

LAKE MICHIGAN WATERSHED PLAN MEETING REPORT

GORTON COMMUNITY CENTER

400 E. ILLINOIS ROAD, LAKE FOREST, IL 60045

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019

2:00 PM – 4:00PM & 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Meeting Purpose: Bring together a diverse group of watershed stakeholders, familiarize attendees with watershed planning and the Lake Michigan watershed, and begin to develop a watershed plan.

Introductions

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

Overview of the Lake Michigan Watershed and Planning Process – Presentation

Mike Prusila, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, provided a brief overview of the Lake Michigan watershed and planning area including the spatial extent, topography, water resources, demographics, land use and jurisdictional boundaries. Mike also outlined the watershed planning process, which will be guided by stakeholder input, including approximately 12 planning meetings and direct stakeholder outreach. The plan is scheduled for completion in September 2020.

Mike Adam and Gerard Urbanozo, Lake County Health Department Lakes Management Unit, gave an overview of Lake Michigan beaches and discussed water quality monitoring efforts within the watershed. The Lakes Management Unit monitors water quality at bathing beaches between Memorial Day and Labor Day using culture methods and predictive models. Common causes of beach closures include gull waste and poorly drained beaches. The Lakes Management unit also gave a brief description of the ongoing septic system identification project, which is funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Ashely Strelcheck, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, gave an overview of planning goals, objectives, issues and opportunities. Ashley described how these fit into the plan and introduced the discussion of watershed issues and opportunities.

Questions/comments from the meeting attendees from the presentation (both sessions):

Q: What data was used for the State Water Survey's Draft Bulletin 70 rainfall frequency analysis?

A: The initial Bulletin 70 was published in 1989 using precipitation data from 1901-1983. The precipitation totals provided by this publication are used as a rainfall standard to design stormwater infrastructure, detention ponds, and flood plains. The current draft bulletin provides an update to the original document using precipitation data from 1948-2017. The update was needed to account for the increased frequency and intensity of precipitation in the area. This update only accounts for precipitation that has already occurred. Multiple climate models indicate that additional increases in precipitation may occur in Lake County.

Q: Do the climate studies indicate if the period of rainfall will change and will the pattern of flooding throughout the year change?

A: The draft report identifies that there is an increase in frequency and severity of storms. For example, according to the draft report, detention basins that were originally designed to capture the 100-year storm event are now only capturing the 25-year storm event.

Q: Can you explain the Ensemble Climate Models?

A: All models have uncertainties associated with them. The Ensemble Climate Models combine multiple models, with different uncertainties, to increase the probability of accurate predictions of future climate conditions.

Q: How can we study our watershed without looking at how development in Wisconsin is impacting the watershed and who sources Lake Michigan water?

A: The streams in the planning area flow from east to west. This trend continues within the watershed in Wisconsin. As a result, land use changes within the Lake Michigan watershed in Wisconsin will likely not influence flooding in Illinois. It is not like the Des Plaines river, where changes in Wisconsin land use impact Illinois hydrology.

The Great Lake water withdrawals are governed by the Great Lakes Compact. Outside of lobbying our state officials, there isn't much a county government can do to influence water withdrawal decisions in another State.

Q: Does the population change data you are using in this report account for the migration of people to other states?

A: The population data is provided by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. Our understanding of the data is that the predicted increase in population is due to natural increases and net in-migration will not be a driving factor of population change in the watershed.

Q: Are chlorides included in the designated use impairments?

A: The current state standard for chlorides is 500 mg/L. None of the streams in this watershed are listed for chloride; however, there is limited data and we know that chloride levels are increasing in the county.

Q: Are the results from the septic system identification study online?

A: The septic system identification is currently a GIS exercise. A report will be available online once the investigation is completed.

Q: What is the appropriate action if a resident identifies a water quality concern?

A: Water quality concerns should be reported to the Lake County Health Department Lakes Management Unit.

Discussion – Watershed Issues and Opportunities

The groups at the afternoon and evening meetings identified watershed issues and opportunities. The follow list reflects the discussion at each meeting.

Issues/Opportunities identified at afternoon meeting

- Building Stronger Partnerships
- Interjurisdictional Support
- More comprehensive assessment of watershed (missing Dead River WQ)

assessment in IL EPA Integrated Report)

- Ravine erosion
- Education
- BMPs for landowners
- Stormwater management as it relates to ravines
- Bluff Erosion
- Lake Levels
- Beach/Sand Management
- Storm/Sanitary illicit connections
- Invasive species management
- Managing for resiliency
- Deer management
- Access for restoration work
- Public access to ravines/beaches/shoreline
- Relict pollution
- Funding for Joint Efforts
- Runoff Mitigation (Volume)
- De-icing
- Sedimentation
- Changes in Runoff volume-Models
- Wetlands
- Monitoring/Maintenance of installed/older BMPs
- Reducing impervious surfaces

Issues/Opportunities identified at evening meeting

- Lake shore stabilization/sand management/erosion (bluffs and beaches)
- Education of homeowners/municipal officials/contractors & landscape professionals (particularly related to shoreline/bluff erosion)
- Need to address entire ravine, not just mouth at lake
- Ravine education-all stakeholders
- Funding for MEANINGFUL improvements (making sure the right project or good projects are the ones funded)

- WQ impacts of detention (needs a study)
- Infrastructure inventory (aging)
- Nature-based solutions
- Lake Michigan stabilization/restoration
- Identify funding sources (make available to municipalities/townships)
- Increase the number/frequency/location of water quality assessments
- Protect natural headwater areas of ravine systems (where/as practicable)
- Macroinvertebrate aquatic assessments (include wetlands, natural areas, IBI survey)
- Public access/awareness
- Impervious surface assessment, ordinances, and reduction
- Shoreline infrastructure and protection
- Stormwater runoff volume reductions
- Audit/assess/evaluate/update existing ordinances & assess need for municipalities without ordinances
- Public education/outreach (lack thereof) - common theme
- Maintenance of infrastructure

- Need to get funding to homeowners to collectively address problems (e.g. ravines)
- Incentivize landowners to participate
- Accountability for stormwater similar to stormwater pollution prevention plans during construction (refers to municipal and landowner)
- Some level of municipal coordination across watershed
- Increase of runoff from single family residences

- Pesticide use in watershed & homeowner education regarding pesticide use
- Environmental Justice applies to many topics addressed by watershed plan
- Reflect grants/funding sources for projects that mitigate/address climate change (in plan)

Meeting Attendees:

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Adam	Mike	Lake County Health Department
Athas	James	Landowner
Beardsley	John	Illinois State Water Survey
Bland	Jim	Shedd Aquarium
Bodden	Chuck	North Shore Water Reclamation District
Bracci	Sharon	Deerfield League of Women Voters IL
Charland	Gloria	Sierra Club/Squaw Creek Clean Water Alliance
Chasensky	Brian	Shoreacres
Christoph	Marion	
Creaney	Dan	Daniel Creany Co
Dempsey	Bill	
Drury	Mike	Shoreacres
Edstrom	Jeff	Illinois Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management
Ells	Robert	Lake Forest
Frank	Chuck	Sierra Club
Fremont	Lisa	Glencoe
Getahun	Elias	Illinois State Water Survey
Girmscheid	Tim	Waukegan Park District
Gomez	Manny	City of Highland Park
Grill	Rebecca	Park District of Highland Park
Haffner	Ted	Openlands
Hart	Sandy	Lake County Board
Heilemann	Rosemary	Sierra Club, League of Women Voters (Lake Michigan)
Huaracha	Ernesto	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Waller	Barbara J.	~cool learning experience~
Johnson	Chris	Sierra Club
Joves	Edgar	City of Highland Park
Jozefowski	Jacob	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Kamin	Herb	Resident
Kamin	Adrienne	Resident
Kesler	Anna	Village of Glencoe
Kiefer	Gretel	Chicago Botanic Garden. Plants of Concern
Kindseth	Jon	Beach Park
Ledezma	Erik	Lake County Health Department
London	Ryan	Lake Forest Open Lands Association

Last Name	First Name	Organization
Mahan	Madeleine	Deigan & Associates
Masters	Linda	Openlands
Mathews	Mary	League of Women Voters
Mcmrock	Michele	Landowner
Melara	Alvaro	Rep. Brad Scheider IL-10
Miller	Cliff	PCM Inc
Nagelbach	Stefanie	Shabica
Nelson	Danielle	Illinois Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management
Nissen	Ronda	Landowner
O'Herrin	Keith	City of Highland Park
Onderdonk	Dudley	Glencoe Park District
Papakos	Tatiana	Highland Park Resident
Peterson	Scot	Illinois Natural History Survey Lake Michigan Biological Station
Prusila	Mike	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Rummel	Melanie	Second Ward Alderman - Lake Forest
Rummel	Mike	Lake County Board, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Sabonjian	JoAn	Office of State Senator Julie Morrison
Schwartz	Amalia	Park District of Highland Park
Sentell	John	Lake Forest Open Lands Association
Shabica	Charlie	Shabica
Stahr	Andy	Ecology & Vision
Stiles	Doug	
Strelcheck	Ashley	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Surroz	Sarah	Openlands
Ubranozo	Gerard	Lake County Health Department
Vitt	Pati	Lake County Forest Preserve District
Warda	Nimrod	City of North Chicago
Wasik	John	Lake County Board, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Werner	Patty	Resident
Wilson	Don	Friends of Illinois Beach
Woolford	Lisa	ILM
Woolford	Kurt	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Zemaitis	Mike	Lake County Division of Transportation
Schabacker-Koppel	Yuh	Land Owner