loads; thus, a greater percentage of those subwatersheds would need to be treated with BMPs. Mary Beth indicated that the last two pages (i.e., the color-coded table) showed the total load reduction for the entire planning area if all watershed-wide scenarios were implemented. She also mentioned that she tried selecting BMPs that would be effective, implementable, and would not be covered in DCSM's volume and water quality requirements. Mary Beth requested that meeting participants contact her if anyone had additional suggestions on what BMPs to include or not include in these calculations.

6. **Funding and Technical Assistance Resources: Review & Input** – *Holly, Everyone*
Holly gave an overview of funding and technical assistance resources that will be listed in the plan. She tried to capture federal, state, and local (e.g. CMAP's Local Technical Assistance program, DuPage County's Water Quality Improvement Program). Holly asked meeting participants if there were other resources that should be included, such as local cost-share programs. No additional programs were offered by attendees, but Holly requested that any additions be sent to her.

7. **Draft Watershed-based Plan: Review, Discussion, Input, Photos** – *Holly, Everyone*
Holly the reviewed that status of the draft watershed-based plan. As of the first week of December 2017, the draft plan included the Water Resources Inventory, a full review of comprehensive plans, and numerous watershed protection measures. Holly reminded each Village to review and provide any feedback on CMAP's comprehensive plan summaries. The Lower Salt Creek partners are in the process of including information based on the BMP projects and may need to follow up with stakeholders to finalize BMP-related tables and sections. An outreach and education section is also in development. The partners are also meeting next week to hash out milestones and criteria for monitoring success.

8. **Next Meeting**
Holly noted that the next meeting will be planned after the watershed-based plan is finalized and approved by Illinois EPA, possibly in late February. It will serve both as a celebration for completing the plan and an implementation kick-off meeting.

9. **Local Watershed Activities, News, Announcements**
Holly noted the following as printed on the agenda:
- **LSC project webpage:** http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs-and-resources/lta/lower-salt-creek
- **LSC BMP Identification Survey:** https://lowersaltcreek-bmpsurvey.metroquest.com/
- **DuPage County's Citizen Reporter:** https://gis.dupageco.org/CitizenReporter/
- **DRSCW bi-monthly meeting:** December 13, 9:00 a.m., Lombard Vllg. Hall (http://www.drscw.org)
- **MWRD Watershed Planning Council meetings** (search "MWRD-WPC meeting schedule"):
  - Upper Salt Creek and Poplar Creek: Schedule 2018, TBA
  - Lower Des Plaines River Tributaries: Schedule 2018, TBA
- **Others…?**

No other announcements were noted by attendees.

Adjournment

The meeting ended at about 3:00 p.m.

10. **Post-meeting Site Visit:** Springbrook Creek Daylighting and Stabilization Project – *Holly*
Holly led a group of attendees on a short walk over to the daylighted outfall area where the challenges of establishing emergent vegetation were discussed; and along the creek, pointing out the well-functioning cross veins and j-hooks, as well as the remnants of the brush fascines which were used to help protect the banks while deep-rooted native vegetation became established.

Attendees

NAME		ORGANZIATION
Simon	Christensen	DuPage County Stormwater Management
Kai	Cia	Village of Addison
Deanna	Doohaluk	The Conservation Foundation / DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup
Mary Beth	Falsey	DuPage County Stormwater Management
Rick	Federiqhi	Village of Addison
Allen	Goodcase	Ehlert Park Natural Area
Holly	Hudson	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Sarah	Hunn	DuPage County Stormwater Management
Jeremie	Lukowicz	Village of Village Park
Amy	McKenna	Robinson Engineering (representing Itasca, Wood Dale, Roselle)
Mary	Mitros	DuPage County Stormwater Management
Kelsey	Pudlock	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Jeff	Wickencamp	Hey and Associates
Matthew	York	City of Wood Dale
Steve	Zehner	Robinson Engineering (representing Itasca)