

LITTLE CALUMET RIVER  
WATERSHED PLANNING COUNCIL

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Held on Thursday, October 17, 2024,  
commencing at the hour of 4:30 o'clock, p.m., via  
Zoom.

PRESENT:

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

Rich Fisher  
Timie Ogutuga  
Peter Morris  
Maureen Durkin  
Lolita Thompson

ALSO PRESENT:

Leslie Rauer, SSMMA  
David Clay, SSMMA  
Melissa Wiak, Village of Thornton  
Holly Hudson, CMAP  
Brian Smith, Village of South Holland  
Dan Milovanovic, Village of Flossmoor

1 MS. RAUER: We are going to call the meeting  
2 to order at 4:32 p.m., and you get me today instead  
3 of Kristi.

4 So I'm Leslie Rauer, with South  
5 Suburban Mayors and Managers, and I'm the  
6 Transportation Planner here.

7 So next we have our roll call. Does  
8 someone have the presentation of that?

9 MR. CASTILLO: Timie, can you load up your --  
10 share your screen and load up the presentation.

11 MS. RAUER: Blue Island, Calumet City,  
12 Calumet Park, Chicago, Chicago Heights, Country Club  
13 Hills, Crestwood, Dixmoor, Dolton, East Hazel Crest,  
14 Flossmoor --

15 MR. MILOVANOVIC: Here.

16 MS. RAUER: Thank you. Ford Heights,  
17 Glenwood, Harvey, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Lansing,  
18 Lynwood, Markham, Matteson, Midlothian, Oak Forest,  
19 Olympia Fields, Orland Park, Park Forest, Phoenix,  
20 Posen, Richton Park, Riverdale, Robbins, Sauk  
21 Village, South Chicago Heights, South Holland --

22 MR. SMITH: Present.

23 MS. RAUER: Steger, Thornton --

24 MS. WIAK: Here.

1 MS. RAUER: Tinley Park, University Park,  
2 Unincorporated Cook County. Bloom Township, Bremen  
3 Township, Calumet Township, Orland Township, Rich  
4 Township and Thornton Township.

5 Okay. Thank you. Next on my agenda  
6 is the approval of the transcript of the Council  
7 meeting of July 18, 2024. Does anyone have any  
8 comments or anything that they would like to share or  
9 add to the minutes? And is there a motion for  
10 approval?

11 MR. SMITH: I'll make a motion to approve.

12 MS. RAUER: Can I have everyone in favor say  
13 yes or aye?

14 (Chorus of ayes.)

15 MS. RAUER: All right. Thank you.

16 So next on our agenda, we have  
17 Capital Improvements Update, and that's from Timie.

18 MS. OGUTUGA: Hello, everyone. Please bear  
19 with me. I'm not really sure what's happening with  
20 my device here, but we're going to make it through.

21 Welcome to the Little Calumet River  
22 Watershed Planning Council meeting. Today's meeting  
23 will cover capital improvement updates for the Little  
24 Calumet River Watershed Planning area.

1 My name is Timie Ogutuga, I'm a  
2 Civil Engineer at MWRD. And please note if there are  
3 any questions, please feel free to ask them in the  
4 chat or wait until the end of the presentation.  
5 Thank you.

6 To get started here, in the Little  
7 Calumet River Watershed, there are a total of 25  
8 projects. We have been working on five regional  
9 projects, two which are ongoing; 13 local projects,  
10 seven of which are ongoing; five green infrastructure  
11 projects, one of which is ongoing; and two FPEA  
12 projects, and we have one ongoing with that one.

13 Now with our MWRD stormwater  
14 partnerships, we have four MWRD programs. Our  
15 partnerships help communities manage stormwater. If  
16 you're interested and you'd like to know more  
17 information about these programs, please feel free to  
18 visit our website at [mwrld.org/stormwater/  
19 partnerships](http://mwrld.org/stormwater/partnerships).

20 Let's look at our Stormwater  
21 Partnership Program and see a little bit more about  
22 that. So we have 17 pre-application forms that we  
23 received from November through February 11th of this  
24 year. 11 of those eligible applications were

1 prioritized based on benefited structures, extent of  
2 flooding, sewer service area, detention provided, a  
3 commitment to maintenance and median income. To get  
4 a little bit more statistics on this, 30.6 million  
5 dollars were requested from the District and 70.2  
6 million were estimated as our total construction  
7 cost. Applicants will be notified based on the  
8 prioritization list and as funding becomes available.

9           So we're going to take a look at  
10 some of these projects here. Starting off with the  
11 flood-control projects on Midlothian Creek. This is  
12 a Robbins 2 -- Robbins Phase 2 project, and it's  
13 located in the Village of Robbins. The lead agency  
14 being the District, MWRD. The biggest issue with  
15 this location is flooding along the creek and to  
16 reduce flooding damages over 92 structures. To  
17 address this problem, a naturalized detention  
18 facility along the creek was added and diversion  
19 channel to the Cal-Sag Channel was put in place.  
20 Phase 1 of this project has reached substantial  
21 completion, and Phase 2 construction started on July  
22 2024. The photo on the right is a Phase 1. It was  
23 taken recently this month just to give an idea of the  
24 nature of this project.

1                   Next we will look at Central Park  
2 stormwater detention basin and separate storm sewer  
3 improvements in Harvey. It's located in the City of  
4 Harvey. The lead agency again being the District.  
5 Working with the City of Harvey our consultant has  
6 developed a project that included construction of 23  
7 acre foot stormwater detention basins along Myrtle  
8 Avenue between 153rd Street and 154th Street. It's  
9 approximately 1900 feet of 18 to 36 inch storm sewers  
10 and allowed 143rd Street and 153rd Street  
11 right-of-way between Myrtle Avenue as well as Center  
12 Avenue conveying stormwater to the proposed detention  
13 basin. FEMA's BRIC Program selected this project as  
14 an eligible project to receive its funding. It's  
15 currently in the next phase of the award review  
16 process, and it's also set to receive -- It did  
17 receive rather 1.5 million in ARPA funding.  
18 Construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of  
19 2025.

20                   Next up we'll look at our Glenwood  
21 Levee at Arquilla Park. This project is being led by  
22 the Village of Glenwood, and the project focus was on  
23 the design and construction of an urban levee at  
24 Arquilla Park to protect homes from flooding stemming

1 from Thorn Creek. The project also bought out nine  
2 flood-prone properties. As of now, construction is  
3 underway beginning on July 3rd of this year. That is  
4 when it started, and it's expected to see its  
5 completion in spring of 2025. The bid was awarded to  
6 Pan Oceanic Engineering, and we expect that the  
7 construction cost for this project will be around 3.4  
8 million dollars. This picture on the right here is a  
9 recent visual taken on October 3rd, so we see that  
10 things are moving along.

11 Finally, in this category, we have  
12 the Thorn Ditch Flood Mitigation Project in South  
13 Holland. The Village of South Holland is the lead  
14 agency, and it aims to replace the culvert and  
15 provide construction of detention basins in the area,  
16 as well as to protect homes along that Thorn Ditch  
17 that have been affected by the flooding. As far as  
18 our project status for this project, it was awarded  
19 ARPA funding and final design is underway.

20 So now let's go into conceptual  
21 project partnerships and see what we have going on  
22 there. We start off with the flood-control project  
23 in the Village of Dixmoor. The lead agency is MWRD.  
24 The conceptual project involves enclosed drainage

1 systems, detention pond and green infrastructure. As  
2 far as our status, the feasibility planning study is  
3 underway, and it was selected for ARPA funding.

4 Next we have the flood-control  
5 project in Dolton. The lead agency is the District.  
6 It addresses flooding issues in neighborhoods just  
7 east of I-94. Conceptual work is ongoing, and it's  
8 estimated to be completed on preliminary design by  
9 early 2025. The estimated conceptual cost is around  
10 \$280,000. Alternative analysis solutions will be  
11 provided by the end of November. So we are expecting  
12 that then.

13 Next we move on to the Flood Control  
14 Project for Markham in the Belaire neighborhood. The  
15 lead agency is the District again, and it has been  
16 noted that 125 out of 150 homes are flooded in the  
17 area. Flooding is mainly due to undersized and  
18 limited sewers, lack of conveyance and overflow  
19 roots, over-run sewers and ditches and also other  
20 maintenance issues. The work is currently underway  
21 and is expected to be completed on preliminary design  
22 by early 2025. The estimated conceptual cost is  
23 \$612,000. An alternative solutions memo will be  
24 submitted soon.

1           Let's see what's happening with our  
2 green infrastructure projects. Just a couple of  
3 stats on this partnership program. We have 12 green  
4 infrastructure projects that were selected and will  
5 begin construction in 2025. 8.6 million dollars are  
6 estimated as our total GI construction cost, scaling  
7 around 34.5 acres of area of the project is estimated  
8 and 862,000 gallons of DRC is estimated as well.

9           Prioritized projects for 2025 are  
10 located in some of these highlighted areas such as  
11 Franklin Park, Hoffman Estates and Forest Park, just  
12 to name a few. And our projects do include two green  
13 streets, permeable pavement and bioswales, one green  
14 roof, four green parking lots and five green alleys.  
15 So many projects coming with that.

16           Let's look at one. We have the  
17 green alley project in Markham. There is a -- This  
18 project is expected to convert three existing  
19 impervious alleys to permeable pavers providing  
20 approximately 50,000 gallons of DRC. The IGA  
21 negotiations are underway. The design is hopefully  
22 expected to be completed later this year and  
23 construction to start next year.

24           It looks like our flood-prone

1 property acquisitions. We have our project here, our  
2 flood-prone property acquisition in Flossmoor near  
3 Butterfield Creek. It's being led by the Village of  
4 Flossmoor and the goal is to remove a structure from  
5 the floodplain, to convert the property into open  
6 space. We had been awarded the HMGP Grant from FEMA  
7 for this project. IGA negotiations are still  
8 underway while the FEMA Grant has been -- is in  
9 agreement and is being finalized.

10 If you have any questions about our  
11 partnerships, our programs or are current capital  
12 improvement projects, feel free to make use of this  
13 contact information. We have our address and e-mail  
14 here. You can contact our Stormwater Department.

15 And just to add a little bit of  
16 information about our plan adoption, you can send  
17 this to us. I think everyone received a packet as to  
18 some of the details of what this adoption process is  
19 like. Feel free to contact us if you have any  
20 questions or interest with that.

21 That concludes my presentation. Are  
22 there any questions?

23 (No response.)

24 MS. RAUER: Any questions?

1 MS. OGUTUGA: Thank you so much.

2 MS. RAUER: Thank you. So next we have  
3 applying for a stormwater partnership, key questions  
4 and documentation, and this is Mark.

5 MR. CASTILLO: Thank you, Leslie. Thank you  
6 for those who are attending this evening or this  
7 afternoon. My name is Mark Castillo, I'm a Senior  
8 Civil Engineer in the Stormwater Management with the  
9 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and this  
10 presentation is to apply for a partnership.

11 So our goal in this presentation  
12 will be to go over all four of our partnership  
13 programs, go over the typical questions that you'll  
14 need to answer in our applications, as well as the  
15 documentation that needs to be submitted, and then do  
16 a quick overview on any program-specific updates.

17 So all four of our MWRD partnerships  
18 are currently open. Our Voluntary Flood-Prone  
19 Property Acquisition Program has a single application  
20 form. And then for the other programs we need to  
21 receive a pre-application by the deadline shown on  
22 the screen here. When we get your pre-app, we'll  
23 review it, provide any feedback and then send you a  
24 link to finalize your -- so that you can finalize

1 your final application.

2           Going through each program very  
3 quickly. Our Stormwater Partnership Program, for its  
4 traditional stormwater infrastructure, like detention  
5 basins or storm-sewer improvements, to help manage  
6 stormwater and reduce flooding; the Green  
7 Infrastructure Partnership Program funds the  
8 construction of green alleys, rain gardens and other  
9 permeable surfaces to manage rainwater where it  
10 lands; the Voluntary Flood-Prone Property Acquisition  
11 Program helps municipalities acquire flood-prone  
12 properties in the floodplain; and then finally, for  
13 communities that need assistance to study and design  
14 a solution for a local stormwater issue, they can  
15 apply for a conceptual project partnership.

16           To learn more or to apply, please  
17 visit our partnership homepage at  
18 [mwrdd.org/stormwater/partnerships](http://mwrdd.org/stormwater/partnerships). From there you can  
19 go in and browse each of our four programs, review  
20 each program's requirements, the deadlines and then  
21 there should be a link to apply for each program.

22           Really quickly, each program has  
23 more specific, you know, eligibility and general  
24 program requirements, but overall, public entities

1 can apply if they are within MWRD's corporate  
2 boundaries and enter into an intergovernmental  
3 agreement with the MWRD. So this includes  
4 municipalities, townships, county agencies, park  
5 districts and other government organizations. The  
6 projects must manage stormwater and benefit  
7 structures from flooding, so that includes installing  
8 greater green infrastructure, acquiring a flood-prone  
9 home or requesting assistance to address a stormwater  
10 issue. Partners are responsible for their project's  
11 design, contract administration, bidding, meeting our  
12 affirmative action goals on MWRD's contribution and  
13 the long-term maintenance of the project. Again,  
14 please visit [mwrdd.org/stormwater/partnerships](http://mwrdd.org/stormwater/partnerships) for  
15 more information.

16 All right. So on to the bulk of  
17 this presentation, what makes up an application.  
18 There are four categories found in our applications,  
19 and those include questions about the project's  
20 scope, schedule, cost and then we have like  
21 program-specific questions.

22 So first up project scope: We ask  
23 that you provide a description of the existing site,  
24 so in a not-flooded condition. So how is the site

1 used, what structures are there, is it primarily  
2 residential, commercial, is there critical  
3 infrastructure like hospitals. We also ask any --  
4 about any neat features about the site, so is it by a  
5 river or other body of water; is it an area where  
6 water kind of collects or there's a depressional  
7 area; who owns the property where the project is  
8 located. So answering these questions helps us  
9 understand the site that is going to be improved and  
10 like the types of coordination needed during  
11 construction.

12 Our applications also ask questions  
13 about, you know, is the project in the combined or  
14 separate sewer area; is the site in the floodplain;  
15 is there ongoing or planned work nearby. And then  
16 green infrastructure, their application has specific  
17 questions to help them determine how effective the GI  
18 will be. So they ask about high-ground water, so  
19 infiltration rates; the existing site surface types;  
20 and if the project is in the floodplain or not.

21 The next section of the project  
22 scope is the flooded conditions of the area. So we  
23 ask that you describe the types of flooding and types  
24 of infrastructure impacted. So is flooding occurring

1 in the alleys or backyards of homes. Is it flowing  
2 over land into a home, into a basement or is sewer  
3 water backing up into that basement. So we ask that  
4 you describe the infrastructure effected as well. So  
5 are these residential homes, schools or local streets  
6 or highways impacted. We ask that you provide a  
7 detailed description and then provide any  
8 documentation such as photos, if available. We also  
9 ask how does the flooding impact the area within and  
10 around the site, and this is important because this  
11 is your opportunity to describe or provide  
12 information about the flooding that isn't readily  
13 found in a study or hydraulic model. We're asking  
14 about how flooding affects people's day-to-day lives.  
15 So are there major impacts to traffic, can people  
16 access their home, school, how long is the area  
17 impacted and then how long does it take residents to  
18 recover from the event, you know, what do they have  
19 to go through. We also have questions that kind of  
20 go through -- or we ask the extent and location of  
21 the flooding, the depth of the flooding and how  
22 frequently it occurs. And again, we ask that you  
23 provide supporting documentation either through like  
24 an exhibit or any other flood study, if available.

1           So for types of documentation in  
2 this section of our applications, we ask that you  
3 provide records of past flood events. So that can  
4 include 311 calls, photos, news articles. Really  
5 quick, for 311 calls, we've seen applicants provide  
6 addresses; the flooding type that occurs, so like  
7 street, rear yards, basement backup type of flooding;  
8 and then some have even mapped the calls to make it  
9 really clear where the problem areas are. Other  
10 documentation includes flood studies, H&H modeling or  
11 exhibits. So this will be useful because they have  
12 the extent of flooding that occurs. Usually they'll  
13 name the event, the depth that happen and then show  
14 any impacted structures. The MWRD has the resources  
15 available such as our Detailed Watershed Plans and  
16 Stormwater Master Plans for your use too. And you  
17 can reach out to us for that information.

18           We ask for site plans, utility  
19 sheets and permitting. That will help show any  
20 existing sewer water and other utilities that could  
21 conflict with the future project. And then we have  
22 the FEMA inundation maps or SIMA, so those resources  
23 are used to identify property or projects located  
24 within the floodplain. And then for green

1 infrastructure, they request boring logs, because  
2 they want to see those soil types and ground-water  
3 levels which is used in calculating design retention  
4 capacity.

5           So on to just the general project  
6 scope. Now we ask you provide a detailed description  
7 of the project really emphasizing on details. So  
8 some key points include describing each stormwater or  
9 green infrastructure element to be installed and  
10 where it will be built, and then describing how the  
11 project will reduce flooding or manage stormwater  
12 runoff. So what flood event is the project designed  
13 for, like the five year; 10 year; a hundred year  
14 flood event; is storage being provided, you know;  
15 where is the stormwater runoff being conveyed; and  
16 then is there a change in how the site will be used  
17 for this project. This is all, again, very useful  
18 for us to understand, you know, how -- what is the  
19 intent of the project being constructed.

20           We also ask is the project in the  
21 public right-of-way. So is there an easement needed  
22 to be built -- is there an easement needed to build  
23 and maintain the project. We also ask what permits  
24 are required. And then if the stormwater work is

1 part of a larger project, we need you to describe the  
2 non-stormwater elements to be built, as well because  
3 our funding can really only be used for the  
4 stormwater portion of the work.

5 Finally, there is a section where  
6 you can describe how you plan to maintain the project  
7 long term. So along with the description we ask that  
8 you summarize the benefits of the project. So this  
9 depends on the application you're applying -- or this  
10 depends on the program you're applying for. So for  
11 Stormwater Partnership Program, that is the number of  
12 structures benefited by the project, and the  
13 stormwater detention provided. For green  
14 infrastructure, that is the green infrastructure  
15 installation summary, a summary of all of the GI that  
16 is being installed, as well as the design retention  
17 capacity calculations for that. For Flood-Prone  
18 Property Acquisition Program, just letting us know  
19 which homes are being removed from the floodplain.

20 Our applications ask about that  
21 post-project use. So if you're turning a parking lot  
22 into green space or you know, you have a streambank  
23 stabilization project where you're increasing the  
24 riparian area, that is always useful to know, because

1 those are all benefits to that -- that are being  
2 provided by the project. And then finally, benefit  
3 cost analysis may be required for some applications.

4 So examples of documentation for  
5 projects scope include your conceptual preliminary  
6 drawings, construction plans, and O & M plans. For  
7 green infrastructure, that includes the design  
8 retention capacity calculations, so the amount of  
9 storage being provided by that green infrastructure.  
10 And then for the Stormwater Partnership Program or  
11 Flood-Prone Property Acquisition Program, you may be  
12 required to provide a benefit cost analysis. What's  
13 also useful is an exhibit or a marked-up street map  
14 showing the project benefits. So indicating before  
15 and after of like these structures are flooded and  
16 now only these structures are flooded. So showing a  
17 reduction of flooding and then the structures  
18 benefited as a result.

19 So the next set of questions kind of  
20 revolve around scheduling of the project. So for us,  
21 the timing to execute an intergovernmental agreement  
22 is a major milestone, because that is the mechanism  
23 that allows us to provide that reimbursement funding  
24 towards your project. Just focusing on the Green

1 Infrastructure and Stormwater Partnership Program,  
2 our Green Infrastructure Program has a set timeline  
3 where they need to execute an IGA by the end of the  
4 year of the year you were selected. And so that  
5 typically means your design, your funding and  
6 right-of-way have been finalized and secured by end  
7 of the year. And they expect that construction to be  
8 finished by the end of next year.

9 For the Stormwater Partnership  
10 Program, we have this new prioritization list, where  
11 it's a little less set, but we look to execute an IGA  
12 by the next selection cycle. So for the case of  
13 2024, we selected around July, and we anticipate that  
14 for this round, selecting again sometime in July. So  
15 we need to see that IGA executed by then. But we  
16 also look at kind of like a conditional checklist of  
17 items that we know can impact a project schedule. So  
18 permitting, the acquisition needed, and any  
19 additional funding. So we take a look at those items  
20 and make a determination if you'll be able to, you  
21 know, meet this goal of finalizing these items before  
22 the next -- before the next selection cycle. And the  
23 applicant can provide documentation as well if it's  
24 kind of questionable, if you could finalize those

1 items by next cycle.

2           So in our applications, some typical  
3 milestone dates we ask for are the design completion  
4 date, when you'll advertise and award your contract,  
5 and then when you anticipate construction to be  
6 complete, as well as the duration of the  
7 construction. We also ask about the project's  
8 right-of-way. This is important to ensure the  
9 applicant can access the project site, build the  
10 project and maintain that long term. So we ask  
11 applicants to describe the remaining property  
12 easements -- property or easements needed to be  
13 acquired, so that includes who the current owner is,  
14 any items to negotiate and the status of  
15 negotiations. If you're working with another public  
16 agency, you will need to tell us who will ultimately  
17 own and maintain those stormwater improvements. We  
18 also ask about additional funding sources. So is the  
19 applicant applying for a grant or other cost share,  
20 right. Sometimes it takes a really long time to get  
21 that award, and then even when you are notified of an  
22 award, sometimes there are pre-award requirements.  
23 So we typically ask about, you know, the current  
24 status of your application, and if you could provide

1 your notice of funding, usually that provides all of  
2 the key dates for that program cycle. And then we're  
3 all very familiar with permitting that could take a  
4 really long time, so knowing which permits are being  
5 applied for or need to be submitted is really helpful  
6 for us understanding the schedule of a project.

7           So as far as documentation to submit  
8 to us, we ask that you submit a schedule with  
9 realistic completion dates. We have a lot of  
10 applications that say they're going to get the design  
11 done, the construction done, you know, all on  
12 December 31st, and that's just not realistic. So we  
13 really need applicants to provide, you know, what --  
14 the dates that make their project run. Other  
15 documentation include permitting, so you can  
16 reference any completed permits or if they haven't  
17 been completed, if you have any permit determinations  
18 or consultations that have been done, you can forward  
19 us that information, and that's great, that way we  
20 know you've been kind of working on those items. For  
21 right-of-way, plats of subdivision, easement  
22 agreements, deeds or other documentations that you  
23 have on hand, that you own the property or have the  
24 right to, you know, build your project on that

1 property, that's great. And then if you're working  
2 with another public agency, getting a letter of  
3 support from that agency is very helpful too,  
4 especially if they can -- especially letting them  
5 know that this agreement between these two parties is  
6 needed until we can commit funding to your project.  
7 That is very important to let another public agency  
8 know that they can drag these negotiations on  
9 forever, or else, you know we -- it just ties up our  
10 funding, and we may decide, you know, this project is  
11 not worth funding because of that.

12           Finally, for any additional sources  
13 of funding that you're looking for, again,  
14 referencing a submitted application or submitting  
15 that notice of award or notice of funding, that will  
16 kind of be helpful to understand where you're at with  
17 that grant application.

18           Moving on to budgeting. Our  
19 applications ask that you break down the costs for  
20 your project. So these are the containers that we  
21 have: engineering design and management, permitting  
22 and right-of-way, stormwater and green infrastructure  
23 construction costs, and then the non-stormwater or  
24 non-GI construction costs. And then if we're looking

1 at the Flood-Prone Property Acquisition Program, that  
2 is the fair-market value of the properties.

3 So for these estimates, we ask that  
4 you provide a -- or for the construction estimate, at  
5 least, we ask that you provide a break down of  
6 construction tasks for the project, unit costs and  
7 quantities. We don't want lump sums, however, if  
8 there's a large item such as like a pre-fabricated  
9 underground storage unit, then providing a  
10 manufacturer quote would be very helpful. Your cost  
11 estimate needs to clearly identify the eligible  
12 stormwater element. So going line by line and  
13 highlighting what those stormwater elements are. And  
14 at the end of your estimate, we need to see  
15 contingency, inflation and any overhead and profit  
16 that have been accounted for. Finally, providing the  
17 source of your cost data and the date that data was  
18 gathered, again, that's really important.

19 So we ask all of this because MWRD  
20 can only fund -- MWRD funding can only be used to  
21 reimburse eligible construction costs. So that is  
22 stormwater infrastructure, green infrastructure, the  
23 related installation costs for those two items, or if  
24 it's an acquisition, just the acquisition of the

1 property.

2                   So what is not eligible:  
3 engineering, design, construction management,  
4 right-of-way and land acquisition, operations,  
5 maintenance and other non-construction-related costs,  
6 and this is an important one too, but work not  
7 directly incidental to the stormwater improvements.  
8 So some examples include sidewalk, road resurfacing,  
9 water main, sewer and other construction that go  
10 beyond what is incidental. So for example, if a  
11 project will be trenching a new storm sewer in a  
12 roadway, and they're -- you know, sometimes a partner  
13 will take that as an opportunity to also replace the  
14 water main. Well, if that new storm sewer doesn't  
15 cross the water main, then that would not be  
16 incidental to the construction. But if there is a  
17 conflict of those utilities and you need to relocate  
18 the water main, then that can be considered  
19 incidental to installing the stormwater  
20 infrastructure. Some other examples include public  
21 amenities, ornamental fencing and lighting  
22 improvements, and then we -- I made reference here to  
23 the IDOT methods of measurement, because sometimes we  
24 can use that as well as our basis for determining

1 what is incidental to the stormwater installation.

2 And then finally, in the budgeting  
3 section, we have additional funding sources, so how  
4 is the project being funded: is it a direct  
5 contribution from the applicant or partner, are you  
6 applying for a grant or cost-share program, or are  
7 you obtaining a loan or is there a stormwater fee  
8 that is being levied for the project. So we ask  
9 applicants to describe these sources of funding and  
10 the amount that each is contributing, have the funds  
11 been awarded or have they been budgeted already, how  
12 specifically will the funds be used on the project,  
13 will they be used for the stormwater infrastructure,  
14 for another portion of the project, and then when do  
15 the funds expire or is -- or when do the funds have  
16 to be used by. And then finally, is there a  
17 contingency. So sometimes a grant falls through, and  
18 we have to ask an applicant hey, can you still go  
19 through or go forward with this project knowing that,  
20 you know, you missed out on this grant. And  
21 describing how you'll be able to do that would be  
22 like really helpful for us.

23 So documentation for budgeting, this  
24 includes your cost estimate; for the applicant

1 funding, referencing line item in your budget book or  
2 a board action; and in lieu of those, you can also  
3 provide a commitment letter from your municipal  
4 executive with a specific amount of funding being  
5 committed and when that funding will be available.  
6 And then again, documentation for additional funding  
7 sources, providing a notice of funding opportunity or  
8 notice of award or referencing your submitted  
9 application again would be useful so that we know  
10 where you are in that application process.

11 So that's it for mainly for the  
12 general questions of our applications. And I will  
13 just quickly go over the program updates.

14 So in general, we have some new  
15 eligibility language. So projects can't be funded if  
16 they're constructed or will be constructed on leased  
17 property. And then we will not be considering  
18 projects that are currently soliciting bids or  
19 proposals. So you can't apply for a project that is  
20 currently, you know, being advertised.

21 For our Green Infrastructure  
22 Program, there was a large or big change in how  
23 reimbursements will be paid out. So that will be  
24 based now on a dollar per gallon of storm -- storage

1 constructed. There -- because of that, they updated  
2 their design retention capacity calculator, and you  
3 can download it here at  
4 [mwrdr.org/stormwater/partnerships/documents](http://mwrdr.org/stormwater/partnerships/documents). And then  
5 for their program in this cycle, design funding and  
6 an IGA needs to be executed by this year and then  
7 construction completed end of 2025. And then they  
8 have a Green Infrastructure Partnership Program  
9 webinar that will be November 13th at 10:00 a.m. via  
10 Zoom. The link to the event is here. And then I  
11 will forward Leslie an e-mail that we'll send out  
12 probably next week, so that everybody in this  
13 watershed will get that information.

14 For the Stormwater Partnership  
15 Program, what's new is that a benefit cost analysis  
16 may be required for projects greater than 3 million  
17 in construction costs. And then I mentioned this  
18 before, but we have this new prioritization list  
19 where we prioritize applicants based on certain  
20 internal metrics. So that can include, you know,  
21 impacted and benefited structures, storage to be  
22 provided, the frequency and types of flooding, the  
23 economic needs of the community and previous  
24 assistance from the MWRD. And then we take a look at

1 some of these checklist items, such as right-of-way,  
2 the non-MWRD funding, we take a look at those items,  
3 and see if they can be reasonably completed before an  
4 IGA can be signed and funding received.

5 Finally, the Voluntary Flood-Prone  
6 Property Acquisition Program has some new questions  
7 in their application, including a post-acquisition  
8 narrative; and then the FEMA pre-calculated benefit  
9 has been increased to \$360,000. So that means any  
10 acquisitions that exceed that pre-calculated benefit  
11 will require a BCA.

12 So that's it for my presentation.  
13 Again, please visit [mwrdd.org/stormwater/partnership](http://mwrdd.org/stormwater/partnership)  
14 for more information and to apply.

15 Do you have any questions, I'll take  
16 them now.

17 MS. RAUER: Thanks, Mark.

18 Does anyone have any questions for  
19 Mark?

20 (No response.)

21 MS. RAUER: Well great. Thank you so much  
22 for all the very important information.

23 MR. CASTILLO: Oh, Holly, GIPP just stands for  
24 Green Infrastructure Partnership Program.

1 All right. Thank you.

2 MS. RAUER: Thanks, Mark.

3 So next we have Watershed Management  
4 Ordinance update with Maureen Durkin.

5 MS. DURKIN: Thank you. And thank you, Mark,  
6 for running the slides since I can't do that from my  
7 iPad here.

8 So anyhow, yeah, as you heard, my  
9 name is Maureen Durkin, and I manage the Local Sewer  
10 Section here, at the Water Reclamation District,  
11 where one of our main duties is to administer the  
12 Watershed Management Ordinance. And as part of that  
13 Ordinance, we also run the Infiltration and Inflow  
14 Control Program. So I will just give a brief  
15 overview of some current topics and new developments  
16 in the work that we do.

17 So first off, we have a redesigned  
18 website, and it looks like this. If you go to  
19 mwrdd.org, you can find information about the  
20 Watershed Management Ordinance by clicking doing  
21 business, as you see circled there, you could go  
22 straight to our page by using the website address  
23 shown there, which is mwrdd.org/wmo. When you get  
24 there, this is what you will see. And for anybody

1 who is in the process of preparing a permit  
2 application, I recommend that they take a look at the  
3 area in the red box over there on the right. And we  
4 put links to the relevant information there,  
5 including the permit application forms, as well as  
6 the Ordinance and the Technical Guidance Manual,  
7 itself. And you can also click on the links to find  
8 out how to access some of the resources we offer. We  
9 offer pre-application meetings as a helpful resource,  
10 permit inquiries that's for when you're doing  
11 development or a design and you would like to receive  
12 a copy of an already issued permit in the area there.  
13 And in order to figure out how new design is affected  
14 by what is already in place, that's a service that we  
15 offer. Also, permit determination letters, if  
16 there's a question of whether a certain project would  
17 even need a permit or not. We will answer that when  
18 requested in writing. There's a link to information  
19 about permit revisions, and then the Infiltration and  
20 Inflow Control Program, and a few other programs that  
21 we have going on.

22 So this shows the examples of what  
23 anybody will need to use if they submitted a permit  
24 application. They need to do so through our online

1 system, which is called WPASS, and there is a link to  
2 actually do that from our website. There's also  
3 instructions and guidance about how to use our WPASS  
4 system, and how to contact us if you have a question.  
5 And then also, we have a link about how you can  
6 submit your permit fee electronically. We also do  
7 accept checks, but a lot of people choose the  
8 electronic option for the convenience of it.

9           Okay. So what else is new, we  
10 amended the Watershed Management Ordinance last  
11 spring. It was a pretty small -- small in scope, but  
12 we felt we needed to do it because we had just  
13 learned that the Chicago District of the Army Corps  
14 of Engineers is no longer prioritizing issuance of  
15 jurisdictional determinations. Now, what that means,  
16 what the impact is as the Watershed Management  
17 Ordinance does regulate impacts to isolated wetlands.  
18 And until May 2nd of this year, it had been written  
19 such that any development involving wetlands or  
20 impact to wetlands or wetland buffers required a  
21 jurisdictional determination from the Army Corps of  
22 Engineers determining whether the wetlands on the  
23 site were jurisdictional wetlands, and therefore,  
24 regulated by the Corps; or isolated wetlands, which

1 then are not regulated by the Corps and are regulated  
2 by the MWRD. So that process, the JD was a step that  
3 every development involving wetlands had to go  
4 through. With the Chicago District, in essence,  
5 suspending that service, we had to change the  
6 Ordinance around to allow a path forward that doesn't  
7 rely on the jurisdictional determinations. So this  
8 table here summarizes that, and we've added the  
9 language to Articles 3 and 6 to reflect it, so that  
10 if there is a wetland impact proposed, we ask for the  
11 actual Corps' permit or a document from the Corps  
12 indicating that the impact is allowed. Otherwise, we  
13 will regulates the wetland as an isolated wetland  
14 following the rules of the WMO. If there is no  
15 wetland impact proposed, then we need a document from  
16 the Corps indicating that the wetland is a  
17 jurisdictional wetland. So if you have a JD, that  
18 may still be submitted, but otherwise, the wetland  
19 will be regulated as an isolated wetland. And the  
20 case of isolated wetlands, if there is an impact  
21 proposed, we would require a document from the Corps  
22 indicating that the Section 404 permit is not  
23 required or the wetland is not a jurisdictional  
24 wetland, and then of course we would regulate it as

1 isolated. And if there's no impact proposed, then we  
2 would seek a document from the Corps or a document  
3 from the Corps stating that the permit is not  
4 required, and of course, then we would regulate that  
5 as an isolated wetland.

6 The amended Ordinance is available  
7 on our website, and the links are shown there.

8 In the mean time, we've been working  
9 for a little over a year on a larger amendment to the  
10 Watershed Management Ordinance. The goal is to  
11 update terminology, make some changes that have  
12 become I'll say evident to the MWRD in the course of  
13 administering the WMO and reviewing permits, some  
14 questions that have come up and areas where language  
15 isn't clear or also just certain aspects where now  
16 that we're 10 years into actually administering the  
17 Watershed Management Ordinance, certain things we've  
18 come to learn. Our assumptions made early on, before  
19 we had a Watershed Management Ordinance, that you  
20 know, maybe were not correct. So we were trying to  
21 clean that up in this larger amendment. And the  
22 changes -- change language affects the articles and  
23 the appendices shown on this list. So I will recap  
24 some of the more significant ones.

1           Okay. So some of the more  
2 significant ones: In Article 2, there is language  
3 currently about a pilot study that is underway to  
4 study offsite retention based practices and offsite  
5 detention facilities into the watershed planning  
6 areas. So at the request of certain groups that have  
7 an interest in seeing this, I will mention there  
8 really haven't been that many developments that have  
9 utilized offsite facilities to meet their WMO  
10 compliance yet -- our WMO requirements yet. So a  
11 request was made to extend that pilot study, and so  
12 we're proposing to do that to allow for one more  
13 year. We will also be adding language that will  
14 allow for use of such facilities as long as we  
15 receive the permit for the construction of those  
16 facilities before this deadline, we will allow for  
17 those facilities to be utilized even after the end of  
18 the study. So that is something that the group is  
19 interested in seeing this take off, if you will.  
20 We're very happy about it.

21           Another change we are proposing to  
22 make has to do with volume control. We're proposing  
23 to increase the property holding thresholds at which  
24 volume control is required, from a half acre to one

1 acre, and we are also proposing to increase the  
2 threshold of impervious area from a tenth of an acre  
3 to half acre, at which volume control is required.

4 We've also made some changes or  
5 clarifications regarding permit applicability. So  
6 we've narrowed the scope a little bit, about when a  
7 permit is needed for a newer reconstructed outfall.  
8 We're going to limit that or seeking to limit that to  
9 the controlled waterways, like the Sanitary Ship  
10 Canal and Lake Michigan. And a modification of  
11 greater than and/or equal to half an acre of  
12 detention surface area will require a permit. So  
13 just -- It was a little bit unclear about if there  
14 was redevelopment in an area tributary to a permit  
15 detention facility, what the expectation is. So  
16 we're clarifying that if the modification is a half  
17 acre or more, a permit is needed. Similarly,  
18 clarifying that a modification to the control  
19 structure, the pond configuration or the volume of a  
20 detention -- or sorry, volume control facility,  
21 detention facility or comp storage facility, any of  
22 those things could require a permit.

23 For the floodplain, we are adding  
24 language that will codify what our policy has been,

1 which is if there's a development in the floodplain  
2 of Lake Michigan, that compensatory storage is not  
3 required. And in the section on riparian  
4 environments, we would like to introduce a minimum  
5 threshold at which mitigation is needed. So that  
6 certain projects that we have seen, such as building  
7 a stormwater outfall or providing access to a boat  
8 dock, if it's such a small impact below the threshold  
9 we are proposing, then they don't need to come up  
10 with a mitigation -- riparian mitigation plan.

11 In Appendix A, which is where our  
12 definitions are, we are tweaking some definitions to  
13 be inline -- better inline with FEMA's own  
14 definitions or clarifying things that were unclear.  
15 We're adding a couple of terms as well.

16 And in Appendix F, that's our  
17 appendix that talks about permit fees. We're  
18 proposing to change the fees for when there are  
19 inspections associated with violations from a \$250  
20 per visit fee to \$750 flat fee. That will be easier  
21 for all parties to actually administer.

22 So those are some of the more  
23 noteworthy major changes we are seeking. The next  
24 step is really up to our Board of Commissioners. We

1 will be going to our Board seeking authority for them  
2 to review the proposed changes in early November, and  
3 then our hope is to go to the Board and seek  
4 authority to actually make the changes at the -- in  
5 the third week of November, and we hope that they  
6 will.

7           Once we do have this adopted, we  
8 will be updating the Technical Guidance Manual, and  
9 the articles shown here will need to be updated.  
10 Actually, Article 5 will as well. So I probably  
11 should have added that to this list.

12           Okay. Talking a little bit about  
13 the Infiltration and Inflow Control Program, I think  
14 this information has been discussed at these meetings  
15 before, but basically, the program has several short-  
16 term requirements, and then once a satellite entity,  
17 which is an owner of sanitary sewers, so most  
18 municipalities, once they have finished their short-  
19 term requirements that are laid out in the Ordinance,  
20 then they move on to the long-term operation and  
21 maintenance phase. And the Ordinance required  
22 completion of the short-term requirements within five  
23 years of the inception of the program. So that was  
24 back in 2019. In spite of that, not every community

1 has actually done that. We're working with those  
2 that haven't. And in all cases, we do require annual  
3 summary reports, whether it's one report if your  
4 community has not finished the short-term  
5 requirements and another one if they have finished  
6 those, and they're in the long-term operation and  
7 maintenance phase of the program. If there are any  
8 questions about how to comply or whether there are  
9 outstanding concerns about their activities or their  
10 annual summary reports, anyone should contact Ann  
11 Gray, and her information is shown there.

12           This content I did mention this,  
13 short-term requirements have to be completed, and the  
14 satellite entity transition to the long-term program.

15           This is a reminder, I think we said  
16 this before as well, but it's good to remind people  
17 that construction under our permits has to be  
18 monitored by our Local Sewer Field Office, and they  
19 must be notified before construction work begins so  
20 that they know they have to go out there and begin  
21 inspecting. There are several ways that notification  
22 can happen: We have a phone number; we also have a  
23 convenient e-mail address, shown here.

24           Please be reminded that development

1 for which a WMO permit is required cannot begin until  
2 we issue a permit. It seems obvious, but this comes  
3 up quite a lot. Villages are responsible to ensure  
4 that their new staff are aware of the WMO and of the  
5 responsibilities of villages, as permittee. We have  
6 observed some villages that have experienced  
7 turnover, sometimes a lot of turnover, where the  
8 staff that we are interacting with have very little  
9 awareness of the Watershed Management Ordinance. So  
10 it's worth repeating that villages play a critical  
11 role in preventing construction without a permit or  
12 knowing that they should not allow construction in  
13 advance of receiving a permit. Villages should not  
14 issue grading permits before WMO permits are issued,  
15 and they certainly should not issue occupancy permits  
16 until after the request for final inspection, which  
17 is one of our forms is signed. And as system  
18 engineers and permittee, the village is expected to  
19 actually inspect the work that is going on under the  
20 WMO permit. Sometimes we're not sure that the  
21 villages are sending folks out to these sites, so  
22 there is an expectation of that.

23 Okay. This is a brief reminder that  
24 we're seeking current GIS files of municipal sanitary

1 sewer atlases, sewers of any kind. That is a helpful  
2 resource to us, as we do our work. We're seeking  
3 sanitary, storm and combined sewers, and they can be  
4 e-mailed to the address shown here.

5 Okay. So contact updates, some are  
6 new, some are not, but you can see here who to reach  
7 out to for the various services that we provide. One  
8 minor change is pre-application meetings now those  
9 are coordinated by our engineering technician,  
10 Jeremiah, instead of Dan Feltes. His info is there.  
11 And that's pretty much all I have.

12 There is my contact information. So  
13 any question relating to the WMO or permits can  
14 always be directed to me as well, and I'll make sure  
15 they get answered or get routed to the in-house  
16 expert. So with that, I'll take any questions.

17 MS. RAUER: Thank you, Maureen.

18 Does anyone have any questions for  
19 Maureen?

20 (No response.)

21 MS. RAUER: Thank you so much.

22 MS. HUDSON: I have a question. So thanks  
23 Mark and Maureen, really great overviews.

24 I was just curious with the

1 contacts, are they regional? Like does MWRD break up  
2 contacts regionally or is it Districtwide for those  
3 topics?

4 MS. DURKIN: Do you mean the list of contacts  
5 on the slide that was shown a moment ago?

6 MS. HUDSON: Yes. Like is this just for the  
7 Council here, on the Southern section of the County?

8 So I was just curious if it's  
9 applicable to the whole county or MWRD service area  
10 or they're broken up by, you only contact Ann Gray if  
11 you're down here. If you're up in Des Plaines, you  
12 have to contact --

13 MS. DURKIN: So what you see here is these  
14 are contacts for the whole county. Where we do have  
15 some regional specific points of contact with our  
16 inspectors, who inspect the field work, and then the  
17 engineers they report to, we have an engineer for the  
18 north area, the central area and the south area. But  
19 those contacts would be made on a permit-specific  
20 basis. So really, the first interaction for  
21 inspection would be to send an e-mail to the one we  
22 had on the previous slide, which was  
23 wmojobstart@mwrdd.org, and then we'll send the  
24 inspector out.



1 MS. RAUER: Great. January 16th, April 17th,  
2 July 17th, and October 16th at 4:30 p.m.

3 Next item of business, do we have  
4 any public comments?

5 (No response.)

6 MS. RAUER: And if there's nothing else, then  
7 we're going to move to adjournment. Do I have a  
8 motion?

9 MR. SMITH: I will make the motion to  
10 adjourn.

11  
12 MS. RAUER: Thank you, Brian.

13  
14 All those in favor aye.

15  
16 (Chorus of ayes.)

17  
18 MS. RAUER: Thank you so much, and we will  
19  
20 see you all in January.

21  
22 (The meeting adjourned  
23  
24 at 5:32 p.m.)

