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M E E T I N G

CAL-SAG WATERSHED PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

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Bedford Park Village Hall
6701 South Archer Road
Bedford Park, Illinois

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Wednesday, January 31, 2024
6:12 P.M.

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M E E T I N G

CAL-SAG WATERSHED PLANNING COUNCIL

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

OF GREATER CHICAGO

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Held on Wednesday, February 31, 2024,
commencing at the hour of 6:12 P.M., at 6701 South
Archer Road, Bedford Park, Illinois.

1 PRESENT: (District Personnel)

2 MR. JOSEPH KRATZER, Managing Civil Engineer

3 MS. LOLITA THOMPSON, Principal Civil Engineer

4 MR. HERMAN LOPEZ, Associate Civil Engineer

5 MR. FABIO MONTEIRO, Associate Civil Engineer

6 ALSO PRESENT:

7 MS. VICTORIA SMITH, SCM, Executive Director

8 MS. BRITTANY MATYAS, SCM

9 MR. GERALD R. BENNETT, City of Palos Hills

10 MR. TERRY VORDERER, Village of Oak Lawn

11 MR. PAUL MALLO, Village of Oak Lawn

12 MS. COLEEN BARKMEIER, Village of Oak Lawn

13 MS. MARY WERNER, Village of Worth

14 MS. SUSAN LEHR, City of Hickory Hills

15 MR. KRZYSZLOF WASOWICZ, Village of Justice

16 MR. MATTHEW ZAREBCZAN, Village of Justice

17 MR. LANCE BEIGH, Village of Justice

18 MR. BRIAN WOJCIECHOWSKI, Village of Lemont

19 MS. MELISSA NEDDERMEYER, Village of Willow
20 Springs

21 MR. BRIAN O'NEILL, Village of Orland Hills

22 MR. KEITH PEKAU, Village of Orland Park

23 MR. SCOTT LUEKEN, Village of Orland Park

24 MR. JOEL VAN ESSEN, Village of Orland Park

1 ALSO PRESENT (continued):

2 MR. ROBERT STRAZ, City of Palos Heights

3 MR. ADAM JASINSKI, City of Palos Heights

4 MR. DAVE BRADY, Village of Bedford Park

5 MR. GARY D. LEWIS, Village of Bridgeview

6 MR. JOHN RYAN, Village of Alsip

7 MS. NICOLE MILOVICH-WALTERS, Village of Palos
8 Park

9 MR. KEN KLEIN, Village of Crestwood

10 MR. GORDON SMITH, Robinson Engineering

11 MR. DWIGHT WELCH, Robinson Engineering

12 MR. JIM GARRETT, Chicago Southland Convention
13 & Visitors Bureau

14 MR. STEVE PAPPAGEORGE, Moraine Valley CC

15 MR. SAM BALARK, AT&T

16 MS. CLARE NAWROCKI, Equitable

17 MR. HOUSAM HAJ YOUSIF, GSI

18 MR. BRUCE HILL, HR Green

19 * * * * *

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21 Members of the Public

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1 MR. BENNETT: I'd like to call this
2 meeting to order of the Cal-Sag Watershed Council.

3 Vic, you want to read the roll, please.

4 MS. SMITH: Alsip.

5 MR. RYAN: Mayor John Ryan.

6 MS. SMITH: Bedford Park.

7 MR. BRADY: Dave Brady, mayor.

8 MS. SMITH: Blue Island.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. SMITH: Bridgeview.

11 MR. LEWIS: Gary Lewis, trustee.

12 MS. SMITH: Burbank.

13 (No response.)

14 MS. SMITH: Chicago.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. SMITH: Chicago Ridge.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. SMITH: Crestwood.

19 MR. KLEIN: Mayor Ken Klein.

20 MS. SMITH: Evergreen Park.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. SMITH: Hickory Hills.

23 MS. LEHR: Sue Lehr, public works.

24 MS. SMITH: Hometown.

1 (No response.)

2 MS. SMITH: Justice.

3 MR. WASOWICZ: Kris Wasowicz.

4 MS. SMITH: Lemont.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. SMITH: Merrionette Park.

7 (No response.)

8 MS. SMITH: Midlothian.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. SMITH: Oak Forest.

11 (No response.)

12 MS. SMITH: Oak Lawn.

13 MR. VORDERER: Mayor Terry Vorderer,
14 Trustee Paul Mallo.

15 MS. SMITH: Orland Hills.

16 MR. O'NEILL: Village Administrator Brian
17 O'Neill.

18 MS. SMITH: Orland Park.

19 MR. LUEKEN: Scott Lueken and Joel Van
20 Essen, public works and engineer.

21 MS. SMITH: Palos Heights.

22 MR. STRAZ: Bob Straz, mayor, Adam
23 Jasinski, public works director.

24 MS. SMITH: Palos Hills.

1 MR. BENNETT: Jerry Bennett, mayor.

2 MS. SMITH: Palos Park.

3 MS. MILOVICH-WALTERS: Nicole
4 Milovich-Walters, mayor.

5 MS. SMITH: Robbins.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. SMITH: Summit.

8 (No response.)

9 MS. SMITH: Tinley Park.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. SMITH: Willow Springs.

12 MS. NEDDERMEYER: Melissa Neddermeyer,
13 president.

14 MS. SMITH: Worth.

15 MS. WERNER: Mary Werner, village
16 president.

17 MS. SMITH: Unincorporated Cook County.

18 (No response.)

19 MS. SMITH: Bremen Township.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. SMITH: Calumet Township.

22 (No response.)

23 MS. SMITH: Lemont Township.

24 (No response.)

1 MS. SMITH: Lyons Township.
2 (No response.)
3 MS. SMITH: Orland Township.
4 (No response.)
5 MS. SMITH: Palos Township.
6 (No response.)
7 MS. SMITH: Stickney Township.
8 (No response.)
9 MS. SMITH: Worth Township.
10 (No response.)
11 MR. BENNETT: Thank you.
12 Ladies and gentlemen, we have a quorum.
13 And again, if you have questions or speak up, you
14 have to identify yourself -- we have a court
15 reporter -- so she has your name also with your
16 town.
17 First item on the report is -- get the
18 right agenda here.
19 MS. SMITH: We have to approve the
20 transcripts from October 30th.
21 MR. BENNETT: We have minutes. I'll
22 entertain a motion to accept the minutes from our
23 last meeting.
24 MR. LEWIS: So moved. Gary Lewis.

1 MR. WASOWICZ: Second. Kris Wasowicz.

2 MR. BENNETT: Moved and seconded. Any
3 questions?

4 If not, all in favor, signify by saying
5 aye.

6 (Chorus of ayes.)

7 MR. BENNETT: Opposed, a vote a no.

8 (No response.)

9 MR. BENNETT: The motion carries.

10 First item on the agenda is the capital
11 improvements update. Herman Lopez.

12 MR. LOPEZ: Thank you. Good afternoon,
13 everyone. My name is Herman Lopez. I'm here with
14 the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. I'm
15 joined by Joe Kratzer, Lolita Thompson, and Fabio
16 Monteiro, and I'm going to present the capital
17 improvement updates from last quarter.

18 (WHEREUPON, a slide presentation
19 was made.)

20 We have seen these time lapse before.
21 It's the projects since 2011 up to now, what we
22 currently have. It shows the current projects
23 throughout the District's service area divided by
24 the different programs that we manage.

1 Back then, the regional, what we called
2 the regionals, locals, and current ones, like the
3 green infrastructure, Space to Grow, and flood-prone
4 property acquisition.

5 Skip this slide.

6 This is the watershed we are in, and we
7 have the different ongoing projects and the already
8 completed projects. You can see the gray projects
9 are the ones that have been completed and the
10 current ones are the ones we've colored. So green
11 infrastructure projects are the green dots, and you
12 can distinguish where the different types of
13 projects.

14 I'm going to start with this project.

15 This is in Robbins, Illinois. It's just the border
16 between the Cal-Sag Watershed and the Little Cal
17 Watershed. This is one part of a two-phase flood
18 control project which includes the establishment of
19 new culverts under 135th Street. That construction
20 of Phase I is going to be completed this year, in
21 the spring 2024, and Phase II is going out to bid in
22 the next month or the next two months. Second phase
23 is composed by a stormwater pond, Midlothian Creek
24 restoration, and rain gardens.

1 I'll continue with 23-IGA-12, Roberts Road
2 drainage improvements Phase II flood control
3 project. This is located in Palos Hills. This is
4 an IGA project which is led by the City of Palos
5 Hills. The project goal is to improve drainage
6 along Roberts Road between 99th Street and
7 103rd Street.

8 Currently we are in preliminary design --
9 sorry. Preliminary design is complete, and the
10 village is waiting to secure funding from FEMA
11 before proceeding with the final design.

12 23-IGA-11 is another IGA led by the
13 Village of Oak Lawn, and the project goal is to
14 create some detention, stormwater detention at the
15 school district site and use storm sewers for
16 conveyance to provide drainage improvements in the
17 Stony Creek subwatershed. Currently the IGA is
18 being negotiated between the District and the
19 village. Construction is anticipated to start this
20 year.

21 18-IGA-26 is the culvert upsizing and
22 channel improvements on Boca Rio ditch in
23 Oak Forest. This project was led by the Cook County
24 Department of Transportation and Highways.

1 Construction was completed last year, 2023, and the
2 installation of dual 7.5-by-4 box culverts under
3 151st Street and approximately 1700 feet of channel
4 improvements along Boca Rio ditch.

5 These are new pictures of the project.

6 21-IGA-18, the flood control project on
7 Cal-Sag Trib C in Bremen Township, Midlothian, and
8 Crestwood. This is a four-party IGA between the
9 jurisdictions I just mentioned and the District.
10 The purpose is to improve conveyance and provide
11 some stormwater detention along the different
12 municipalities between Central Avenue and Midlothian
13 Turnpike.

14 Currently we are working with the other
15 three jurisdictions in the negotiations of the IGA.
16 When the negotiations are getting close to being
17 finalized and the IGA executed, Crestwood who is
18 leading the project will proceed into final
19 engineering design.

20 This is one of the projects that are
21 receiving funds from the superceding agreement
22 between Cook County and the Metropolitan Water
23 Reclamation District.

24 Alternative stormwater diversion plan in

1 Bedford Park, Justice, and Summit, Illinois. The
2 District -- I think the planning study concluded for
3 this project, if I'm not wrong, and identified
4 alternative to construct a new storm sewer and a new
5 outfall to the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.
6 Preliminary design will begin later this year.

7 Orland Township, 157th Street and Spring
8 Creek flood study. Project description, study of
9 possible alternatives to mitigate flooding on
10 157th Street and surrounding residential
11 properties caused by high water levels of Spring
12 Creek during periods of high precipitation. The
13 project status is the conceptual report prepared by
14 OTHD being updated prior to preliminary engineering
15 being advanced. This is another project that is
16 receiving funds from the superceding agreement
17 between Cook County and the District.

18 Green infrastructure projects.

19 23-IGA-01, City of Blue Island is leading
20 a green alley project, and the MWRD will partially
21 fund construction of three permeable alleys using
22 permeable pavers providing estimated 130,000 gallons
23 of design retention capacity. Construction was
24 completed in 2023.

1 22-IGA-06, Oak Lawn detention basin
2 naturalization and flood flow monitoring. The
3 District and Oak Lawn are both leading this project.
4 Oak Lawn is in charge of construction and MWRD
5 monitoring. A pilot project to investigate the
6 volumetric uptake and infiltration capacity of
7 native plants in the stormwater system. Two
8 detention ponds located on the east side of the
9 intersection of South 52nd Avenue and
10 West 100th Street will be monitored until the end
11 of 2026. Data collection recently started, and the
12 first annual report anticipated one year from now.

13 18 IGA 14, Lake Katherine commuter parking
14 lot, green infrastructure, in Palos Heights. The
15 City of Palos Heights is leading this project which
16 will provide permeable pavement for the commuter
17 parking lot at Lake Katherine Nature Center on
18 Harlem Avenue and Route 83. IGA is being finalized
19 through -- like the IDOT is administering the
20 project final design. Construction is anticipated
21 this year, 2024.

22 18-IGA-02, Winchester Avenue green
23 infrastructure project in Calumet Park. The Village
24 of Calumet Park is leading this project as part of

1 the IGA or led, sorry. The construction was
2 completed in November of 2023, and the project
3 provided roadside bioswale, permeable pavers in the
4 parking lane, and permeable asphalt along Winchester
5 Avenue between 124th and 127th Street providing
6 approximately 200,000 gallons of designed detention.

7 Stormwater Partnerships. As you all are
8 aware, we have different programs and we go out for
9 call for projects. Currently three out of the four
10 programs are closed for applications, but the
11 stormwater partnership program is still receiving
12 applications until February 11th. As part of the
13 process, we are receiving the pre-application phase,
14 finishes on this date, February 11. It's a pretty
15 simple pre-application procedure. You can find all
16 the information online, but please let us know if
17 there's any questions that arises through the
18 application.

19 This partnership tailors projects that are
20 at the shovel-ready phase or close to the
21 shovel-ready phase. So the characteristics that we
22 are looking for in these type of projects for this
23 particular program are part of the information
24 available for the applicants.

1 FEMA grant opportunities. FEMA directed
2 technical assistance, or DTA. This program provides
3 nonfinancial technical support to communities
4 seeking to begin climate resilience planning and
5 project solution design. I'm going to open this.
6 One second.

7 This program is intended for communities
8 that lack capacity to do this work on their own. It
9 can help plan a larger project that will be
10 submitted to the BRIC program for funding in future
11 years. Application period, and the application will
12 get additional points during scoring for having a
13 DTA award.

14 A project that went through the DTA
15 process in Illinois was awarded a BRIC grant last
16 application cycle, a wastewater treatment facility
17 in Dubuque [phonetic] County. Application and CC a
18 letter is submitted directly to FEMA requesting
19 assistance. Letters are accepted until
20 February 29th.

21 All the information is available on this
22 website. If you have any questions or would like us
23 to share this link to municipality, please let us
24 know. We can do that.

1 MR. BENNETT: If I can ask a question.
2 Mayor Bennett.

3 This is really outside the District's own
4 capital projects; correct? This is a different
5 agency that you're going to at least for some
6 initial planning? Is that how this works?

7 MR. LOPEZ: Yeah. This is like a parallel
8 program on the federal level for assisting. It's
9 outside the capital improvements program from the
10 District.

11 MR. BENNETT: The results of that, using
12 FEMA technical assistance, does that then step to go
13 to the District with that project, or you're working
14 simultaneously with the District?

15 MR. LOPEZ: I believe the intention of
16 bringing this one here is to kind of ferment more
17 robust projects when they go along the way and maybe
18 they could come to us. So this is like it's
19 nonfinancial aid, but it assists, it could assist
20 municipalities to strengthen their projects at later
21 stages.

22 MR. BENNETT: And going directly to the
23 District for a project, for even conceptual, the
24 District usually takes up the engineering costs on

1 that, do they not?

2 MR. LOPEZ: Yeah, I guess it depends on
3 the type of agreement that we do, but for the
4 conceptual I believe, yeah. The different type of
5 program, the four different type of programs tailor
6 different type of projects. For that conceptual,
7 you are right.

8 MR. BENNETT: Thank you.

9 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, sir.

10 Website updates. The Metropolitan Water
11 Reclamation District published recently a new
12 website. It has a different layout than the one
13 that we had before. The information is organized in
14 a different manner. We would like to encourage
15 everyone to take a look at it, particularly the
16 different stormwater programs and the different
17 stormwater information available online.

18 All the information for the applications
19 are there. The information for different projects
20 that we have been involved with are there. So the
21 watershed planning council information as well with
22 all the different dates that we have throughout the
23 year, plans, reports, and how you can help and how
24 the residents can help as well.

1 There's some information that we are aware
2 that municipalities have shared directly to
3 residents, and we have the different programs like
4 the Rain Barrel Program and the Green Neighbor. All
5 this information is available on the website.

6 And I would like to go back to the
7 stormwater partnership program and the application
8 period that is closing on February 11th. We would
9 like to encourage you as well to take a look at all
10 the information available. So far in the last round
11 of applications for the four different projects, we
12 have received 44 total applications. Thirty-six of
13 those applications are related to the green
14 infrastructure program, four for the conceptual
15 program that you were mentioning, two for the
16 flood-prone property acquisition program, and two
17 for the stormwater partnership program.

18 The program requirements are online, are
19 available online. If you have any questions, please
20 let them know. You can send an e-mail to the
21 address stormwater@mwr.org. And again, the
22 pre-application, which is straightforward and would
23 allow us to have some information like geographical
24 information or location information on what the

1 different municipalities are thinking will be
2 required. It's very simple, brief exhibit can be
3 taken under specific instructions for the different
4 municipalities to gather that information and send
5 it to us.

6 Based on that information, the District
7 will respond as part of the pre-application with
8 some -- like a number, an ID number of the pre-app
9 that would be used at later stages as part of the
10 pool application. This is for us to be able to
11 organize ourselves to have information that we
12 require and shape up a better start of the project.

13 Invited to finalize your application and
14 full application is available end of March and it
15 will be open for seven weeks.

16 Yeah, mwrdd.org/stormwater/SPP, stormwater
17 partnership program. And I can --

18 MR. BENNETT: I'm sorry. Mayor Bennett.

19 So a partnership program is step one
20 basically of eventual capital project?

21 MR. LOPEZ: No.

22 MR. BENNETT: Totally separate?

23 MR. LOPEZ: Yeah. So we have the
24 different four programs. Right? The different four

1 programs shape up the capital improvement.

2 MR. BENNETT: Right.

3 MR. LOPEZ: So stormwater partnership
4 program, which is the one that's currently open,
5 tailors for shovel-ready projects. Like conceptual
6 that you brought up is more for MWRD provides
7 technical assistance to study your flooding problem
8 and the solutions.

9 MR. BENNETT: So I guess my question for
10 the Cal-Sag Watershed, besides the capital projects
11 that you had shown us currently, there are other
12 concept projects out there for our region or is
13 there or not?

14 MR. LOPEZ: No, they are in those projects
15 that we showed you. So these four programs shape up
16 all this.

17 MR. BENNETT: So that's the only activity
18 going on right now in the Cal-Sag?

19 MR. LOPEZ: Which ones, sir?

20 MR. BENNETT: These capital projects.

21 MR. LOPEZ: The open ones. So for
22 example, 18-IGA-14 and the ones that we showed you,
23 yeah. Some of those closed in the last quarter, and
24 we have new ones like the 23-IGA-21 and the

1 different green infrastructure that were
2 represented.

3 MR. BENNETT: I'm just interested in how
4 many towns applied and actually, like the green
5 infrastructure projects.

6 MR. LOPEZ: Well, we have total for the
7 green infrastructure 36.

8 MR. BENNETT: In the Cal-Sag area. I'm
9 sorry. You don't have that broken down.

10 MR. KRATZER: We can get you that number.
11 I think we can get you that number.

12 MR. BENNETT: Could you? I'd be
13 interested. I'm sure some of the other towns would
14 be.

15 MR. KRATZER: And just to clarify -- hi,
16 Joe Kratzer with MWRD -- the two that have been
17 submitted so far for the stormwater partnership
18 program, the shovel ready, that's just so far.
19 People have gotten in ahead of the deadline. Like
20 anything else, we get a lot of, you know,
21 applications on the last few days before the
22 deadline. So having two is, you know, a good start,
23 but we know that there's more to come, or we hope
24 that there is.

1 MR. LOPEZ: We have five applications from
2 the Cal-Sag.

3 MR. BENNETT: Okay. And the shovel ready
4 is all the preliminary work has been done when you
5 refer to shovel ready? So that would be, for
6 example, a -- what -- a so-called shovel-ready
7 project. Engineering has all been done?

8 MR. KRATZER: Yeah. Maybe permitting is
9 still being finalized or it doesn't -- typically we
10 use the term the "shovel ready," but it really could
11 be design, in design, you know, or getting to be
12 shovel ready. But we like to identify the
13 timeline of a project to align it with our funding
14 for the stormwater partnership program. So we don't
15 select a project that sits for two, three years
16 before it really is ready to go to construction.

17 The conceptual program we can utilize task
18 order consultants to start on the preliminary design
19 right away. Typically we take the project to
20 30 percent. Depending on the scope of the project,
21 we would either turn to the community, and if they
22 have the capacity to manage the design and
23 construction, which are -- there's a few examples
24 that we went over there, we would turn to them and

1 we would provide, you know, support through the
2 design, but they would lead it and the construction.

3 In other cases where the community doesn't
4 have the capacity to do the design and construction,
5 we would fill those shoes and take it through those
6 phases. So you saw on some of those slides, for
7 example, there were different lead agencies.
8 Sometimes it was MWRD. Sometimes there's a local
9 community.

10 MR. BENNETT: Yeah, obviously I posed that
11 question for our mayors, and they have something in
12 mind going forward, that there's obviously levels of
13 entry into an eventual capital program.

14 MR. KRATZER: Yeah. You asked a good
15 question about the FEMA program with the DTA. It
16 does kind of parallel ours, but we can't do all of
17 the preliminary engineering for every project that's
18 submitted, so it may be another source. Actually, I
19 think it's a good idea to apply to both if you can
20 if you have a problem and don't have an identified
21 solution yet. If FEMA selects your project later as
22 that slide noted, the FEMA program, the BRIC program
23 gives extra weight to projects that were developed
24 through that DTA process that they have. And if

1 they're selected in the BRIC program later for
2 bigger funding for construction, the District could
3 also provide support to help offset the local match
4 that FEMA requires.

5 MR. BENNETT: Again with the FEMA question
6 is that years ago it would take forever for FEMA to
7 accept a project and work on a project. I gather
8 they seem to be a little more --

9 MR. KRATZER: We noticed --

10 MR. BENNETT: -- reactionary to what
11 inquiry request is.

12 MR. KRATZER: Yes. We've noticed a little
13 bit more streamlined action or activity in the
14 IEMA/FEMA world when it comes down to these grants.
15 We have been applying for grants through FEMA for
16 years and weren't successful and just recently were
17 successful to get some grant funds through FEMA.

18 MR. BENNETT: I think I've indicated to
19 the council on a project in Palos Hills which has
20 taken some time; but because we were pretty much at
21 the point of shovel ready, we were able to go to our
22 congressional person, and there is federal money out
23 there. We've been allocated about \$3 1/2 million we
24 got for enough to start that project hopefully next

1 year.

2 So as a suggestion too if you're close and
3 you're looking for the final percentage package
4 because the District will not pick up the entire
5 cost of these projects ranging from whatever, 50 to
6 maybe up to 70 percent, and you got to come up with
7 the balance, start quickly with dialing for dollars,
8 possibly state and/or federal grants that are still
9 out there. There's still a lot of money out there
10 for construction projects, especially in stormwater
11 management and also sewer projects, et cetera, water
12 projects.

13 MR. VAN ESSEN: Joel Van Essen from Orland
14 Park.

15 You said we have a pre-application.
16 What's the time from that pre-application for notice
17 to do and then go to a full? How long -- what's --
18 how long is that process? You review it and then
19 you say, okay, go ahead and do the full application?

20 MR. LOPEZ: Right. So we would be
21 checking for the -- if your application matches
22 program requirements particularly, and then the
23 intention is to open for the full application around
24 March. That full application would be open for

1 seven weeks.

2 MR. BENNETT: And if I may, another
3 suggestion, if you can tie that project into another
4 partner, intergovernmental, whether it's the county,
5 Cook County highway, State of Illinois, I would
6 research that because they can also then decrease
7 your portion cost of the overall project or another
8 community if it involves intergovernmental type of
9 agreement so the more the merrier.

10 Hopefully it's a major project that in
11 fact does affect beyond even your borders. Again
12 the township.

13 MR. MALLO: Paul Mallo, Oak Lawn.

14 You mentioned the green initiative,
15 starting the process in 2024 through 2025. Do we
16 know what anticipated -- are we like the guinea pig
17 for this project? That's actually in my district,
18 that green initiative, 152nd and 100th Avenue. Is
19 that -- I've had complaints from neighbors regarding
20 that, what's there; but I know, and that's what I'm
21 trying to tell them, that there's a reason that it
22 looks like that.

23 And so can you kind of talk about any
24 anticipated savings on the water retention that it

1 may bring?

2 MR. KRATZER: Yeah. I mean, we know
3 anecdotally I think that, you know, using native
4 plantings with deeper roots will help infiltrate
5 water better than a turf grass bottom detention
6 pond. And it also provides water quality benefits.
7 What we're just trying to do is kind of quantify
8 that at a detention basin scale or a neighborhood
9 project scale and then may be able to actually scale
10 up -- as we get the monitoring data in, scale up to
11 a larger application too.

12 We actually have a number of grass bottom
13 reservoirs throughout our network; and, you know, we
14 have been asked could those capture more water in
15 instance by converting those to native planting. I
16 think from a maintenance standpoint, you know, you
17 have to establish that and, you know. Of course, if
18 it's in a neighborhood, the neighbors have to kind
19 of at least be willing not to just mow it down.

20 MR. MALLO: Sure. That's what we're
21 trying to stop.

22 MR. KRATZER: Yeah. But there are
23 different things you can do to make it a little more
24 aesthetically pleasing and it's not.

1 MR. MALLO: Just for argument's sake here,
2 this seems like a little picture there, but this is
3 about the size of a house.

4 MR. BENNETT: May I suggest start planting
5 things around it right now.

6 MR. VORDERER: There is. And it was a
7 house.

8 MR. MALLO: It is the size of house. We
9 tore it down. There was too many flooding issues
10 there, so it was kind of the perfect test.

11 MR. KRATZER: Actually, it may be a good
12 case study for when, you know, other buyouts,
13 flood-prone property acquisitions are performed to
14 do this instead of just, you know, demolishing it.
15 Leaving it as open space or putting turf grass down.
16 In some cases that's fine. It's just, you know, can
17 you get a little bit more out of it --

18 MR. MALLO: I think they're just not used
19 to seeing what they're seeing. All the sudden
20 there's this forest of plants.

21 MR. KRATZER: So I don't know about that
22 particular site, if the IGA required signage on that
23 site, but we have signage requirement on our typical
24 green projects, like green parking lots and green

1 alleys, just informing people that either park in
2 the lot or if it's in their alley, like what the
3 purpose of this is to help educate them, and I
4 think, you know, sometimes that goes a long way.

5 MR. MALLO: So we have no idea of
6 anticipated?

7 MR. KRATZER: You know, we just started
8 the monitoring. We'll see. If it's a wet year,
9 we'll get more data. If it's a dry year, we won't
10 get as much. But we'll have a year-end report year
11 one this time next year. And, you know, if we get a
12 lot of data and we're seeing an immediate, you know,
13 difference between the native planted lot and the
14 control, which is right next to it, we're monitoring
15 both, we certainly will be happy to share that with
16 Oak Lawn and other folks here.

17 MR. BENNETT: One other point you
18 mentioned about the property buyout, we
19 participated, I know some of the other mayors, but
20 for some mayors who haven't heard that or had an
21 update, explain how that works real quick, property
22 acquisition.

23 MR. LOPEZ: Sure. So it's part of -- it's
24 one of the programs that we have. It's related to

1 flood-prone properties that are within the
2 floodplain, the FEMA floodplain, so that's one of
3 the requirements for the project to be able to
4 participate in the program.

5 Yeah, the IGA usually requires two
6 appraisals being done on the property which then the
7 IGA -- as part of the negotiations, it would be
8 agreed upon what portion the District would be
9 contributing towards the acquisition.

10 MR. BENNETT: But it's usually, what,
11 75/25?

12 MR. KRATZER: It's at least a 75/25 split.
13 I should say our minimum contribution is 75, so the
14 Board policy dictates that we pay 75 up to 99,
15 almost 100 percent, depending on other factors.

16 MR. BENNETT: As it turns out, those
17 appraisals on those properties are a lot more than
18 what they would have tried to sell it knowing that
19 they constantly have a lot that floods or a house
20 that floods all the time. It's actually a gift from
21 God for many of them, that that property is actually
22 being sold and certainly by eminent domain taking
23 over.

24 So it's -- if you do have some single lots

1 here and there that are in that floodplain, it's a
2 good program.

3 MR. KRATZER: It is a completely voluntary
4 program, but we do encourage communities to think
5 about it. I know not every community is willing to
6 lose, you know, a little bit of their tax base by
7 buying out these properties and having to maintain
8 them as open space, but sometimes there is no
9 project solution. Sometimes you have to spend
10 \$10 million to save one property because of the way
11 things flood.

12 So really do encourage communities to take
13 advantage of it as much as possible.

14 MR. LOPEZ: Are there any other questions?

15 MR. STRAZ: Bob Straz, City of Palos
16 Heights. We had a project on Cypress that we
17 acquired the property through the floodplain and the
18 second half of that was to be the culvert at Cypress
19 and 131st. It's not on your list any longer. I
20 just want to make sure it doesn't fall through the
21 cracks.

22 MR. KRATZER: Yeah, and maybe I just
23 wanted to clarify. You asked a question about are
24 these all of our projects. The slide shows all the

1 projects, the map, but the slides that we shared
2 today, if he showed every detail on every project,
3 we'd be here all night.

4 MR. STRAZ: That's supposed to be done in
5 the spring.

6 MR. KRATZER: We selected a few. I think
7 at the last meeting you might have talked about it.

8 MR. STRAZ: You did. That's why. It fell
9 off. I wanted to make sure.

10 MR. KRATZER: It's still on our docket.

11 MR. STRAZ: Because I've got a culvert
12 that's got to be finished.

13 MR. KRATZER: I think that's the one
14 that's scheduled to go out for bid here this winter
15 and then constructed this spring, so the second
16 phase is coming.

17 MR. BENNETT: Again, Mayor Bennett. So
18 you said you do have a list of even those kind of
19 projects in the Cal-Sag Watershed?

20 MR. KRATZER: A list of all those
21 projects?

22 MR. BENNETT: Yes.

23 MR. KRATZER: Yeah, we have a list of all
24 the projects --

1 MR. BENNETT: If you can send that to
2 Vicky, she can pass it out.

3 MR. KRATZER: Yeah, sure.

4 MR. BENNETT: Go ahead, Mayor.

5 MR. VORDERER: Do you have a hard copy of
6 your presentation?

7 MR. LOPEZ: Yes.

8 MR. VORDERER: Could you get me a copy?
9 Thank you.

10 And I'll just make a comment. We have had
11 three or four properties that we partnership with
12 you to create detention ponds and tear down houses.
13 They have helped, but that particular neighborhood,
14 when it gets one of those big rains, they're really
15 not doing much, but it does help on the average
16 rain.

17 And I think you have done some plantings
18 already on some of the exterior of those ponds,
19 those retention ponds. Are you talking about
20 actually doing plantings inside the pond?

21 MR. KRATZER: Well, it's different
22 plantings. Some of them in the perimeter may be
23 taller so you notice them.

24 MR. VORDERER: Yeah. Yeah.

1 MR. KRATZER: The plantings just occurred.
2 So the village's engineer designed the landscaping
3 for that. So the plantings on the perimeter
4 typically would be a little bit taller. In the
5 basin, they have to be both wet and dry tolerable,
6 so you have to choose a certain type of planting
7 that can withstand that.

8 MR. VORDERER: When we talked about the
9 Oak Lawn project, we're talking about inside the
10 basin that just went.

11 MR. KRATZER: Yeah. One was planted with
12 native plants. One was left alone more or less.
13 Maybe there was some plants around for aesthetic
14 reasons.

15 MR. VORDERER: Okay. Thank you.

16 MR. BENNETT: Other questions on capital?
17 I'm sorry, Herman. Are you done?

18 MR. LOPEZ: Yes, sir.

19 MR. BENNETT: Under small streams, Fabio.

20 MR. MONTEIRO: Yes. Good evening,
21 everyone. My name is Fabio Monteiro. I'm MWRD
22 associate civil engineer for the Small Streams
23 Maintenance Program. For this watershed planning
24 council meeting, I will present a little bit of what

1 we do and how you can help, and I will also talk a
2 little bit about Rain Barrel and Restore the Canopy
3 programs.

4 So the Small Streams Maintenance Program,
5 or SSMP, was established in 2006, and our main
6 mission is to remove blockages and debris from the
7 streams and waterways within Cook County.

8 Besides -- so we do remove blocks and debris as our
9 main mission, but besides that, we also depend on
10 assessment and on a limited basis will do some
11 beaver trapping, erosion control, and invasive,
12 removal of invasive plantings.

13 We do remove thousands of material each
14 year from our streams, thousands of cubic yards of
15 material. And those are pictures of before and
16 after of our crew removing blockages so we can help
17 with drainage and relief of flooding.

18 So some of the equipment that we use is
19 the multi-terrain skid steer, mini skid steer, a
20 boxer, chipper, and other additional resources such
21 as chainsaws. So depending on the stream water
22 level, the location of the blockage, and the type of
23 the blockage, it's usually wooden material, for
24 example that tree, we would assess case by case if

1 they will secure the dead tree, for example, on the
2 riverbank or would chip it. If we do chip it, we
3 will work with the local municipality for the
4 disposal of the wood chips.

5 The multi-terrain skid steer is a piece of
6 equipment that can pick up and drag and brush cut.
7 The boxer is pretty much the same capability, but
8 it's way smaller size, it's lighter, so we can for
9 more sensitive and limited access areas, we'll use
10 the boxer.

11 So the way you can help us is by reporting
12 the waterway blockages through e-mail, calling, or
13 MWRD website. Also by not leaving yard waste in
14 your streams, properly disposing of trash, and if
15 you live on a stream, consider landscaping with
16 native plants and removing invasive plants, such as
17 buckthorn. Many native plants have a strong root
18 structure that resists erosion and promote
19 infiltration.

20 So this is -- so reporting the waterway
21 issues to our website is through this path,
22 stormwater management, stream maintenance, and
23 report a waterway blockage, or through the direct
24 link mwrdd.org/citizen-report. I will show on the

1 next slide how it looks like. Or you can call my
2 supervisor Arturo or e-mail him or me, Fabio
3 Monteiro, and please notify us immediately if you
4 see any issue with your nearby waterway.

5 So this is how it looks like on our
6 website. Mwrld.org. You go to the tab What We Do,
7 find Stormwater Management, click on Stream
8 Maintenance, and then Report a Waterway Blockage.
9 The citizen indent reporting will pop up, select the
10 waterway bridge and link here, click on it, and then
11 our form, SSMP form will be available for you to
12 fill. It's a very simple one. Just put in your
13 information so we can follow up with you and, most
14 importantly, the location of the blockage.

15 Also you can skip the four initial steps
16 by just doing the direct link,
17 mwrld.org/citizen-report. It will take you straight
18 to the incident reporting window.

19 So little bit about the Rain Barrel
20 Program. MWRD is continuing with this program with
21 discounted prices for Cook County residents.
22 It's -- the rain barrel will collect water from your
23 roof and save it for later use. It comes with the
24 filter on top that will prevent from leaves coming

1 in or mosquitoes. It comes with a spigot and
2 overflow hose. You can use later for washing your
3 car, watering the garden, can wash your tools, and
4 it's saving water from going to the sewer system
5 preventing basement flooding or basically just
6 saving some water from the going into the sewer
7 system.

8 If you need more information, you can find
9 it on our website through so community action and
10 rain barrels. If you have further questions, reach
11 out to the public affairs.

12 And little bit about the Restore the
13 Canopy Program. It's MWRD provides free tree
14 saplings, you can pick up from Wednesday mornings
15 9:00 A.M. to noon from April to October. And it's
16 important to plant trees because it can basically
17 soak up all the rainwater, help with the flooding
18 that matter. We have distributed more than a
19 hundred thousand tree samples -- saplings and since
20 2016.

21 And, yeah, if you need more information
22 just go to our website, Community Action, Native
23 Landscaping, Restore the Canopy for further
24 information. We do delivery, but it depends on

1 the -- we do not deliver for individual homes. It's
2 only for more than 50 saplings, and you can pick up
3 on any of our MWRD water reclamation plants.

4 Thank you for your attention. Any
5 questions?

6 MR. BENNETT: Any questions on small
7 stream maintenance?

8 Thank you. Finally under Stormwater
9 Partnership Program, is that you, Herman?

10 MR. LOPEZ: We touched on that point in
11 the previous presentation, the previous item, agenda
12 item. It -- yeah, what we were going to present on
13 this agenda item we presented.

14 MR. BENNETT: Any other questions of the
15 mayors regarding our Cal-Sag watershed?

16 Gentlemen, we thank you for your
17 presentation.

18 We are going to roll right into our
19 regular meeting so don't go very far.

20 MS. SMITH: If you didn't sign in, could
21 you please sign in.

22 MR. BENNETT: No further questions, with
23 that in mind, I'll entertain a motion adjourn.

24 MR. MALLO: So moved. Paul Mallo,

1 trustee, Oak Lawn.

2 MR. WASOWICZ: Kris Wasowicz.

3 MR. BENNETT: Seconded by Justice.

4 MR. WASOWICZ: Justice.

5 MR. BENNETT: Kris Wasowicz.

6 All in favor, signify by a vote of aye.

7 (Chorus of ayes.)

8 MR. BENNETT: Motion carries. Meeting
9 adjourned.

10 (WHEREUPON, at 6:57 P.M. the
11 meeting was adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE
OF
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

I, RHONDA K. WEILAND, a Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of Illinois, CSR License No. 084-004438, do hereby certify that I stenographically reported the proceedings had at the meeting, as aforesaid, and that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings had therein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do set my hand at Chicago, Illinois, this 15th day of February, 2024.



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Illinois Code of Civil Procedure

Article II, Part E

Rule 207, Signing and Filing Depositions

Signing and Filing Depositions

(a) Submission to Deponent; Changes; Signing.
Unless signature is waived by the deponent, the officer shall instruct the deponent that if the testimony is transcribed the deponent will be afforded an opportunity to examine the deposition at the office of the officer or reporter, or elsewhere, by reasonable arrangement at the deponent's expense, and that corrections based on errors in reporting or transcription which the deponent desires to make will be entered upon the deposition with a statement by the deponent that the reporter erred in reporting or transcribing the answer or answers involved. The deponent may not otherwise change either the form or substance of his or her answers. The deponent shall provide the officer with an electronic or physical address to which notice is to be sent when the transcript is available for examination and signing. When the deposition is fully transcribed, the officer shall deliver to the deponent, at the address supplied,

notice that it is available and may be examined at a stated place at stated times, or pursuant to arrangement. After the deponent has examined the deposition, the officer shall enter upon it any changes the deponent desires to make, with the reasons the deponent gives for making them. If the deponent does not appear at the place specified in the notice within 28 days after the mailing of the notice, or within the same 28 days make other arrangements for examination of the deposition, or after examining the deposition refuses to sign it, or after it has been made available to the deponent by arrangement it remains unsigned for 28 days, the officer's certificate shall state the reason for the omission of the signature, including any reason given by the deponent for a refusal to sign. The deposition may then be used as fully as though signed, unless on a motion to suppress under Rule 211(d) the court holds that the reasons given by the deponent for a refusal to sign require rejection of the deposition in whole or in part.

(b) Certification, Filing, and Notice of Filing.

(1) If the testimony is transcribed, the officer

shall certify within the deposition transcript that the deponent was duly sworn by the officer and that the deposition is a true record of the testimony given by the deponent. A deposition so certified requires no further proof of authenticity

(2) Deposition transcripts shall not be filed with the clerk of the court as a matter of course. The party filing a deposition shall promptly serve notice thereof on the other parties and shall file the transcript and any exhibits in the form and manner specified by local rule.

DISCLAIMER: THE FOREGOING CIVIL PROCEDURE RULES ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 1, 2019. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE STATE RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS

COMPANY CERTIFICATE AND DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Veritext Legal Solutions represents that the foregoing transcript is a true, correct and complete transcript of the colloquies, questions and answers as submitted by the court reporter. Veritext Legal Solutions further represents that the attached exhibits, if any, are true, correct and complete documents as submitted by the court reporter and/or attorneys in relation to this deposition and that the documents were processed in accordance with our litigation support and production standards.

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