



EAST-WEST GATEWAY Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

AGENDA WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE Thursday, June 21, 2018 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM East-West Gateway Boardroom

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Patrick McKenna
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Bi-State Development

Executive Director
James M. Wild

1. CALL TO ORDER - Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

A. Introductions

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Missouri Water Resources Plan

- Jennifer Hoggatt, Director of the Water Resources Center, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

B. Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District Stormwater Management Plan

- Jason Peterlein, Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District

C. OneSTL Water and Green Infrastructure Working Group

- Rebecca Weaver, The Nature Conservancy
- Bonnie Harper, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

D. Water Matters - Nine Network

3. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

4. ADJOURNMENT

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Minutes
Regional Water Resources Advisory Committee
Friday, March 16, 2018
East-West Gateway Council of Governments, One Memorial Drive

Attendees:

Carol Lawrence, Chair – East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Barbara Charry – The Nature Conservancy
Karla Wilson – Deer Creek Watershed Alliance
Jim Kirchherr – Nine Network
Molly Saunders – Nine Network
Bill Malach – City of St. Peters
Greg Kohler – US Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Sullivan – US Army Corps of Engineers
Mike Hartoin – SCI Engineering Inc.
Tracy Haag - Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Colin Wellenkamp – Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI)
Rob Hunt – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Katherine Dockery – Open Space Council
Janet Buchanan – Heartlands Conservancy
Molly Haug – Missouri Sewer District
Tom Braford – Irresistible Community Builders LLC
Traci Lichtenberg – Missouri American Water
Jeff King – Lochmueller Group
Hal Graef – US Army Corps of Engineers
Rebecca Weaver – The Nature Conservancy
Amy Beussink – USGS Water Science Center
Chad Mason – HR Green, Inc.
John Johnson – Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Non-Point Source Program
Trish Rielly - Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Non-Point Source Program
Laura Ginn – Green City Coalition
Douglas Bjornstad – Jefferson County Public Sewer District
David Shanks – Boeing
Alyisa Blatter – Landscape Architect
Paul Oryem – Our Sustainable Response
David Wilson – Meramec River Recreation Association

Staff:

Mary Grace Lewandowski Aaron Young Bonnie Harper Maureen McCarthy

1. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting of the Regional Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRC) was called to order by Chair Carol Lawrence, East-West Gateway Council of Governments (EWG).

2. Discussion Items

A. Upper Silver Creek Watershed Management Plan Implementation - Janet Buchanan, HeartLands Conservancy

The Upper Silver Creek Watershed is on the east side of Madison County Illinois. A plan has been developed to reduce phosphorous, sediment, and coliform in the watershed. In the plan they used a model called the Agricultural Consummation Planning Framework (ACPF). It showed the areas where best management practices would be best suited. Then, they looked at how to meet their overall goals and targets. There were recommendations for specific areas, and general recommendations for the entire watershed. Critical areas are where existing/potential causes and sources of pollutants are significantly worse than other areas of the watershed or there is significant potential for the area to make progress towards one or more of the plan's goals.

The plan was written and approved in 2015. Madison County is currently working to approve it with its storm water national plan. HeartLands Conservancy is looking to implement the plan and has begun by sending a landowner/farmer survey to determine the problems facing those living in the Upper Silver Creek Watershed and what those landowners would like to have done. They applied for a 319 implementation grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) in 2015 and received it in 2016. The grant will be used towards projects specified in the watershed plan such as grassed waterways, ponds, streambank stabilization, water and sediment control basins, and agricultural waste management facilities. Cost sharing programs began with the sign up period being announced and then the landowners or communities would submit their applications. Technicians visited the proposed sites and then the projects were ranked. The highest ranking projects were selected. After the landowner agrees, the project design is approved by the EPA, construction begins, and operation and maintenance requirements are finalized.

In October 2016 about forty project applications were received. In February 2017 about ten applications were received. Ranking the projects provide an equitable and justifiable means of selecting projects, if the number of applications exceeds the funding available. It also ensures funds are used on projects providing the most benefit. Currently there are nineteen projects underway and three are completed. The cities of Troy and Hamel are receiving funds. For the cost sharing program 55 percent is coming from Illinois EPA and 45 percent is coming from the landowner.

On July 13, 2018 there will be a watershed tour of the best management practice sites. Besides the Upper Silver Creek project other watershed projects that are in progress include Indian-Cahokia Creek, Canteen-Cahokia Creek, and American Bottom.

B. OneSTL Report to the Region and Water & Green Infrastructure Working Group - Aaron Young, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The OneSTL Sustainability Lab, which was established in May 2017, is an ongoing event at T-REX, City of St. Louis, on the last Tuesday of every month. There are sessions at 3:30 and 5:15 on both new and recurring topics. The lab agendas can be found on the OneSTL website at www.oneSTL.org. The most recent Report to the Region can also be found on the OneSTL web site.

Mr. Young discussed the Water and Green Infrastructure Working Group which is going to be led by Janet Buchanan of HeartLands Conservancy and Rebecca Weaver of The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Last year an inventory of the regional watershed plans and groups was developed. This information will be utilized to examine those initiatives, what they are looking to achieve, and how the Water and Green Infrastructure Group can help. The goal that this group is focused on is to have 100 percent of the St. Louis Region covered by a working group or a watershed plan focused on water quality issues within respective watersheds. This group is seeking to encourage grassroots efforts in improving water quality. As of now the plan is to meet once a month and alternate between Missouri and Illinois and figure out a more detailed goal for the group. If you are interested in participating in this group please contact Janet Buchanan or Rebecca Weaver.

C. Baden Community Open Space Plan utilizing Green Infrastructure

- Alyisa Blatter, Landscape Architecture Program, Washington University
- Green City Coalition

Ms. Blater provided background on the Baden sub-watershed and outlined Washington University's open space pilot project for this area. The continued impact of development within the watershed is what brought the area to their attention. The Urban Vitality and Ecology Initiative (UVEI) is a collective effort between local environmental leaders, community-based organizations and academic institutions to promote urban conservation and connect residents to urban nature in the City of St. Louis. In December 2014, UVEI leadership outlined three initial efforts that interested partners could become involved in. Faculty and graduate students in the Landscape Architecture and Environmental Studies programs at Washington University formed an interdisciplinary team with the goals of engaging the community, meeting all of the standards required by MSD, and to enrich the neighborhood through connecting people to nature. The aim of this design projects was to determine if a feasible, adaptive open space plan could be developed for the Baden neighborhood which could meet the objectives of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD), UVEI and the community.

There were three phases to this project. Phase one involved project scoping, baseline data, and community surveys to determine how people felt about the neighborhood. Phase two was a landscape architecture studio effort to analyze social and cultural institutions in the area and the biodiversity of the watershed. Phase three was the community interaction phase to listen to the questions, concerns, and needs of the people in that area.

The open space plan had four physical components; the detention basins designed and constructed by MSD, the green infrastructure enhancement of these basins, the supplementary terrain outside the basin zones, and Dickman Park, which forms the heart of the plan as an already functioning open space. One of the main concepts was to have prairie, glade, and woodland gardens that utilize native plants, create habitat, and clean the water. Each garden had several different design concepts and studies. There were separate plans and studies that are focus on the detention basins and their potential uses. The Partridge Basin could potentially be converted into wildflower water terraces, prairie tallgrass rows, or a prairie wetland. For the Tillie Basin, which is deeper, the thought is to have some type of terraces arranged like an amphitheater. Frederick Basin could serve as the entrance to the Baden neighborhood. One design for the Frederick Basin extends the area of the basin and has broad, shallow steps that

descend into a central swale. The second design involves leveling the basin to create an accessible play space.

The social benefits of this project would include local employment, better public health, accessibility to nature, and better water management. The environmental benefits include flood resistance, increased biodiversity, and treatment of water where it falls.

The Baden pilot project offers a starting point for conversations about alternative landscape scenarios. It presents a template for integrating long-term green infrastructure implementation by “piggy-backing” on MSD’s stormwater management program in the City of St. Louis. This project plan contains a set of strategies which could be used for changing the landscape over a period of time and creating a space that has a dual functionality as both a water retention area and serving as a community green space for the residents of the Baden neighborhood.

3. Other Business

The EPA review of the Lower Meramec Watershed Management Plan update continues. A letter of intent to apply for 319 grant funds can be submitted to MoDNR while plan is under review.

Nine Network provided information and links to local and national water-related programs.

In February the USACE held a floodplain management workshop in DeSoto for the Upper Joachim Creek floodplain management study. For the Lower Meramec Multi-Jurisdictional Floodplain Management Study, the USACE has scheduled three floodplain management workshops to be held in Pacific, Sunset Hills and Arnold in April and March.

The HeartLands Conservancy has a number of outreach and work days scheduled for March and April. For more information go to www.heartlandsconservancy.org .

On April 22-24 the St. Louis Climate Summit will be held at St. Louis University and the Nine Network of Public Media. For more information go to www.stlclimatesummit.org .

The next meeting of the Meramec River Recreation Association has been scheduled for Thursday, May 24, 2018. Location to be determined. On March 6-8m the Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative held a meeting in Washington, D.C. For more information go to www.mrcti.org.

There were 21 mayors present, including Mayor Lyda Krewson. The White House gave an update on the infrastructure plan. The omnibus spending bill is on track. Hoping for an increase in spending for the Upper Mississippi restoration program and the USGS water resources program. Looking for another \$100 million infusion for the pre-disaster mitigation grant. They are also wanting additional funds for the Five Stars Urban Water Restoration Program. The aim is \$200 million for section 319.

4. Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting of the Water Resources Committee was adjourned.