

NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

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*A Regional Association of Illinois
Municipalities and Townships
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**North Branch of the Chicago River Watershed Planning Council
AGENDA**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022
10:00 a.m.**

Via Zoom Video Conference

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84559080059?pwd=UE54Y1lvdkpsNTMyZld3T244R2p0UT09>

**Meeting ID: 845 5908 0059
Passcode: NB030122**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. December 7, 2021 Meeting Notes (Attachment A)**
Action Requested: Informational
- IV. Local Agency Projects Updates**
Mark Castillo will provide an update.
Action Requested: Informational
- V. Small Streams Maintenance Program Update**
Robert Podgorny will provide update.
Action Requested: Informational
- VI. Council for Watershed Health**
Chelsey Grassfield from Friends of the Chicago River will provide information.
Action Requested: Informational
- VII. Other Business**
- VIII. Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the North Branch Chicago River Watershed Planning Council will be held on Tuesday, June 7 at 10:00 a.m. via video conference.
- IX. Adjournment**

North Branch Chicago River Watershed Planning Council
Via Zoom
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
Meeting Minutes

Present:

Rich Fisher, MWRD

Joe Kratzer, MWRD

Lucas Roat, MWRD

Lolita Thompson, MWRD

Annie Wright, MWRD

Ingrid Eckersberg, City of Evanston

Joe Kenney, Village of Glenview

James Tigoe, Village of Glencoe

Chris Tomich, Village of Morton Grove

Jack Bielak, Village of Northbrook

Jorge Cruz, Village of Wilmette

Emily Grimm, Village of Winnetka

Thomas Burke, CBBEL

Thera Novotny, Stantec

Len Cannata, West Central Municipal Conference

Kendra Johnson, NWMC

Ms. Johnson began the meeting at 10:03 a.m. Ms. Johnson asked attendees to register their attendance in the chat box and noted the meeting minutes were included in the agenda packet.

Ms. Thompson reviewed the proposed amendment to the Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO). She provided an overview of the volume control and detention trading initiatives. She noted that the Technical Guidance Manual was updated to provide guidance for complying with the technical requirements to comply with offsite volume control and detention facilities, and that a pilot program was recently established for projects within the Lower Des Plaines River Watershed and the Little Calumet Watershed to do so without having to demonstrate site constraints or limitations. Ms. Thompson discussed clarifications and document improvements that are proposed for the WMO, as well as noteworthy changes in areas including floodplain regulation, new definitions, updated wetland provisions, Corps JD submittal requirements, new wetland riparian environment verification forms, new stormwater management provisions, and upstream tributary flows and open-space development. She noted that the public comment period was open until November 15, and that MWRD was currently reviewing comments received. Ms. Thompson encouraged those who were interested further in the WMO changes to review the draft document and presentation slides online.

Mr. Roat introduced himself and noted that the floor was open for municipalities and consultants to discuss current and upcoming projects within the watershed. Mr. Fisher explained that MWRD is also looking at how stormwater projects could be undertaken in conjunction with other major infrastructure projects, and encouraged a broader conversation around stormwater projects. Mr. Tomich reported that the Village of Morton Grove is developing a sewer separation project due to significant street flooding in some areas. He noted issues with funding and coordination with the park district to try to provide open detention or underground detention. He asked others whether they had experience with coordination with park districts to implement detention facilities or if anyone had applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding for similar projects. Mr. Fisher responded that MWRD will likely contact the Village to discuss their grant application soon. Mr. Kenney replied that the Village of Glenview worked with their park district and utilized FEMA pre-disaster mitigation funding and suggested that the Village try to implement park district priorities, such as recreational facilities improvements, at the same time as the detention improvements. He also noted that the FEMA grants were a slower process, but the Village did not encounter many issues outside of that. Ms. Wright noted that the pre-disaster mitigation grant program no longer exists, and that it has been replaced with FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, which includes some significant hurdles regarding the scoring structure due to Illinois not having a statewide building code. Ms.

**Full meeting transcripts are available upon request. Please contact Kendra Johnson (kjohanson@nwmc-cog.org) for a copy.*

Wright suggested that applicants note in their applications whether they have an updated building code and mention that Illinois is a home rule state. Mr. Fisher added that MWRD is working with a community in southern Cook County with similar issues to Morton Grove that is working with a school district to make improvements to baseball fields on their property while also installing detention facilities. Mr. Tomich thanked participants for the discussion and input. Mr. Roat closed the discussion and thanked attendees.

Ms. Johnson noted that meeting dates for the next year were also included in the agenda packet, and Ms. Wright asked those who had not yet done so to type their name and organization into the chat box. Mr. Roat thanked attendees for participating in the video conference and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.