LITTLE CALUMET RIVER

WATERSHED PLANNING COUNCIL

Held remotely on Thursday, October 19, 2023, commencing at the hour of 4:30 o'clock, p.m.

PRESENT:

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
Mick Cosme
Maureen Durkin
Herman Lopez
Rich Fisher
Joe Kratzer
Annie Wright

ALSO PRESENT:
Kristi DeLaurentiis
Members of the Public.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: This is the Little Calumet Watershed Planning Council, and I wanted to just welcome everybody today to the October 19th meeting, and appreciate all of the attendance that we have and the representatives from both the agencies and the municipalities.

At this time, I will do a roll call so that we've got another way to ensure that we've got record of your attendance here.

Starting -- I have a roll call list, but maybe you can also show that on the screen.

The City of Blue Island?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: City of Calumet City?

MS. JAFFREY: Present.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Calumet Park?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: City of Chicago?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: City of Chicago Heights?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Crestwood?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Dixmoor?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Dolton?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of East Hazel Crest?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Flossmoor?

MR. BRUNKE: Present.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Thank you.

Village of Ford Heights?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Glenwood?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: City of Harvey?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Hazel Crest?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Homewood?

MR. SCHAEFER: Present.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Lansing?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Lynnwood?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village -- or City of Markham?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Matteson?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Midlothian?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: City of Oak Forest?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Olympia Fields?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Orland Hills?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Orland Park?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Park Forest?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Phoenix?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Richton Park?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Riverdale?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Robbins?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Sauk Village?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of South Chicago Heights?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of South Holland?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Steger?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Thornton?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of Tinley Park?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Village of University Park?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Do we have anyone representing Incorporated Cook County?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Anyone from Bloom Township?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Bremen Township?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Calumet Township

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Orland Township?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Rich Township?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Thornton Township?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Again, if you have not signed into the chat box, just go ahead and include your name and affiliation.

And if you have any questions at the conclusion of any of the presentations when there is some opportunity for questions, please identify yourself as we have a court reporter, who is transcribing the activity today of this meeting. Thank you.

At this time I will turn -- Well, I want to just state that we have received a transcript of the council meeting from July 20, 2023, and these meetings are transcribed and both the Water Reclamation District and SSMA have a chance to review

that, and they are being accepted as filed.

And now I would like to invite Joe Kratzer, from MWRD, to present on stormwater management services.

Joe, you should have access to the screen, if you've got slides.

MR. KRATZER: So thank you to the Little Calumet Watershed Council for giving us time today to talk about our efforts to collect information about areas outside of the District boundaries but within Cook County.

Again, my name is Joe Kratzer, Managing Civil Engineer in the District's Stormwater Management Section.

I wanted to start off by giving some background. We have a couple of public acts, state legislature acts, that gave us original authority back in 2003 for our Stormwater Management Program, and then in 1995, our act was amended to specify certain types of services that the District can perform outside of the District's corporate boundaries but within Cook County and added a provision that allows units of local government in those areas to collect fees and remit those fees to

the District for stormwater services, so in those areas we don't provide wastewater treatment collection services. There is the ability for communities to collect fees that would contribute to our Stormwater Management Program, but we have yet to figure out the mechanics for that. So that's why we're here talking today.

I also wanted to point out there are approximately 48,000 parcels within Cook County, but outside of our corporate boundaries. So that -- what sounds like a large number of parcels, really represents about 8 percent of the land area of Cook County. And if you look it up on a population standpoint, it's only 2.3 percent of our population and just under 2 percent of the equalized assessed value of Cook County.

So there are a number of municipalities. There's actually 24 municipalities and five townships that are either partly or outside the District's corporate boundaries. I'll show you a list of those, but you can see on the slide here in the South Cook County portion, there is a number of municipalities. For the most part, if you look at areas -- large areas in Homewood and Chicago Heights

and Park Forest, South Chicago Heights as well, there are a number of communities on this list that there's really only a small sliver of land that lies outside of our District.

This is the list I mentioned, and it's probably worth noting that a lot of these communities in here, the ones noted with an asterisk, Park Forest, for example, actually have adopted stormwater development or management ordinances of the neighboring counties. Park Forest has adopted the Will County Stormwater Management Ordinance.

So earlier this year, we did a survey of the District's -- of the communities partly or entirely located outside the District's boundaries and asked a series of questions related to their stormwater management needs, and I'll kind of highlight those in the next few slides, and then asked a couple questions about the collection of fees for stormwater management services. That was really more or less to get an idea of what kind of problems are plaguing communities from a stormwater perspective and what would be their interest in figuring out a way to collect fees.

So you could see here, the response

rate was pretty good. We had -- We looked at -- The total number of communities we surveyed was 29, and 14 out of those 29 responded, and actually that represents the vast majority of the communities that have large areas of land outside of the District. So it was, you know, roughly 90 percent of those responses that we received were for areas outside of the District that had large land areas. So we felt like we got a pretty good response from those communities that we really wanted to hear from.

And this just shows in another form the top ten communities by largest land areas who responded. So again, I feel like we got some pretty good coverage in our responses.

So here's the results of the questions we asked, and really just starting on the upper left, you could see we asked questions about, you know, do communities suffer from overbank flooding or urban flooding, and it was about fifty-fifty -- actually, it was either riverine or urban and flooding -- riverine and flooding. So there's certainly a lot of different types of flooding that occurs in communities, some that have more riverine than others, but by and large, there

was flooding issues recorded in just about all of the communities that we heard from.

We also heard that, you know, there's undersized sewers in local -- undersized sewers was kind of the main issue with local flooding. We looked at, you know, does the community already have a master plan or some type of capital improvement plan that would guide them in developing stormwater management projects, and you can see the majority of them did, about 64 percent.

And then we started asking questions about would they -- would communities be interested in a fee-based partnership, it was a little bit more varied, but the majority said yes, the majority of the respondents, and I will get into those respondents a little bit more.

And then the final question was would you be willing to participate in future discussions, and that's kind of why we're here, today.

So digging into the details of the survey a little bit more, we looked at the communities who responded that they had both riverine and urban flooding, and they appeared to be more

interested in participating in fee-based program than those who just indicated one type of flooding, whether it's riverine or urban. You know, that makes sense, communities that probably flood more would be more interested.

Then when we asked the question about the -- do they have a master plan or not, those that said yes, you know, seem to be more interested in participating in a fee-based program than those that don't. It's not to say communities that don't have a master plan or capital improvement plan wouldn't be interested in partnering, it's just that we heard kind of more loud and clear that there's an appetite for figuring out a way to work with MWRD to help advance projects.

And then the next few slides I just want to talk about some of the complexities of the fee collection and calculation that need to be kind of thought through and just want to get this information out there. Obviously, there's a number of communities that we would want to share this information with outside of just this meeting, and we're going to follow-up with everybody separately, but from -- separate from this meeting, not

individually necessarily. We do want to make sure people understand that this isn't just hey, I need to say yes, I'm interested, and we can start partnering on projects. There's a little bit more that goes into it.

So as noted, our amended legislative authority describes the way -- the mechanism that we would have to collect revenue for areas outside of the District is through a fee, and it's different than a tax that the fee is -- Well, I guess the definition under Illinois law is a fee is defined as a charge fixed by law for services of public officers and regarded as compensation for services rendered, where a tax is a charge having no direct relation to services rendered. It's really assessed to provide general revenue rather than compensation. The fee can be no more than the value of services provided, like it says on the slide here. So therefore, we have to track all of the expenses, as well as the location of where the services are provided and that gets tricky.

Our stormwater management levy is approximately 3 cents per hundred dollars of equalized assessed value for properties in our

service area, and that's checked through real estate or ad valorem taxes. In order to collect the fees necessary to provide services outside of the District or within Cook County, we would ask the local municipalities and townships to collect fees based on this rate and remit that to the District. Now, fees could be collected through some mechanisms that already exist through a water bill or if a community has a stormwater utility fee, they could collect those in addition to the fee they collect already. But that would have to be done separately from the real estate or ad valorem taxes.

So here is a list of a few potential issues or challenges with the assessment of assessment and collection of fees. Essentially, this would require pretty extensive accounting. As I mentioned, you have to kind of account for the fee and where it's provided, and many of our services are provided countywide, so it could be pretty difficult to determine the fees to be assessed in each community.

So we've been collecting revenue to support our program from residents in the District corporate boundaries for years and using it to plan

and finance regional or local stormwater projects and administer our Watershed Management Ordinance. We want to make sure that anything we do to collect fees would be done in a fair way -- fair and equitable way. So really, all communities should be contributing in an equitable manner for these services. If we didn't collect fees, you know, in these areas outside the District and provided services, those folks that already are in our District and paying for those services might consider that unfair.

As mentioned, a fee is different from a tax, and the fee has to be a reasonable calculation of the District's cost to provide the services. You know, some of the things we have been doing outside the District, I wanted to touch on. We did develop our Detailed Watershed Plans in our Ordinance and considered the areas outside the District that are hydrologically connected to areas that are inside the District. And you know, we wanted to make sure that those areas were included in those efforts because it just makes sense from a technical standpoint to make sure we're accounting for runoff when we look at watershed studies and

potential alternatives.

And additionally, we wanted to make sure that streams are properly maintained throughout the area, and so we've extended the Small Streams Maintenance Program in areas outside our District boundaries. We haven't really provided location specific stormwater management services such as capital improvement projects in areas outside the District's corporate boundaries; however, you know, we could look at projects that are located in an area outside the District as long as they could provide benefits within our corporate limits without collecting any fees at this time, at least in part, so depending on the nature of the project.

I thought I would give an example project. You'll hear -- You guys have heard many times about our stormwater partnership programs, and you know, you'll probably hear a little bit more later in one of the other presentations about our Green Infrastructure Partnership Program, but I wanted to given an example.

So if we were to identify a project located outside of our corporate boundaries for a partnership, and again, you guys understand how we

collect or how we solicit projects through an application process. There is, you know, applications received from all over the county, and we evaluate and prioritize the projects based on our available funding and other project metrics to determine which ones we partner with. So there's no guarantee any project, whether it's inside the District or outside the District would be selected. It's just assuming one was identified for a partnership here.

Let's say the project cost was $500,000 to put in permeable pavers in a city hall, the city would be required to provide some of its own funding. And this example would say 50 percent would be available from the city and then if the District was to provide funding for the other 50 percent, we would have to work with that municipality to collect the fees for that. And just kind of looking at an average EAV or average home with a sale price of $300,000, the EAV is estimated at approximately $87,000, multiply that by our stormwater levy, which is 3 cents -- approximately 3 cents per hundred dollars in EAV, that would generate $25 from a typical resident. Now, the fees can be apportioned

across a benefiting area. So say there was 25 residential properties that benefited in this example, you multiply that by $25 a year to pay back that portion of the District's funding, it would take, you know, hundreds of years. So that's not really practical. What potentially could be done, is that the city could assess the fee across their entire municipality, not just the benefiting area, and look to be able to recover that cost much quicker.

In this example, the hundred thousand or sorry, the $250,000 funding that we would need to be repaid through that fee collection would be collected in just a couple years if they collect $125,000 a year.

So the plan for the District is to, you know, kind of collect a little bit more information. After we got the first survey, we definitely determined there was an interest, but we wanted to share some of these scenarios and considerations and perform a follow-up survey. So we'll be sending that out before the end of the year to get a little bit more input. We also wanted after we get that input to develop some alternative

scenarios, and you know, see what, you know, people really -- individual communities would be interested in doing to advance some type of fee collection system. And then ultimately, we need to report back to our Board of Commissioners to inform some type of policy direction regarding these alternative that we recommend.

So at this time, I do want to open it up for any questions on this item. I would appreciate if, you know, any community has specific questions about a particular project, I'd be happy to answer some general questions, I think it would be better to save those specific questions for the survey that we're going to do as follow-up. And then we'll make sure that when we send out the survey, we leave room or opportunity for people to ask those more specific questions.

But we're a pretty small group, I'm happy to entertain any questions right now.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Are there any questions for Joe?

And if you have any, take yourself off mute and introduce yourself for the record.

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Joe, I do have a question. I don't see anyone who has their hand up or who is speaking, but I wanted to ask, when you're suggesting the fee scenario, is that -- are you looking for a uniform fee structure across the entire county or is that essentially, you know, proposed and negotiated with individual municipalities who may be establishing those fees?

MR. KRATZER: I think that's a good question, Kristi. I think we would love to see some type of uniform way to do it, but I don't think it's kind of a one size fits all necessarily -- I don't think there's a solution that would fit every community the same. So I think we'd be thrilled if we could find, you know, a one-size-fits-all solution. My guess we would have to work with individual communities. We can't necessarily force people to, you know, opt into this program, but we want to make sure if people are interested in doing it, we come up with ways that would work for them.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: And just another question that I have is, you know, really maybe just exposing my ignorance on this one.

Many of the municipalities are

actual watershed members that you identify that have areas within their communities that are outside the watershed, so Flossmoor, Chicago Heights and others on those maps. Homewood had areas that were not within the watershed. And so is the expectation that if they wanted any assistance within those areas, they would have to set up sort of a stand alone collection fee, and as you said, either it could be just within those areas that are being now served or it could be community wide, is that what I understood you to say?

MR. KRATZER: Yes. Essentially, yeah, for those communities, like the ones you mentioned, we would be looking to try to establish that fee collection system before we could start partnering with them on projects.

I did mention there is, you know, kind of a possibility already if there are projects that exist or that would be proposed to us that provide benefits, you know, within our corporate boundaries today, those are certainly projects that we could entertain, but we would have to kind of look at where those benefits lie, are they primarily in the District or are they maybe just extending mostly

outside the District but extending a little bit into the District. So we would have to take a look at those on a project-by-project basis. I would be interested in seeing if that might exist or if that might advance the dialogue working with a community that would like to see, you know, some assistance from the District on a project that has benefits both kind of outside our current limits and inside limits.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Any further questions for Joe?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Thank very much for this, and we'll wait the next round of the survey.

MR. KRATZER: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Next on the agenda is the capital improvement update by Herman.

MR. LOPEZ: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Herman Lopez, I'll briefly go through a couple of projects, capital improvement projects that have had some significant updates since the last meeting.

You might be familiar with this time lapse, it's commonly shown at the WPC, and it shows

stormwater infrastructure projects that the District has been involved with since January 2011. The projects are differentiated between regional, local, green infrastructure and FPPA, which are the programs that the stormwater group manages.

This project that we're going to introduce as an update is the Robbins second phase, flood control project on Midlothian Creek.

Currently, Phase 1 is under construction and is scheduled for completion in spring 2024.

For the Phase 2, the construction is planned to begin summer of 2024. This is a picture of how it currently looks.

The detention basin on Butterfield Creek in Richton Park is one of the projects from the partnership program that Joe was mentioning. For this project, Richton Park contributed around 10 percent of the total construction costs with the District's contribution of just under 2 million dollars.

This is how the expansion of that detention basin looks like in April 2022. That was before the beginning of the expansion efforts, and

this picture to the right was recently taken this past summer.

And lastly, this project, Central Park stormwater detention basin and separate storm sewer improvements in Harvey, this -- The object of this project is that 1.5 million dollars from the ARPA funding superseding an agreement with the District are going to be made available to continue working on this project. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring of 2024, and final design is under development.

This is a summary of the different programs and the current status of the applications for the call for projects. So if municipalities are interested in partnering with MWRD on a stormwater project, please consider applying to one of our partnership programs. We recently opened up applications for conceptual projects and voluntary flood-prone property acquisition on October 2nd.

For the Green Infrastructure Partnership Program, call for projects is currently open. This year, there is a mandatory pre-application due on December 31st. Full applications will be made available to pre-applicants

in early 2024.

For the Flood-Prone Property Acquisition Program, the call for projects is currently open. There is no pre-application, just one application form due by January 28, 2024.

Call for projects is currently open for conceptual projects. Please submit your pre-application by December 8th. The pre-application includes a meeting request so MWRD can schedule a meeting with you to discuss the project. Meetings will be held until December 29th. Full applications will be made available to pre-applicants following the meeting with MWRD staff.

And for the Stormwater Partnership Program, applications will be open this fall for projects that are in design or shovel ready.

All information is available on the website.

Please let us know if you have any questions. You can reach out to stormwater@mwrd.org or let us know.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Are there any questions for Herman?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Hearing none, we'll call on Maureen Durkin for local sewer system update.

MS. DURKIN: So I'm just here -- I work in the Local Sewer Section, as you said, and I'm here to give an update about the Watershed Management Ordinance and our Infiltration and Inflow Control Program.

So first to note is that we are working on updates to the following chapters or articles in our Technical Guidance Manual, they're the next in line for updates. That would be Article 3, for permit requirements and submittals; Article 6, for flood protection areas; and Article 7, for sewer construction.

In addition, we will be updating all of the articles listed here as we prepare another amendment to the WMO. That's currently under development right now. This amendment is actually intended to clarify certain requirements, correct certain requirements, make it a little bit clearer on what we actually need to see done in certain circumstances. It's not driven by a particular

regulatory pressure, but actually, the impotence is overall improvement of how we go about reviewing the permit applications and ensuring that there is adequate stormwater management performed in conjunction with development in Cook County.

So I'm going through a quick summary of what the more substantive proposed changes in that amendment are. So between Articles 2 and 5, we are looking at limiting the number of permits for which -- or the types of outfalls for which permits are required. Right now, any new outfall or re-constructed outfall triggers the need for a WMO permit, and we intend to limit that to only outfalls along the District's controlled waterways or to Lake Michigan. In addition, activities involving modification to District permitted volume control or comp storage facilities or detention service areas or major stormwater systems will require a permit. That is not explicitly stated in the Ordinance now.

Another change is that we will clarify within the WMO that development on property already subject to detention requirements under previously issued District permits will require a permit, regardless of the property holding size. And

that's because we've encountered some confusion about this. If it's a property size that currently falls below our threshold, but there's MWRD required detention onsite, we want to make it clear in the Ordinance, a permit is needed for changes to those properties, to development of those properties.

Another change that we are intending to propose with this amendment is to increase the property holding from a half acre to one acre and the impervious area threshold from a tenth of an acre to half acre for when volume control provisions of Article 5 apply.

Moving on to Article 6, we intend to look for ways to streamline the review process for wetlands. In particular, we want to see if there's anything more we can do to reduce the reliance on obtaining a Corps jurisdictional determination in order to receive a permit that involves wetlands. Right now, almost every project that involves wetlands needs to get a Corps jurisdictional determination in order to know if the wetlands are isolated, and therefore, regulated under the Watershed Management Ordinance or jurisdictional, and therefore, regulated by the Corps. Unfortunately,

due to a variety of reasons, it's not uncommon for it to take a long time to actually receive a Corps jurisdictional determination. And we get this comment from a lot of developers and design engineers, so we're looking for ways to streamline that process but not sacrifice the protection to the wetlands.

In addition, for riparian environments, we want to introduce a minimum threshold for impact that require mitigation under certain circumstances. So for example, right now there's no minimum impact area. So certain impacts that are actually very small, such as public access to a bridge or a stormwater outfall trigger the need for riparian environment mitigation. We want to establish a minimum threshold.

In addition, we want to offer some mitigation alternatives including minimum spatial ratio for riparian environment creation for each acre impacted and/or an opportunity to actually do some restoration work as a means of mitigation for impacts to riparian environment. The thought being, it might actually be a greater benefit to removing invasive species from riparian environment as a means of

mitigating rather than going in and creating a larger riparian environment. So we're exploring some of those alternatives.

In Appendix A, that's our appendix that contains the definition of terms. We are going to update and add some new definitions that are listed here.

Appendix F, which is where the permit fees are described, we intend to add a flat fee for when a violation is discovered by the District to replace the current fee structure of $250 for violation. We have a flat fee being collected as part of a permit review. It's going to be simpler for all parties to actually collect and pay for the inspection work that we will have to do with violations.

So our next steps in this process are to provide a redline -- a marked-up redline draft of the proposed amendment at our Technical Advisory Committee meeting which will be held in the middle of November, about a month from now. It will take in to account the comments of the Technical Advisory Committee meeting, and after that, we intend to provide a redline draft to the public for comment.

We will have a public comment period, as we almost always do with amendments, and that will be later on, probably early next year.

And drafted updates of course are subject to change, and ultimately, any changes to the WMO have to be approved by our Board of Commissioners.

Moving on to the I & I program. The annual summary reports are due on March 1st of every year to detail the work that has been performed by the sanitary sewer system owner or satellite entity within the preceding year. As a remainder, and I think this has been brought up in past watershed planning council meetings, the five-year period for complying with the short-term requirements of the IICP is past due. If a village present here has not done so, please submit as soon as possible any past annual summary reports that haven't been finalized yet or approved yet by us, as well as the long-term O & N plan and private sector plan documents. Those are the minimum requirements for the short-term requirement part of the program, and we still need those from a number of satellite entities.

If you're not sure of your status,

in the IICP, it's been a while, you need a reminder, please reach out to Ann Gray, and her contact information is listed here.

And as a reminder, once the short-term requirements are completed and approved by MWRD, the satellite entities transition to the long-term program, where they follow the LTOMP and PSP to provide a minimum amount of necessary oversight for the sanitary sewer system to keep it in working order.

This is another reminder that we would like to make because it's kind of a chronic problem for us. Construction under issued Watershed Management Ordinance permit is monitored by our local sewer system field office, and we just want to remind anyone and everyone that the field office must be notified before construction work begins. We ask for two days' notice, and notification can be made by calling the number shown here or sending an e-mail to wmojobstart@mwrd.org.

And we would just like to remind everyone and anyone that development for which a permit is required can't begin until we've issued the permit. That has been an issue in various places

throughout the District.

Villages are responsible to ensure that new staff are aware of the WMO and of the responsibilities of the village as permittee. This is something that we have observed, with any organization, there's turnover, people move on, people move to other villages; and we're relying on the villages to at least understand the basics of what they're responsible for. So the villages play a critical role in preventing construction without a permit in advance of receiving the permit. And we just want to remind folks that villages should not be issuing grading permits before the WMO permit is issued, and they should certainly not be issuing occupancy permits unless after a request for final inspection, RFI, is signed. A copy always goes to the permittee, to the village, so that's how we'll know. The village is expected to inspect the work under construction and to sign the RFI, so they are involved in the process.

This is another reminder, I know we've made it at previous WPC meetings, but if you haven't shared your GIS sewer system files with us for sanitary sewer system, storm sewer systems or

combined systems, if you haven't, please do so. You can send an e-mail to the e-mail address listed there. This is extremely helpful in the course of reviewing permit applications and frankly all of the work that we do. This is a valuable resource.

So this slide just gives you a list of who to contact for various needs related to the work of the Local Sewer Section and the Watershed Management Ordinance. For permit determination requests, you can reach out to Constance. For pre-application meetings, contact Dan Feltes. To get a copy of previously issued permits from the MWRD for -- under the Sewer Permit Ordinance or WMO, please send an e-mail to mwrdpi@mwrd.org. For questions about our online permit application submittal system and database, we call it WPASS and about the GPS units that we lend out to municipalities, please contact Ann Gray.

And you can get yourself on to the e-mail list for updates related to the WMO, particularly related to where we're at with the amendment process and new forms, things like that. You can send an e-mail to WMO updates.

And we just also ask everyone to

make sure when they're submitting permit applications that they use the most recent WMO application forms, which are on our website at mwrd.org/wmo. You may need to clear your browser cache to see those updates.

So if there is any other questions that you may have, feel free to reach out to me also, and I can put you in contact with the right people if I can't answer directly.

So with that, I'll take any questions.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Any questions for Maureen?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: I'll say what probably others are thinking. It seems like we just wrapped up that WMO and you're back in that again. So good luck with that. It seemed there were some updates within the last two years, I would say, right?

MS. DURKIN: Yes. We had a last -- I think early '22 that it was adopted. So yeah, that's true. And in fact, at that time we did try to -- I mentioned the wetlands process, we tried to

streamline that process at that time, but we think there's still a little bit of room for improvement. We'll be working on that same part of the WMO again, amongst other changes. But yes, there is always room for improvement.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: We'll be aware as we heard Maureen say that draft recommendations are forthcoming and the timetable that she established.

Are there any other questions for her?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Hearing none, I'm sure this will be on our agenda in -- for our January meeting, the third week of January. We'll look forward to an update at that point.

Now I'm going to move us in the open forum, and I believe the open forum is scheduled for any additional questions that anyone wanted to ask.

MS. WRIGHT: Kristi, this is Annie Wright.

So yeah, it's for questions, but it's also for municipal partners to talk about any wins they've had over the last year with capital projects or any kind of collaboration they are doing with neighbors, that kind of stuff.

We do have a couple -- If people don't have things to share of that nature, we do have a couple other things that we can chat about, but I thought we'd start with that.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: So we have a few municipalities on the call today, and if you have anything that you want to highlight for the good of this body, please take yourself off mute and identify yourself, and then the floor will be yours.

MR. BRUNKE: Hi, Kristi, this is John from Flossmoor. I appreciate the opportunity.

We've had some good projects going on in town recently for stormwater. We recently did something on a smaller scale, we're pretty excited about. We started a residential drainage improvement program that kind of gave the village an opportunity and a way of documenting and rating and scoring our smaller drainage issues that residents have in their yards.

Obviously, there's conditions and some requirements of this program, and if anybody is interested, they can definitely go to our village website under our public works page, and there's a separate page for the residential drainage

improvement program, and I can actually put a link to it here, in the chat, if anybody wants to check it out. There's some rating forms on there, some requirements and maybe of help to some other towns if they're interested and something like this to help track the problems they have in town. It's kind of a way to document it, and also a way to be transparent with our residents in how we deal with these drainage problems and how we're looking at them and ranking them and so on.

So if there are any questions, I'll be happy to answer them. I'll put the website in chat here for everybody. That's all I have.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Thank you, John.

Other examples of, you know, new initiatives that are happening in the municipality or new partnerships?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Annie, is there anything else that you wanted to flag during this open forum?

MS. WRIGHT: So we mentioned earlier, Joe talked about a survey that we did recently, and at the last quarter meeting, we presented some results

of another survey about flooding. And so you know, we do get some responses from municipalities, which is wonderful, but you know, there's always room for improvement. So we were wondering if anybody that is here that has filled one out has any kind of comments on what you thought of the survey, like the length or the way the questions went or if you haven't participated if, you know, there would be an easier way to get that kind of information from you guys, because you know, it really gives us an idea, especially when we do the surveys after a big storm event, as to where some of the flooding problems are happening. So it's useful information. But if there is an easier or better way to get that kind of detail from everyone, we would be happy to -- open to suggestions.

MR. LOPEZ: Annie, if I may. I would like to talk a little bit about that point. Resulting from the September 17th flood event that affected significantly Calumet City and neighboring communities, we sent out this survey. I'm sharing the screen. So this is what it looks like. This survey is still open. It will close on the 31st of October.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Excuse me, Herman, let me interrupt you. We have not seen your survey on our screen, so could you try to reopen that, re-share that.

MR. LOPEZ: Thanks, Kristi.

So this is what it looks like. We sent it out to the communities in the Little Cal and Cal-Sag Watersheds, approximately to 65 communities, if I remember correctly. And the purpose of this is to gather your input, your thoughts, your experience during the flooding if you indeed went through flooding or not. And Flossmoor responded to it, among other communities. So I would like to take this opportunity to bring it up again and remind you that it will be open until the 31st.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Would you be able to provide that to me either this evening or first thing in the morning tomorrow?

We have a newsletter that is going out. We may be able to add this survey under our partner section to encourage additional respondents to the survey. And I know that SSMA has fielded a lot of calls about, you know, this particular September 17th flood event.

MR. LOPEZ: Yeah. Certainly.

Just one comment on that. This survey is intend for municipal staff. It's not intended for the public.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: I understand that. We can just -- If you don't want it to go out, that's fine too. We may be able to just issue it to our municipalities. Maybe that's a better strategy.

MR. LOPEZ: Absolutely.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: That sound good.

Okay. I think that concludes the open forum.

And we'll move ahead to new business.

Is there any new business to bring before this body?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Okay. Other business?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Would anyone like to provide public comment?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: There doesn't

appear to be anyone who is wishing to give public comment.

Anything else for the good of the order?

(No response.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Hearing none, I'll look for a motion to adjourn.

MR. BRUNKE: I'll make a motion to adjourn.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: And it's John Brunke.

Do we have a second?

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Maybe John Schaefer, I can call on you to second the motion?

MR. SCHAEFER: I second.

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Thank you.

And that is John Schaefer from the Village of Homewood.

All in favor say aye.

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRPERSON DELAURENTIIS: Thank you. The motion carries.

This concludes our meeting now, and before everyone departs, I'm going to go in and save the chat so that we've got a record of the

correspondence, et cetera there.

But I want to wish everyone a good evening, and we'll see you at the next Little Calumet River Watershed in January.

Stay tuned for information that's forthcoming on the WMO and on the -- There's still time to respond to the survey.

Thank you. Have a good evening everyone.

(The meeting concluded at 5:23 p.m.)

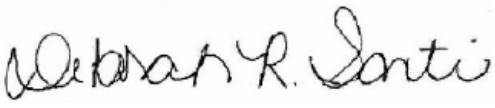
STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
COUNTY OF COOK )

I, DEBORAH R. SANTI, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public in and for the County of Cook, State of Illinois, do hereby certify that on the 19th day of October, 2023, the Little Calumet River Planning Council Meeting was taken before me, reported stenographically, and was thereafter reduced to typewriting.

The said hearing was taken remotely.

I further certify that the foregoing is an accurate record of the hearing at the time and place hereinabove referred to.

Witness my official signature on the 2nd day of November 2023.



DEBORAH R. SANTI, CSR
CSR # 084-004107