



AGENDA
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 1, 2020
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM
VIRTUAL MEETING - GoToMeeting

Chair

Steve Ehlmann
County Executive
St. Charles County

Vice Chair

Kurt Prenzler
Chairman
Madison County Board

2nd Vice Chair

Lyda Krewson
Mayor, City of St. Louis

Executive Committee

Tim Brinker
Presiding Commissioner
Franklin County

Robert Elmore
Chairman, Board of Commissioners
Monroe County

Dennis Gannon
County Executive, Jefferson County

Mark A. Kern
Chairman, St. Clair County Board

Dr. Sam Page
County Executive, St. Louis County

Members

Honorable Rita Heard Days
Councilwoman, 1st Council District
St. Louis County

Robert Eastern III
Mayor, City of East St. Louis

Mark Kupsky
President, Southwestern Illinois
Council of Mayors
Cheryl Maguire
Vice President, Southwestern Illinois
Council of Mayors

Robert Marquart
Alderman, City of Union
Franklin County

Roy Mosley
St. Clair County

Lewis Reed
President, Board of Aldermen
City of St. Louis

Herbert Simmons
President, Southwestern Illinois
Metropolitan & Regional
Planning Commission

Ruth Springer
Municipal League of Metro St. Louis

Donald R. Summers, Jr.
St. Louis County

Michael Walters
Madison County

John White
St. Charles County

Regional Citizens

Barbara Geisman

C. William Grogan

John A. Laker

Ron Williams

Non-voting Members

Holly Bieneman
Illinois Department of Transportation

Vacant

Illinois Department of Commerce
and Economic Opportunity

Patrick McKenna
Missouri Department of Transportation

Taulby Roach
Bi-State Development

Aaron Willard
Missouri Office of Administration

Executive Director

James M. Wild

DUE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK, EAST-WEST GATEWAY’S OFFICES ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AND WILL BE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

You can listen, talk, and/or view the meeting via:

Computer - <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/658790645>

Access code for meeting through computer: **658-790-645**

Or Phone - [+1 \(224\) 501-3412](tel:+1(224)501-3412)

1. CALL TO ORDER - Carol Lawrence, Chair, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
2. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. **Honoring the Great Rivers – Global Freshwaters Summit April 23 – 25, 2021 at the Missouri History Museum**
 - Laura Madden, Phoenix Consults
 - Myra L. Jackson, Global Being Foundation
 - B. **Use of Salt in Roadway Treatment**
 - Todd Miller, Missouri Department of Transportation
 - C. **Effort to Have Lower Meramec River Identified as a Priority Watershed**
 - Timothy Ganz, Missouri American Water Company
3. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. **Report from OneSTL**
 - Aaron Young, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
4. ADJOURNMENT

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Minutes

Regional Water Resources Advisory Committee
Thursday, June 25, 2020
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
East-West Gateway Council of Governments

Attendees:

Carol Lawrence, Chair – East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Danelle Haake – National Great Rivers Research Center
Libby Reuter – Watershed Cairns
Paul Mueller – St. Charles County
Steven Brendel – Madison County Planning & Development
Brooke Butler – Nine Network
Natalie Roark – Missouri Department of Transportation
Robert Stout - MITICO
Bonnie Harper – Open Space Council
Barbara Charry – The Nature Conservancy
Mike Hartoin – SCI Engineering
Paul Rydlund – U.S. Geological Survey
Jim Kirchherr – Nine Network
Douglas Bjornstad – Jefferson County Public Sewer District
Larry Levin – Ozark Land Trust
Kaleena Menke – Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
Tom Schweiss – Great Rivers Greenway
Collin Wellenkamp – Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative
Christina Favilla – Sierra Club, Piasa Palisades Chapter
John Schumacher – U.S. Geological Survey
Greg Kohler – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Staff:

Mary Grace Lewandowski Jennifer Vuitel Melissa Theiss Maureen McCarthy

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Transportation Alternatives Program

- Melissa Theiss, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

There is currently an open call for projects for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) through August 20. This competitive program is funded under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Projects can be stand alone or they can be a part of other transportation projects, but they must demonstrate a direct relationship to surface transportation.

Eligible project types can be infrastructure, non-infrastructure, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation projects (including stormwater). TAP is also a reimbursement program meaning that federal funding must be obligated before incurring any project costs. Up to eighty percent of the projects costs are eligible for federal funding. For the current solicitation of projects there is approximately \$10.5 million available in Missouri with a \$1.5 million cap on federal funds per project. For Illinois there is \$1.3 million available with a \$500,000 cap on federal funds per project. It is requested that applicants asking for an amount greater than the funding cap can demonstrate that the project can be broken down into phases. For the current solicitation, applications are due by August 20, 2020 by 4:00 PM. Funding is not always available every year and the number of applications during each round of funding varies depending on the amount of funding available.

Eligible applicants must be a transportation-related government agency such as a city, county, transit district, or Great Rivers Greenway and they must be located within the East-West Gateway (EWG) region. School districts and non-profit schools may apply for Safe Route to School (SRTS) non-infrastructure funding. Other sponsors, such as non-profit agencies, must partner as secondary sponsors with any eligible sponsor.

Eligible project types can be infrastructure, non-infrastructure, community improvement activities, and environmental mitigation projects. Examples of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure projects include facilities, Safe Routes for Non-Drivers, conversion of railroad corridors, and road diets or retrofits. Non-infrastructure projects can include educational programs for children grades K-8 and public awareness campaigns. Community improvement projects could be scenic turnouts, preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, vegetation management, or archaeological activities. Environmental mitigation projects include stormwater management, water pollution prevention or abatement, and restoring habitat connectivity. There are not different pots of funding by project category so all projects compete for the same funding. Excluded uses for TAP funding include general recreation projects, routine maintenance and operations, roadway resurfacing or construction, park facilities, hardscaping, non-pedestrian scale lighting, and ADA transition plans.

Applications for all project types are scored out of 100 points based on the criteria met. The scoring criteria was developed to reflect EWG's Long Range Transportation Plan. The community improvement and environmental mitigation projects are scored either high, medium, low based on criteria such as significance/need, safety/mitigation, access, etc. The project application work book, which is on the East-West Gateway website, goes into more detail about the project criteria.

EWG staff is available to assist applicants as needed up until the application deadline. There was a project development workshop held on June 11, 2020 and a recording of it is available online to provide additional information. Preliminary applications are due on July 9 and EWG comments on those applications will be returned by July 23. There will be two optional project review workshops, one on July 13 for Missouri and one on July 15 for Illinois. After applications are submitted on August 20 they will be reviewed between August and December. The Transportation Planning Committee will make their funding recommendations in January

2021 and then there will be a public comment period starting on January 29 and ending on February 26. The final Board of Directors approval will take place on March 31, 2021.

More information is available on the EWG website at <https://www.ewgateway.org/tapcall>
Questions can be sent to TAP@ewgateway.org.

B. International Erosion Control Association and 2020 Virtual Great Connections Conference

- Paul Mueller, St. Charles County

Paul Mueller was elected to the board of directors of the Region One International Erosion Control Association (IECA) in 2018. Region one is made up of North America, South America, and Europe. Within region one there are separate chapters. Mr. Mueller is a part of the Great Rivers Chapter which consists of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Illinois. The IECA advances the standards of practice, promotes education and connects the erosion control and stormwater management community. Currently the IECA Great Rivers chapter is achieving the mission by organizing the Virtual Great Connections Conference which will take place July 28 – 30, 2020. This conference is held every two years and the 2020 conference would have been the first one held in Missouri but is now being held virtually due to the COVID-19 health crisis. It is planned to have Missouri host the 2022 conference.

The conference is titled Great Connections because it is a combined conference between the IECA Great Lakes Chapter and the IECA Great Rivers Chapter. There will be 20 professional development hours available for stormwater management professionals or those who need continuing education credits. The registration fee for members of IECA is \$50 and \$100 for non-members. The conference will be made up of both live and on demand sessions. The opening keynote speaker will be Brian Hoelscher the Executive Director of the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD). The conference will consist of education sessions and a vendor showcase.

St. Charles County has formed a committee that meets quarterly to discuss Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4s) in the county. The MS4s involved are St. Charles County, St. Charles City, O’Fallon, St. Peters, Wentzville, Lake St. Louis, Dardenne Prairie, Cottleville, and Weldon Springs. Participating organizations include the Missouri Department of Conservation, Department of Natural Resources, and the St. Charles County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The Great Rivers Chapter has projects focused on nutrient load reductions as a part of their water quality program. The chapter works on rain gardens and bio swales as an example. The chapter does not have a specific program focused on natural disaster mitigation but they have had educational presentations that provide information on preparing and dealing with flooding.

3. OTHER BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Water Matters Programming

- Brooke Butler, Nine Network of Public Media

Filming in the field for Water Matters has been limited due to the current health crisis. Nine Network has been working on the Jubilee Church Project Oasis neighborhood garden story which aired as a Water Matters segment on Living St. Louis.

B. Report from OneSTL

- Aaron Young, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

The next OneSTL event is the sustainability lab which will be held virtually on the T-Rex Zoom account on Tuesday, June 30. A link to this lab is available on onestl.org. This lab will be set up as a sustainability “Shark Tank” where startup companies have the opportunity to pitch their sustainable business ideas and products. After each pitch a panel of sustainability experts will provide their feedback. OneSTL was planning to hold a regional sustainability summit in November 2020, but the decision has been made to postpone the summit to 2021 in order to hold it in person instead of virtually due to the current health crisis. In the meantime the summit committee is looking to arrange some online workshops that will benefit both the OneSTL working groups and general sustainability interests in the region. The first workshop will be hosted by Crossroads Anti-Racist and Bias Training in Chicago. This workshop will be a five hour one day course and will most likely focus on environmental justice. There will be a fee for the workshop but the amount will depend on the potential sponsors for this event. Dates for this workshop have not been decided yet.

C. Update on Operation Clean Stream

- Bonnie Harper, Open Space Council

Operation Clean Stream is a program where teams of volunteers are led through the Meramec watershed to 40-50 sites to do water and land clean ups. This event usually takes place in August and can see groups of between 5 and 60 volunteers. Due to COVID-19 Operation Clean Stream is not able to operate in the typical way but will still be taking place this year. Registration for the event opens on June 26 through an online system that allows the volunteer to choose their site and sign up to get their supplies. Everyone who volunteers for a cleanup is supplied with gloves and a mesh trash bag. This year the supplies will be distributed via a curbside pickup. This year’s event is extended from one weekend to nine days and will be held from August 15 – 23. The extension allows for volunteers to choose when and where they will do cleanup and will help to keep volunteers socially distant from one another. It is being encouraged that volunteers only work with other members from their household. There will not be any site leaders this year and there will not be a post cleanup gathering. Most of the usual cleanup sites will be available and dumpsters will be made available at each site. Questions can be sent to Bonnie Harper at Open Space Council.

4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting of the Water Resources Advisory Committee will be announced at a later time.