Urban Stormwater Working Group (USWG)

Conclusions and Next Steps

Tue, Nov 15: 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Conference Call

Conclusions and Next Steps

Stormwater Public Education

Public Education Survey Template
➢ Connect Nancy Ouedraogo, Extension Specialist, with Leslie Mitchell, Mary Mitros, Bob Newport and Molly Woloszyn to provide stormwater question review and suggest guidance on a survey template tool.
    Climate Change Fact Sheet
➢ Connect Molly Woloszyn with Mary Mitros, Carol Hays, and Holly Hudson to discuss how to proceed. The goal is to provide communities with language and graphics they can use in their materials. To start with calls in January 2017.
    Information Repository for communities
➢ Ben Wegleitner, IWRC, to start an outline of information to include on webpage. The webpage will be on IWRC site. Need to discuss ways to let MS4s know about it once built.

Tracking ➢ IWRC will send out spreadsheet asking for staff/resources and outreach/education information. Due January 31, 2017. ➢ Mary Beth Falsey and Reid Christianson will provide Amy Walkenbach with a list of BMP categories to query. Amy will also request this information from a few MS4s.
Legislative ➢ Margaret Schneemann and Holly Hudson will start an outline of topics for a stormwater policy brief for the state legislature.
Possible Call Dates ➢ Feb 28, June 6, Aug 8 THOUGHTS? ➢ End of year workshop is likely to be Dec 5-6. Details TBA.

In attendance: Eliana Brown, Illinois Water Resources Center; Katie Hollenbeck, Illinois Water Resources Center; Ben Wegleitner, Illinois Water Resources Center; Sally McConkey, Illionis State Water Survey; Leslie Mitchell, City of Champaign; Bob Newport, Metropolitan Planning Council; Amy Walkenbach, Illinois EPA;, Scott Ristau, Illinois EPA; Trevor Sample, Illinois EPA; Mary Mitros, DuPage County; Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County; Nancy Williamson, Illinois DNR; Tyler Carpenter, Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission; Molly Woloszyn, Illinois State Water Survey; Carol Hays, Prairie River Network; Deanna Doohaluk (sitting in for Stephen McCracken), The Conservation Foundation; Holly Hudson, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Margaret Schneeman, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Reid Christianson, Center for Watershed Development; Cindy Skrukrud, Sierra Club

Eliana Brown: I did not send out full notes from our last discussion, just next steps, does anyone know a Laura Kissner? Maybe I will release the notes to the group, as they may jog someone's memory. So on our Powerpoint, I would like to reiterate the committee charge, which includes exploring funding, coordinating outreach, etc. For the goals today, we will discuss public education, and have a legislative and tracking update. With public stormwater education, I will brief you on ideas that people had. Nancy Ouedraogo is an extension specialist based in Champaign County. Extension already has a template and the idea behind that is that the municipality can use this template to ask question and develop surveys for a lot of different resources. She couldn't be on the call as she had a scheduling conflict. But she is excited to integrate stormwater questions in this survey. The survey link is under the environmental link in the stormwater questions section under solid waste and environment. This is to give you an idea of how this would work in the future to export these questions. She has a list of additional questions she wants to add. Molly has agreed to look at the climate change questions. Within the MS4 permit, there is an annual review of public education goals.

Leslie Mitchell: I created a survey with Survey Monkey, but we never sent it out to the public, so it would only be a reference. The next step is how you know your data, where is it going, and how to submit it to EPA.

Eliana Brown: Mary Mitros?

Mary Mitros: I would be happy to help. You can tailor outreach and education based on results that we received.

Leslie Mitchell: How did you do it?

Mary Mitros: We did it on Survey Monkey. We did some outreach, did a press release, promoted at events, and did what we could with it.

Bob Newport: It might not be bad to have mailing list to see if you have represented people. We want to make sure that we are not biased because of motivated people. How do we get it into people's hands, but also how do we make them respond.

Mary Mitros: We direct mailed them to residents, but it was on a smaller scale.

Eliana Brown: How many did you send out?

Mary Mitros: It was a small neighborhood, maybe 700-1,000 surveys were sent out for flooding.

Eliana Brown: What was the response?

Mary Mitros: I'd have to look. It was a good response from targeted communities, backed by the Home Owner's Association.

Eliana Brown: Mark Schleusener is state statistician for the Department of Agriculture. I wonder if he would be willing to help.

Amy Walkenbach: Sure, it's worth asking. He can develop a survey, but the content is not him. The agriculture community is driven by surveys.

Cindy Skrukrud: I'm confused because for the MS4 community is the survey to communities or do people survey residences to answer these questions?

Eliana Brown: The purpose is to help MS4s evaluate their public education programs.

Bob Newport: Cindy Skrukrud, you can do an evaluation of program without the survey, but the survey would be one more tool for communities to evaluate overall.

Cindy Skrukrud: I just see real difficulties in trying to survey the public.

Carol Hays: To what end is the question? We need to understand the extent. How is our programming doing? You can do a pre- and post-test with the same group. It depends on the purpose of trying to gain overall knowledge. At least we can get information across and then know enough is going on. We need to know what outcomes for what purpose.

Mary Mitros: How we did it, when I first got in this position was that it didn't matter what kind of group we got. It was about language for the everyday person and what they knew. We haven't done a survey in a few years, but we would like to do it.

Eliana Brown: I will put Mary Mitros and Leslie Mitchell in touch with Nancy Ouedraogo.

Bob Newport: The next question is how to distribute it and how to respond to it. It is an important piece of the puzzle.

Leslie Mitchell: I'm sorry to interrupt, but I have to leave. We have a complaint that I need to address.

Eliana Brown: Okay, now we will move on to the next new resource. Here is another gap, the stormwater impacts of climate change. Molly Woloszyn is on the line to see if she could help with that, perhaps with developing a fact sheet. Molly?

Molly Woloszyn: I am an extension climate specialist. I have a joint appointment with the Midwest Climate Center and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant. For climate change outreach, we look at historical trends, and futures, and talk to communities and other groups about climate change. In terms of where I fit into the fact sheet, there is so much information to what pertains to climate change and what to address. How do you approach the topic of climate change? How should you go about doing this?

Bob Newport: Communities have had success not labeling the sheet "climate change" but discussing storm size, instead of it hanging out by itself.

Mary Mitros: I completely agree. A fact sheet that communities can use and pull information from is great.

Eliana Brown: We would not format it, but provide language and graphics.

Mary Beth Falsey: I looked at the EPA tool, the CREAT climate change resiliency tool (Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool). It is for drinking water utilities. It is provided for us based on area. It looks at altered surface water quality, flooding, loss of wetlands, etc. These are things we will be incorporating.

Bob Newport: The goal is to provide a resource for communities. I will put in a plug for CREAT. You can create a map or graphic on how weather will change and it is easy to create. But lots haven't looked at the tool.

Mary Beth Falsey: What is it going to do? What about documentation of information that it comes from the source?

Eliana Brown: Molly helped develop a tool.

Molly Woloszyn: The assessment tool is different. This is assessing a critical facility to reduce flooding vulnerability in the future.

Sally McConkey: Think about it for a city's stormwater management. More frequent storms are more street flooding. This is a tool to look at critical facilities from climate change perspective.

Molly Woloszyn: Someone from the Sally McConkey team helped me develop the tool.

Sally McConkey: Urban infrastructure, etc. information derived from a report in terms of city storm sewers.

Bob Newport: I agree. Communities have a problem with "we should say something about climate change but we're not sure what to say."

Sally McConkey: Going along with Bob Newport, as for green infrastructure planning with communities, they are calling it extreme weather events and everyone understands that.

Molly Woloszyn: We found it effective to use that terminology as well.

Eliana Brown: In addition to Mary, would anyone else like to be connected to Molly?

Carol Hays: I would like to. I am being asked to do presentations for communities and would like to connect with her.

Holly Hudson: CMAP would like to be connected too. I had a question. I thought there was a flood vulnerability tool with the Illinois State Water Survey. Is it available?

Molly Woloszyn: It was released a week ago. It is available online to the public.

Carol Hays: Is it a community tool or a tool for individuals?

Molly Woloszyn: It is for individuals, critical facility managers in particular.

Eliana Brown: Can someone send me the CREAT tool?

Amy Walkenbach: I can. It looks like it was made for anyone to use it.

Bob Newport: What about blending together? A survey? Other resources?

Eliana Brown: What is a good way of bundling these things together? As far as being able to get information to MS4s? We could put this information on one of the water center webpages on the site. We could link to some of the things that exist and iron out terms of use. This is a topic of discussion for this group. How do we disseminate what we develop to MS4s?

Bob Newport: If we had a home for information we can put links to DuPage County, etc. A page is good to put all of that stuff on. What is one place that can be a home for it and is easy to maintain and update? What about IEPA?

Eliana Brown: I will talk to the assistant director and see if IWRC can do it.

Amy Walkenbach: It would be a lot easier if IWRC could host a page and we can link to that.

Bob Newport: We may find examples of success stories and can have a link to that.

Eliana Brown: CMAP and DuPage are doing a lot of work and it is impressive.

Nancy Williamson: Since we are talking about a site that communities can go to, what about whole counties that can complete the stormwater policies and ordinances. Functioning counties are doing quite well because they are sharing.

Amy Walkenbach: I definitely see that as an issue as an agency. We don't have the resources to help those counties develop programs. It's more like "do what you can in the limits of the law."

Eliana Brown: This might be a project for Ben to gather information for the website.

Ben Wegleitner: I think great idea to develop a repository.

Sally McConkey: I believe the model ordinance is prepared under contract for IDNR. The focus group for stormwater ordinaces for stormwater municipalities is pared down but has green infrastructure. If we find funding, we can enhance it with water quality aspects.

Eliana Brown: Who are Brian and Paul?

Sally McConkey: They are with IDNR, in the Water Resources section. Paul is a flood insurance coordinator and Brian is his associate. Brian does the Northeastern part of the state and Paul does the rest of Illinois.

Carol Hays: We can profile what Senator Rezin is doing with the county. She has done a great job of raising awareness and looked at policy. She got floodplain managers trained and helped small communities with repetitive flooding issues.

Sally McConkey: She gets funding from the Army Corps of Engineers.

Carol Hays: Just talking about basics is informative.

Bob Newport: It is good to have some information between nutrients and stormwater to take the opportunity to highlight nutrient benefits and think about a phased effort.

Eliana Brown: We will create an outline what we want to have on there and send out to the group. We can prioritize what we want to put on there.

Bob Newport: I think it's a great idea. You can tailor what you write.

Eliana Brown: We can have individual discussion with terms of use. That way we can keep authorship and have sensitivity for that.

Holly Hudson: With CMAP work, everything is public as long as citations are there.

Mary Mitros: You can put it as guidance in how you talk about green infrastructure, etc.

Holly Hudson: There are so many comprehensive plans that mention green infrastructure or stormwater, so you can pick a few best examples.

Mary Mitros: USEPA is a repository of what others have done throughout the country. Some have brands and they include that. People can get an idea of how to make a cohesive brand for own materials.

Eliana Brown: Anything else? Okay, well we are going to move on to a tracking update. BMPs will be tracked, along with data sources, and who will track. We need to track implementation progress. Put together an outline of biannual report. Very standard format. There is an update to science assessment. We have a committee report. Appendices to make summary tables in the report and an outline of the committee report. We are renaming reports. Here is a recap of staff members working on nutrients. There is an update regarding stormwater in biannual report. As for an update of existing initiatives, here's a list. These are in the strategy. Are there any new initiatives that we should ask about that didn't get into original strategy? We would want to know about by January 31. Amy?

Amy Walkenbach: Well you are missing about 100 initiatives. But where do you draw the line?

Bob Newport: The monitoring requirement is to evaluate effectiveness of MS4s. Can explain how the monitoring program works. Can we mine MS4 reports to figure out how many BMPs are implemented?

Amy Walkenbach: In subsequent reports, we need to come up with a way to easily mine the information.

Sally McConkey: It needs to be looking at collaborative efforts.

Eliana Brown: Can you write a paragraph and get it to me by January 31?

Sally McConkey: Yes.

Amy Walkenbach: We will have to start compiling and drop some stuff eventually. Programs aren't being implemented, but they are being developed.

Bob Newport: It's setting up framework and looking ahead.

Amy Walkenbach: The first report is setting a baseline for the future.

Eliana Brown: I have also asked Amy to talk about IGIG and 319 projects.

Amy Walkenbach: We can pull BMP information for IGIG and 319 projects. How do we present these to a bigger workgroup? For each individual BMP? How many rain gardens have we implemented? What are the load reductions? Or we can take certain BMPs and put them into groups. One group is permeable pavement, another is naturalized detentions, bioswails, etc. Once we figure this out we can pull the data from the 319 and IGIG. We may not get response for the first year, but it is good for the future.

Carol Hays: What about reporting done at individual homeowner and municipal levels? So that we get a sense of the depth of adoption?

Amy Walkenbach: That's going to be a little more difficult.

Carol Hays: We won't know if households adopt rain barrels, etc.

Amy Walkenbach: Trying to get at how many people have put in a raingarden is difficult. I would rather not have to dig through several hundred MS4 report to mine that data out. We can start small by asking a municipality, then develop a system and fill out the form that is required to be filled out.

Eliana Brown: Did Aurora have a template for this?

Holly Hudson: The Fox River Study Group had a BMP reporting tool.

Cindy Skrukrud: We have developed it for the Fox River watershed to analyze impacts of stormwater BMPs on phosphorus reduction within our watershed.

Amy Walkenbach: We can look at the reporting format.

Bob Newport: It is a good starting point. Rural BMPs are reported under 319 tool estimated for nutrients. It's a very useful tool for reporting.

Eliana Brown: Do we want to report individually or report grouped BMPs?

Mary Mitros: Statewide scale is a little much. But we will take another look at the database. It might be too much.

Reid Christianson: I'm a fan of lumping. It is nice to see breakdown of jurisdictions. County, etc.

Sally McConkey: Locational information?

Mary Mitros: In the BMP database?

Sally McConkey: Yes.

Bob Newport: In terms of sorting and generating reports, out of 70, we can lump these together and lump those together so the computer can give you those groupings.

Holly Hudson: RMMS? Can you pull it out on a map server?

Amy Walkenbach: We couldn't lump BMPs.

Sally McConkey: We have been collecting information about floodplains or areas that have a certain issue. Is there thought about allowing people involved to locate and track them?

Reid Christianson: I'm a big fan of tracking. There are groups that offer tracking services. That might solve long term problems.

Sally McConkey: Is it a georeferenced tracking system?

Reid Christianson: They are in house records, but then on a platform to draw information from.

Amy Walkenbach: Sounds like you know how to do it right.

Sally McConkey: Something for this group to tackle is to get people to track BMPs. Perhaps a prepackaged tool?

Carol Hays: A citizen group can track where there are BMPs.

Amy Walkenbach: At the agency, we are refining our role.

Eliana Brown: With the biannual report, what can we put in this? What can we be developing for a future report? We need to have information from 2017. It doesn't mean we can't develop better tools going forward.

Bob Newport: Data on BMPs and load reductions is reported by Section 319 grant recipients but we don't have that source of information for many/most MS4s which since they have not received Section 319 grants. MS4s do submit program reports, but the data on BMPs installed is reported using different metrics and thus it is difficult to quantify BMP implementation and results across MS4s.

Amy Walkenbach: Should reach out to more active groups? Ask if they can provide information by this January? Load reduction, BMPs, etc., and we can include in the report as here's what we can get so far?

Mary Beth Falsey: We know what we have implemented. My question is are you looking for MS4s implemented? There are a lot of them that have been permitted.

Amy Walkenbach: For the first slice, MS4 implementing.

Mary Beth Falsey: I would agree, we don't have load estimates now.

Amy Walkenbach: We can show a lot of progress from one report to the next.

Nancy Williamson: We are gathering from when to when for the report?

Eliana Brown: Agriculture and point source has 2011 as their starting date. For going forward Amy, what do you need from us?

Amy Walkenbach: Date wise? Drafted out categories.

Eliana Brown: When would you need to have decisions made for that?

Amy Walkenbach: That not a real hard pull. We would like to get the request out.

Eliana Brown: Mary Beth, can you get info to Amy by end of November?

Reid Christianson: I can also help if you'd like.

Mary Beth Falsey: I can send it to you for checking over.

Eliana Brown: Moving on to the legislative update: On screen is where we are at for getting report out. The information is displayed on the screen. The original idea is a series of workshops. One of our point people were pulled off into another direction. Currently we have backed off of the plan of a legislative workshop. Margaret, can you explain what you've done with water pricing and education?

Margaret Schneeman: We have a full cost water pricing initiative. It is a 4-page policy memo about the issue and a cover page. Eliana and I were chatting and thinking about capacity issues, and doing a shorter briefing sheet. Is that something you can all use as a resource?

Bob Newport: It is hard to get policymakers to come to a workshop. It is good to get it into the hands of policymakers to read at their own leisure.

Eliana Brown: I have contacted Rick. Maybe he could do a review. It's a fresh perspective and he was happy to do that.

Bob Newport: A good step is an outline of what we would like to communicate to elected officials and then you can break it into chunks and multiple people can help.

Holly Hudson: Each has to be whittled down.

Bob Newport: It should be reader friendly, user friendly, etc.

Eliana Brown: Does someone want to lead on getting something started?

Margaret Schneeman: I'll do it.

Holly Hudson: What's the first topic you're touching on?

Bob Newport: "Why do we care" is a great start.

Nancy Williamson: It wouldn't be bad to remind them of the good work that they have already helped support.

Holly Hudson: Is the audience our state legislature?

Nancy Williamson: Yes. Reminding them that it is an indication of how far that we have come. We have come a long way by moving together.

Holly Hudson: Their constituents want places they can go to that are safe and clean. And they appreciate outdoor spaces. It makes the community a more attractive place to be.

Eliana Brown: Tyler, are you on the line?

Tyler Carpenter: Yes I am.

Eliana Brown: Anything that you think would help appeal statewide? We want to represent the entire state.

Tyler Carpenter: I can make a list and get back to you.

Eliana Brown: That would be great. I will send out next steps and conclusions. Going forward for 2017, there be an end of year workshop and various committees will be coming together. It will be the 1st or 2nd weekend of December 2017. We should be looking at three other times to touch base with this group. Do we want to meet those three times as calls coming together? Or face to face? What works best for people?

Bob Newport: Where will the end of year workshop take place?

Eliana Brown: Starved Rock.

Bob Newport: It is always a challenge to put together a meeting in person.

Eliana Brown: The face to face at the end of year could work either way. I will throw out three possible dates along with ones in December in a follow-up email that has our next steps and conclusions in it.