

USWG May Meeting

May 11, 2021

In attendance: Eliana Brown, Illinois Extension; Kate Gardiner, Illinois Extension; Layne Knoche, Illinois Extension; Lisa Merrifield, Illinois Extension; Anna Marshall, University of Illinois Department of Sociology; Trevor Sample, Illinois EPA; Mary Mitros, DuPage County Stormwater; Allison Neubauer, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant; Karoline Qasem, Geosyntec Consultants; Lisa Krause, IDNR Coastal Management Program; Kelly Thompson, Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group; Mary Beth Falsey, DuPage County; Gina Cassidy, C-U Extension; Steve Brendel, Madison County Stormwater Coordinator; Holly Hudson, CMAP; Mila Marshall, Sierra Club; Patrick McPartlan, Kane-DuPage SWCD; and Reid Christianson, University of Illinois

Meeting Summary

Welcome and Member Updates

Eliana welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members to share updates. Lisa Merrifield shared that even though they did not receive the Extension Collaboration grant, she and Eliana are still interested in creating a statewide green infrastructure inventory.

NLRS Biennial Report Stormwater Sector Chapter

Eliana Brown, Kate Gardiner, Anna Marshall, Lisa Merrifield, and Layne Knoche provided an overview of the stormwater sector chapter. Each chapter is split up by an implementation report and the current programs and projects supporting implementation. Implementation is focused on resources, outreach, land and facilities, and water.

Resources and Outreach information were calculated using the partner spreadsheets as well as the annual MWRD stormwater reports and MS4 reports. Land and Facilities data feature the Illinois EPA Section 319 and GIGO grant programs, MS4 reports, and MWRD programs.

USWG members will have a chance to review the chapter. Please send comments back by May 19, 2021.

Next Steps

USWG Members should review the draft chapter and return any comments or edits to IllinoisNLRS@gmail.com by Wednesday, May 19. The next USWG meeting is July 13, 2021.

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and Member Updates

Eliana welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members to share updates. Lisa Merrifield shared that although their project did not receive funding from the Illinois Extension Collaboration grant, she and Eliana are still interested in creating a statewide green infrastructure inventory.

NLRS Biennial Report Stormwater Sector Chapter

Eliana Brown, Kate Gardiner, Anna Marshall, Lisa Merrifield, and Layne Knoche provided an overview of the stormwater sector chapter.

Eliana reviewed the structure of the report and shared that each sector chapter has two parts: implementation and current programs and projects supporting the strategy. Biennial Reports are structured to report data on tracking measures by each of the three sectors using this logic model. Implementation is focused on resources, outreach, land and facilities, and water.

The first aspect of the implementation logic model is resources. Kate shared that her and Eliana receive spreadsheets on resources and outreach from all the NLRS partners. These spreadsheets contain information on staffing, grants received and given, and outreach throughout the year. These numbers make up the data for the resources and outreach analyses. In addition to the partner data, resources in the stormwater chapter cover data from MS4 reports and MWRD annual stormwater reports. There are several funds dedicated to implementation of the strategy in the stormwater sector.

Resources is followed by outreach in the logic model. Anna shared that partners are reporting more outreach to state, county, and local government officials, industry professionals, and the general public. Partners reach the public and construction industry with outreach on green infrastructure – stormwater basins, rain gardens, and green roofing. They reach homeowners and the general public with outreach on natural lawn care, environmentally friendly deicers, and pollinators. They also reach watershed planning commissions with information regarding cooperative efforts to control nutrient loss.

Land and Facilities follows outreach measures. In 2019 and 2020, the Illinois EPA 319 program funded bioswales, rain gardens, urban stormwater wetlands, wetland restoration, and urban filter strip practices. Participation has varied from year to year – it was high in 2011 and 2012 and then tapered off. The low number of conservation practices recorded in 2020 can be attributed to several factors. Grant awards are competitive for any type of non-point source pollution control project.

Lisa and Layne shared information about the analysis of MS4 communities in Illinois. There are about 380 MS4 communities and while the bulk of them are in and around the Chicago area, though there are some in other parts of the state. These MS4 communities submit reports annually and are required to include certain pieces of information. This analysis looked at public education and outreach on stormwater impacts, public involvement and participation, illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site stormwater runoff control, post construction storm water management in new developments and redevelopments, and pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations. It is worth considering that there is inconsistent report availability and variable quantity and quality of information included, as well as inconsistencies in format and terms used. There were a few

outstanding MS4 communities, like Elmhurst, DuPage County, Hanover Park, Urbana and Champaign, Rock Island, Naperville, etc. Noteworthy programs include green infrastructure requirements for new construction and redevelopment in Port Barrington and master planning in Franklin Park. Many MS4 communities around the state contribute to or have programs that run at a county-wide level to satisfy MS4 BMP requirements. Such places include Madison County in the St. Louis area, Tazewell and Peoria Counties in the Peoria area, Will, DuPage, Cook and Lake Counties in the Chicago area, and Winnebago and Boone Counties in the Rockford area.

Eliana thanked the USWG members for submitting the requested information for the Biennial Report and shared instructions on how to review the stormwater chapter draft. USWG members will have one week for review. Return comments or edits by Wednesday, May 19.

Discussion:

Holly Hudson: how many MS4 communities were surveyed?

Layne Knoche: There were 322 communities total across 2019 and 2020.

Holly Hudson: It's clear and great that we have been mining for more data. Do we have an increase because of not looking so much before? In being able to do virtual presentations, we saw through our CMAP meetings how many more people were able to attend. And I see that continuing.

Anna Marshall: It is possibly ironic, maybe a silver lining, that we got up to speed with these new technologies so quickly and they work so well that we may be able to reach more people and have more people participate.

Holly Hudson Exactly, and create new avenues and broaden our scope of electronic services and having people interact through polls to see how their behavior is changing.

Eliana Brown: With stormwater, it seems very localized in Illinois and having these kinds of options with Zoom and surveys can be a way that the people from the northern part share ideas with central and southern and vice versa. The last report had spreadsheets from DuPage County, Greater Egypt Regional Planning Commission and Parkland College. This time, we also received spreadsheets from the Illinois SWCDs, Extension, MS4 communities of City of Champaign and City of Urbana, and CMAP.

Karoline Qasem: I'm interested in finding street sweeping data in the south suburbs. Is it in the reports you reviewed?

Lisa Merrifield: We were able to pull it from the MS4 reports. If you tell us where you're looking, we could probably tell you which communities to look in. I will say around the Chicagoland area, it should be pretty complete. But we're probably missing communities more south in the state.

Patrick McPartlan: We work with some MS4 communities and they have some environmental justice areas. Is this new? Or have you seen trends in this in the MS4s you've looked at in these studies?

Lisa Merrifield: We did see some reference to environmental justice, though we didn't catalogue it. Trevor is on the call, do you have any information?

Trevor Sample: I'm sorry I'm not the stormwater coordinator for the Agency but I could find out. So you were contacted?

Patrick McPartlan: The municipality we work with got audited and were curious on how to incorporate that aspect in their reports.

Trevor Sample: Thank you, I can look into that.

Karoline Qasem: Patrick, I'm not sure if this is relevant but CMAP has some GIS layers on this, you may want to check on their data hub.

Mary Beth Falsey: We used the most recent Census data and identified areas based on income to use for environmental justice to make sure we're covering those areas with our programming.

Attendee: What happened in 2012?

Karoline Qasem: I know it was a dry year, maybe that had an impact?

Reid Christianson: Trevor or Kate, have you considered adding practice life into this estimate?

Trevor Sample: We have not, that's something we could look into.

Next Steps

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