

NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

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*A Regional Association of Illinois
Municipalities and Townships
Representing a Population of Over One Million*

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**North Branch of the Chicago River Watershed Planning Council
AGENDA
Tuesday, June 23, 2020
10:00 a.m.
Microsoft Teams Live Event**

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.
<https://mwrld.org/north-branch-chicago-river-watershed-planning-council-meeting-3>

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- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. March 3, 2020 Meeting Notes (Attachment A)**
- IV. North Branch Watershed Capital Improvement Projects Update**
Paul Jacobs will provide an update on the capital improvement projects in the watershed.
- V. Small Stream Maintenance Program Update**
Rob Podgorny will provide status report on the MWRD's Small Stream Maintenance Program.
- VI. Watershed Management Ordinance Update**
Michael Cunico will provide an update on Watershed Management Ordinance.
- VII. Other Business**
- VIII. Next Meeting**
The next meeting of the North Branch Chicago River Watershed Planning Council will be held on Tuesday, September 1 at 10:00 a.m. at the Lincolnwood Village Hall.
- IX. Adjournment**

**North Branch Chicago River Watershed Planning Council
Lincolnwood Village Hall
6900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, IL
Tuesday March 3, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Present:

Mark Fowler, NWMC
Kendra Johnson, NWMC
Michael Cunico, MWRD
Paul Jacobs, MWRD
Brian Levy, MWRD
Annie Wright, MWRD
Jorge Cruz, Village of Wilmette
Matt Farmer, Village of Northbrook

Joe Kenney, Village of Glenview
Tom Powers, Village of Niles
Chris Tomich, Village of Morton Grove
Adriana Webb, Village of Glenview
Thomas Burke, Christopher Burke Engineering
Dan Nowell, Freelance Journalist
Ben Short, Graduate Student

Mark Fowler called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Mr. Fowler noted last meeting's summary notes were included in the agenda packet and directed anyone who needed the full transcript to contact Northwest Municipal Conference staff. Mr. Fowler introduced Paul Jacobs from the MWRD to provide an update on the watershed capital improvement projects since the last meeting. Mr. Jacobs noted that there are roughly 150 projects total, both completed and ongoing. Mr. Jacobs reviewed the local stormwater partnership opportunity program, which used to be referred to as their Phase II localized flood-control program, and noted that a call for projects for the program recently closed on February 14. Mr. Jacobs noted several recently completed Phase I and Phase II projects in Winnetka, Glenview, Niles, Glencoe, and Northbrook. He also reported that green infrastructure projects were completed in Evanston, Wilmette, Northbrook, and Skokie. Mr. Jacobs reported that 20 projects totaling approximately \$10 million in construction costs were selected from the 2020 Green Infrastructure call for projects and he reviewed those that were selected in the North Branch watershed area. Mr. Fowler asked a question regarding the length of green alley projects, and Mr. Jacobs responded that each project is the length of one block. Mr. Jacobs then reviewed the flood-prone property acquisition program and noted that the call for projects closed on February 14. He noted that MWRD is also developing Green Guides for the general public and municipal staff to use to determine best practices when implementing green infrastructure projects, and reminded municipal staff to fill out the stormwater master plan survey that was sent to them.

Mr. Jacobs introduced Mr. Levy to provide an overview and update of the MWRD small streams maintenance program, which provides assistance with keeping streams and other small waterways clear from debris. He noted that the best way for municipalities to assist in the process is by providing ways to dispose of the debris. He provided information on the MWRD rain barrel program and Restore the Canopy initiative, which provides free oak saplings to the public for planting. Mr. Fowler asked who has the responsibility to maintain larger waterways such as the Des Plaines River, and Mr. Levy replied that the owner of the waterway, which varies throughout the county, would be responsible. Mr. Farmer asked if MWRD has a map of the jurisdiction along the different waterways throughout the county. Mr. Levy replied that MWRD does not, but those who are interested can visit the Cook County Assessor's website to view who owns the parcels along the waterways in question. Mr. Burke asked Mr. Levy whether MWRD was still removing trees in the forest preserves, and Mr. Levy replied that they were, but more work usually gets done in the winter when trees are dormant. He then noted that the spring is a good time to inspect local creeks and streams when tree foliage has not leafed out. He then introduced Ms. Wright to give an update on grant opportunities. Ms. Wright highlighted upcoming opportunities through CDBG, Invest in Cook, and the Great Lakes

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

Sediment and Nutrient Reduction programs. Ms. Wright introduced Mr. Cunico to provide an update on the WMO and the infiltration and inflow programs. He provided a detailed overview of permit applicability, and noted that permit determination requests should be submitted to Justine Skawski. Mr. Cunico encouraged those present to become familiar with their website and new permit forms available online. He also noted that new watershed specific release rates are in effect this year as of January 1. Mr. Cunico reminded communities to submit their annual summary reports for the infiltration and inflow control program if they have not yet for 2018, and to submit 2019 reports by March 1, 2020. Finally, Mr. Cunico noted that the MWRD has GPS units available for use by sewer system owners provided that they enter into an intergovernmental agreement with MWRD.

Mr. Fowler reported that representatives from the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security were not present due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. He noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, June 2 at 10:00 a.m. There being no further business, Mr. Fowler adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.