Agenda
Regional Water Resources Advisory Committee
Thursday, December 7, 2017
East-West Gateway Council of Governments

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

2. DISCUSSION ITEMS

   A. Water Matters Content April – December 2017 Review
   - Molly Saunders, Nine Network

   B. Activities of Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative April 2017
   - Colin Wellenkamp, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative

   C. Water and Green Infrastructure Efforts Since April 2017 OneStL Sustainability Summit
   - Aaron Young, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

   D. Lower Meramec Watershed Plan Update
   - Mary Grace Lewandowski, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
   -Bonnie Harper, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

3. OTHER BUSINESS

4. ADJOURNMENT

Minutes
Regional Water Resources Advisory Committee
Thursday, December 7, 2017
East-West Gateway Council of Governments, One Memorial Drive

Attendees:
Carol Lawrence, Chair – East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Barbara Charry – The Nature Conservancy
Libby Reuter – Watershed Cairns and Open Space Council
Jim Kirchherr- Nine Network
Molly Saunders- Nine Network
Bill Malach- City of St. Peters
Curt Skouby- City of St. Louis/Metro Water Infrastructure Partnership
Greg Kohler- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Shawn Sullivan- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mike Hartoin- SCI Engineering Inc.
Tracy Haag- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Robert Stout- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
John Schumacher- U.S. Geological Survey
Colin Wellenkamp- Mississippi River Cities & Towns Initiative
Traci Lichtenberg – Missouri American Water
Mike Ryan – The Nature Conservancy
Josiah Holst – HR Green
Mark Koester – Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
Jay Hoskins – Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District
David Wilson – Meramec River Recreation Association
Warren Grace – Citizen

Staff:
Mary Grace Lewandowski Aaron Young Bonnie Harper

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). Those attending the meeting introduced themselves and gave an update on their current projects.

2. Discussion Items

A. Water Matters Content April – December 2017 Review
- Molly Saunders, Nine Network

A list of water-related content aired on the Nine Network of Public Media since March was distributed. There has been a wide range of national and local content which is related to quantity and quality of water. Locally produced items include Missouri State Parks program and Living St. Louis segments on the Clarksville MO floodwall and bio-engineering (green

infrastructure) approach being used to restore and protect the natural stream bank of a portion of LaBarque Creek in Jefferson County. The LaBarque Creek segment was shown. The aim is use visuals to explain to the viewers why water matters and how it can affect people, environment and economy. Looking for topics where can document the process and tell a good story which can raise awareness and understanding.

WRC suggested potential topics/subjects for Nine Network to consider. They included: Silver Creek watershed plan implementation efforts; Green City Coalition work in north part of City of St. Louis and St. Louis county; flooding; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mississippi River flood risk mitigation study beginning in 2018; Open Space Council's Operation Clean Stream; and legacy of lead contamination in the Big River watershed.

B. Activities of Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative April 2017
- Colin Wellenkamp, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative

The Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (MRCTI) consists of the mayors of 80 cities and towns in the ten states along the Mississippi River from Minnesota to Louisiana. MRCTI is involved in a number of activities designed to elevate the importance of the Mississippi River on the global stage. Mississippi River valley is the number one agricultural commodity producing basin in world, making possible the U.S.'s only trade surplus. The area around the Mississippi River corridor annually exports $164 billion in commodities with 60 percent of U.S. grain output comes from this basin. There are a number of needs to address including: to try to make ecology and infrastructure more resilient, more sustainable; to work with the international river basin community to make sure other food producing basins are doing the same; and to protect the U.S.'s trade surplus and raise amount of commodities exported out of the basin. The economy in the valley is water intensive, consider the beverage, tourism and agricultural industries. One to two counties away from Mississippi River (east-west), it is estimated that $500 billion revenue is generated annually and 1.5 million jobs are directly supported by the river. In order to support that economy, need to have a working aquatic system.

In November MRCTI participated in the Convening of Parties (COP23), United Nations Climate Change conference, in Bonn, Germany. Over five days the Mayors made 15 presentations to various audiences and came away with a number of new partnerships. Emphasized protection of the competitiveness of our commodity portfolio and attention to the built and natural infrastructure. The Mississippi River basin typically has not been represented at this type of meeting. Mayors want to grow their involvement on the international scene.

At COP23 MRCTI wanted to tell story of how the U.S. exiting the Paris Accord has a detrimental impact on Mississippi River commodity export network/market. Article 6 of Accord allows countries to use their global supply chain to reduce their carbon footprint. The European Union wants to set up a penalty for non-signatories. The members of MRCTI want to stay in the Paris Accord as it is in their economic interest.

Motivating the MRCTI to participate are the climate impacts (hurricanes, flood events, 50-year drought) that the Mississippi River basin has experienced. Since 2005 there have been $200 billion in actual insurance losses with over $10 billion in impacts in 2016. Since 2005, the ripple

economic effect in addition to insurance losses is estimated to be $3 trillion or more. Climate change/disaster mitigation has to be approached at the basin or corridor scale. The Mississippi River basin is the most expensive climate impact zone in the nation with hurricanes, flooding and drought. There are extreme precipitation events followed by long, dry periods as well as extreme heat. Drought is worse than flooding as the economic impacts are longer lasting and farther reaching. Commodity exports could be in jeopardy due to climate or disaster impact.

At COP23 MRCTI discussed their September 2017 agreement with the Climate Disclosure Project of North America (CDP-NA). This agreement links the cities to a $2 trillion global portfolio of investors. One purpose of CDP-NA is to accumulate performance and finance information concerning natural infrastructure and climate mitigation efforts. CDPNA is rolling out a new platform called "Matchmaker" where projects can be matched to investors. It is a way to show investment possibilities. There are a number of infrastructure-related projects up and down the Mississippi River which have end-user fee/way to pay on principle/project with an end user fee attached or way to generate return on investment. Banks recommended that MRCTI partner with CDP-NA. Banks want to see that cities include natural infrastructure projects as it is seen to be cheaper, performs better, less maintenance cost, larger return on investment over longer period of time with less risk to investors. Banks want to see that cities are including in their projects capacity for climate mitigation and invest in this type of project.

Within the U.N., the approach to rivers at the global level focuses on the developing world first. Organizations like the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, European Union Facility Fund or the Environmental Fund of the U.N. all operate through donations into their water programs (donor culture). At COP23, CDP and other financiers suggested adding a profit-driven finance mechanism for resilience. A mechanism with some type of end-user fees that investors can invest in major food producing basins in order to bring in as much funds as possible to shore up the natural and built infrastructure in these basins. MRCTI and CDP-NA relationship was used as an example of a profit-driven mechanism which could be set up at the corridor level.

In addition the mayors are interested in establishing a Mississippi River investment fund as way for investors to focus on water-related infrastructure projects on or near the river in their member cities. MRCTI is forming an investment prospectus team to evaluate, examine potential projects and assist cities with preparation of project prospectus.

There was a question about efforts to increase the variety of agricultural commodities. Mr. Wellenkamp, MRCTI, replied that a number of groups are working on diversifying the agricultural supply chain and in turn reduce nutrient loading into water system. A primary problem is not using cover crops to keep nutrients in the fields. Markets need to be developed for them.

Mr. Posey, EWG, announced that the Fourth National Climate Change Assessment went out for public comment in November and comment period ends January 31, 2018. He served on Midwest author team and highlighted green infrastructure adaptation. Document can be found at www.globalchange.gov .

Mr. Stout, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR), stated that the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association is in agreement with message conveyed by MRCTI. Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) in 2016 authorized USACE to prepare an upper Mississippi River basin watershed study focusing on flood risk management approach. It is a way to build resilience into the system in a coherent manner. UMRBA and EWG are arranging two briefing sessions on this study. If interested, please contact EWG.

C. Water and Green Infrastructure Efforts Since April 2017 OneStL Sustainability Summit
- Aaron Young, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

At the April OneSTL Sustainability Summit there was a conversation about how to deal with clean water and big river issues. It was decided to promote more watershed-based planning and try to have watershed plans or watershed groups focusing on the quality of water within a particular watershed for the entire region. As a first step, OneSTL began to document the watersheds with plans (past and underway) and/or groups in the St. Louis area. From the conversations at the Summit and a Sustainability Lab session, gained more information. Madison County and HeartLands Conservancy are working on three watershed plans. Big River planning efforts have been underway for a while. There is a group in Jefferson County looking at flood-related issues for Joachim Creek. An Excel spreadsheet of watershed contacts and groups and a map highlighting watersheds have been prepared.

OneStL needs to determine where existing groups are before going out to promote new groups or new plans. On the Illinois side, need to know if there are any plans or groups active in the following watersheds: Piasa; Wood River; Shoal; Schoenberger; Prairie du Pont; and Fountain. Mr. Wilson, Meramec River Recreation Association (MRRA) said that at one time, the Great Rivers Land Trust was active in the Piasa Creek watershed. For the Missouri side, need to know if there are any plans or groups active in the following watersheds: McCoy; Cuivre River; Maline; Columbia Bottoms; Rock; Plattin; and Bourbeuse River. Mr. Stout, MoDNR, said that the Bourbeouse River in Franklin County is part of the larger Meramec Basin study being conducted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). OneSTL is also interested in finding out about groups focused on the main stem of the Mississippi River.

Mr. Young, EWG, said that he was unsure on how to represented MRCTI on this map. Mr. Wellenkamp, MRCTI, said that their data footprint typically is two to three counties east and west of the Mississippi River (depending on the geography of the river). Mr. Young, EWG, said that additional information is needed about the how the River Des Peres watershed boundaries match up with the boundaries of Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District's (MSD) Project Clear green infrastructure activities. OneSTL activities can be followed at www.onstl.org . There are monthly Sustainability Lab sessions at T-Rex in St. Louis. It is an opportunity to meet people and talk about a variety of regional issues.

D. Lower Meramec Watershed Plan Update
- Mary Grace Lewandowski, East-West Gateway Council of Governments
-Bonnie Harper, East-West Gateway Council of Governments

In September, EWG completed work on the Lower Meramec River Watershed Plan and submitted it to MoDNR. The Plan was an update of the 2012 watershed plan. The study area now extends from Pacific to the confluence with the Mississippi near Arnold. While EPA's review continues, EWG and the Core Partners have begun to think about how to implement the tributary and main stem projects identified in the Plan.

Based on EPA comments on the May draft, the structure of the Plan has changed. It is now in the form of separate Nine Element Watershed Plans for Kiefer Creek, Mattese Creek and Fishpot Creek watersheds. The focus of the Plan is on streams identified as impaired for bacteria and where willing partners have been identified to implement specific projects. The Plan covers the lower portion of the Meramec watershed. It will be hard to meet the water quality standard without looking at the upper portion of the watershed. For the main stem of the lower Meramec River, looked at trying to do demonstration projects on those public lands owned by St. Louis County Parks or Great Rivers Greenway. They would have an education component in that they could lead people to think about what they could do in their own backyard.

The Core Partners will continue to meet through the year to discuss: coordination; how to prioritize projects; 319 and other funding opportunities; as well as water quality monitoring efforts. Once the Plan is approved by EPA, projects would be eligible for Section 319 non-point funding. The Plan is to be reviewed and updated every five years. In the future would like to address chloride impairment in the streams within the study area.

3. Other Business

The next meeting of the WRC will be in March 2018. Please email Carol or Aaron with any topics that you would like to have discussed in these meetings.

4. Adjournment

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