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M E E T I N G

CAL-SAG WATERSHED PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

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Moraine Valley Community College  
9000 College Parkway  
Palos Hills, Illinois

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Monday, September 30, 2024  
6:10 P.M.

M E E T I N G

CAL-SAG WATERSHED PLANNING COUNCIL

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

OF GREATER CHICAGO

\* \* \* \* \*

Held on Monday, September 30, 2024, commencing  
at the hour of 6:10 P.M., at 9000 West College  
Parkway, M Building, Palos Hills, Illinois.

1 PRESENT: (District Personnel)

2 MR. RICHARD FISHER, Principal Civil Engineer

3 MR. FABIO MONTEIRO, Associate Civil Engineer

4 MR. MARK CASTILLO, Senior Civil Engineer

5 ALSO PRESENT:

6 MR. GERALD R. BENNETT, President, City of  
7 Palos Hills

8 MS. VICTORIA SMITH, SCM, Executive Director

9 MS. BRITTANY MATYAS, SCM

10 MR. MIKE FRAIDER, Village of Alsip

11 MR. DAVE BRADY, Village of Bedford Park

12 MR. GARY D. LEWIS, Village of Bridgeview

13 MR. JACK LIND, Village of Chicago Ridge

14 MS. SUSAN LEHR, City of Hickory Hills

15 MR. MATTHEW ZAREBCZAN, Village of Justice

16 MR. LANCE BEIGH, Village of Justice

17 MR. BRIAN WOJCIECHOWSKI, Village of Lemont

18 MR. TYE SWANSON, Village of Midlothian

19 MR. TERRY VORDERER, Village of Oak Lawn

20 MR. PAUL MALLO, Village of Oak Lawn

21 MS. COLEEN BARKMEIER, Village of Oak Lawn

22 MR. JOEL VAN ESSEN, Village of Orland Park

23 MR. ADAM JASINSKI, City of Palos Heights

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ALSO PRESENT (continued):  
MS. NICOLE MILOVICH-WALTERS, Village of Palos  
Park  
MR. BRENT WOODS, Palos Township  
MS. MARY WERNER, Village of Worth  
MS. TRICIA MURPHY, Village of Worth  
MR. STEVE ISTEEFANOS, Christopher Burke  
Engineering  
MR. MIKE SPOLAR, Robinson Engineering  
MS. LIZ GORMAN, RTA  
MS. PAMELA HANEY, Moraine Valley CC  
MR. STEVE PAPPAGEORGE, Moraine Valley CC  
MR. YOHAN FERNANDO, Comcast  
MR. SAM BALARK, AT&T  
MR. HOUSAM HAJ YOUSIF, GSI  
MR. SAMI ALNADI, GSI  
MR. SEAN FLYNN, Pace Suburban Bus

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Members of the Public

1 MR. BENNETT: Ladies and gentlemen, I'll  
2 call this meeting to order of the Cal-Sag Watershed  
3 Planning Council. I'd like to welcome everybody and  
4 especially to thank Moraine Valley. In fact, I'd  
5 ask the president of the college, Dr. Pam Haney, to  
6 come up and say a couple words. Pam. Again, I want  
7 to thank the college for hosting.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. HANEY: Good evening, everyone. I'm  
10 Pam Haney, the college president here at Moraine  
11 Valley, and I just want to welcome you all to the  
12 college campus. It's a pleasure for the Southwest  
13 Conference of Mayors here on our campus, and we are  
14 excited and always happy to host and to help  
15 Mayor Bennett. We value our partnership with the  
16 community and our surrounding areas.

17 And so once again, welcome. Just let us  
18 know if you need anything. And once again, thank  
19 you, Mayor Bennett.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. BENNETT: Certainly, very appreciative  
22 of Moraine Valley Community College last spring  
23 hosted our Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.

24 MS. SMITH: April, I think.

1 MR. BENNETT: Did a great job. And if you  
2 haven't eaten, please eat because the food is  
3 absolutely out of this world.

4 Steve, I want to thank you for arranging  
5 all this. Steve Pappageorge.

6 MR. PAPPAGEORGE: Any time, Mayor.

7 MR. BENNETT: And again, welcome,  
8 everybody.

9 Vicky, you want to call the roll.

10 MS. SMITH: Sure. Alsip.

11 MR. FRAIDER: Mike Fraider.

12 MS. SMITH: Bedford Park.

13 MR. BRADY: Dave Brady, village president.

14 MS. SMITH: Blue Island.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. SMITH: Bridgeview.

17 MR. LEWIS: Here. Gary Lewis, trustee.

18 MS. SMITH: Burbank.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. SMITH: Chicago.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. SMITH: Chicago Ridge.

23 (No response.)

24 MS. SMITH: Crestwood.

1 (No response.)

2 MS. SMITH: Evergreen Park.

3 (No response.)

4 MS. SMITH: Hickory Hills.

5 MS. LEHR: Sue Lehr, public works.

6 MS. SMITH: Hometown.

7 (No response.)

8 MS. SMITH: Justice.

9 MR. ZAREBCZAN: Matt Zarebczan, economic  
10 development.

11 MS. SMITH: Lemont.

12 MR. WOJCIECHOWSKI: Brian Wojciechowski,  
13 public works.

14 MS. SMITH: Merrionette Park.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. SMITH: Midlothian.

17 MR. SWANSON: Tye Swanson.

18 MS. SMITH: I apologize.

19 Oak Forest.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. SMITH: Oak Lawn.

22 MR. VORDERER: Present.

23 MR. BENNETT: Name, please.

24 MR. VORDERER: Terry Vorderer. And

1 Trustee Paul Mallo.

2 MS. SMITH: Orland Hills.

3 (No response.)

4 MS. SMITH: Orland Park.

5 MR. VAN ESSEN: Joel Van Essen, public  
6 works.

7 MS. SMITH: Palos Heights.

8 MR. JASINSKI: Adam Jasinski, public  
9 works.

10 MS. SMITH: Palos Hills.

11 MR. BENNETT: Mayor Bennett, Palos Hills.

12 MS. SMITH: Palos Park.

13 MS. MILOVICH-WALTERS: Mayor  
14 Milovich-Walters, Palos Park.

15 MS. SMITH: Robbins.

16 (No response.)

17 MS. SMITH: Summit.

18 (No response.)

19 MS. SMITH: Tinley Park.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. SMITH: Willow Springs.

22 (No response.)

23 MS. SMITH: Worth.

24 MS. WERNER: Mary Werner, village



1 president.

2 MS. SMITH: Unincorporated Cook County.

3 (No response.)

4 MS. SMITH: Bremen Township.

5 (No response.)

6 MS. SMITH: Calumet Township.

7 (No response.)

8 MS. SMITH: Lemont Township.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. SMITH: Lyons Township.

11 (No response.)

12 MS. SMITH: Orland Township.

13 (No response.)

14 MS. SMITH: Palos Township.

15 MR. WOODS: Brent Woods, trustee.

16 MS. SMITH: Stickney Township.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. SMITH: Worth Township.

19 MS. MURPHY: Tricia Murphy, supervisor.

20 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

21 MR. BENNETT: Thank you all. Again,  
22 welcome to the Cal-Sag Planning Council meeting.

23 First item on the agenda is to approve the  
24 minutes of our last meeting. Is there a motion?

1 Again, please state your name.

2 MR. VORDERER: I make the motion. Terry  
3 Vorderer, Oak Lawn.

4 MR. LEWIS: Second. Gary Lewis,  
5 Bridgeview.

6 MR. BENNETT: Moved and seconded. Any  
7 questions?

8 If not, all those in favor, signify by a  
9 vote of aye.

10 (Chorus of ayes.)

11 MR. BENNETT: Opposed, a vote of no.  
12 Motion carries.

13 First item on the agenda is the Capital  
14 Improvements Update. Mark.

15 MR. CASTILLO: Hello. Okay. Microphone  
16 is working. All right. Thank you, everybody, for  
17 attending. My name is Mark Castillo. I'm a senior  
18 civil engineer with the Metropolitan Water  
19 Reclamation District, and this will be Capital  
20 Improvement Update for Cal-Sag Channel Watershed  
21 Planning Council meeting.

22 Here is our updated stormwater  
23 infrastructure project map. Apparently there are  
24 38 projects in this watershed, including seven

1 regional properties with one ongoing; 16 local  
2 partnership projects, seven of which are ongoing; 13  
3 green infrastructure projects, three ongoing; a  
4 Space to Grow school, that's been completed; and one  
5 flood-prone property acquisition completed.

6 Overall, these projects benefit over  
7 2,000 structures and create over 258 acre feet of  
8 stormwater storage. Totaling construction -- total  
9 construction, acquisition costs exceed a hundred  
10 million where the District contributes around  
11 \$93 million.

12 We recently reopened all four of our  
13 stormwater partnership applications. So our  
14 stormwater partnership program, green infrastructure  
15 partnership program, voluntary flood-prone property  
16 acquisition program, and our conceptual projects  
17 partnerships. These partnerships help communities  
18 manage stormwater, improve their resilience to  
19 flooding. Stormwater partnership program provides  
20 funding to help build and manage stormwater through  
21 shovel-ready stormwater management projects. The GI  
22 one helps provide funding towards the construction  
23 of green infrastructure. We provide funding to help  
24 acquire flood-prone properties within the

1 floodplain, and then our conceptual project  
2 partnership provides technical assistance to help  
3 study a flooding problem and provide design  
4 assistance.

5 If you would like to learn more or apply,  
6 please visit [mwrdd.org/stormwater/partnerships](http://mwrdd.org/stormwater/partnerships).

7 Now let's kind of go over our stormwater  
8 partnership summary. Last cycle we had  
9 17 pre-applications, 14 of which finalized their  
10 application by May, 11 of those applications were  
11 eligible and were put on a prioritization list based  
12 on benefited structures, extent of flooding, sewer  
13 service area, detention provided, and commitment to  
14 maintenance, as well as the median income of the  
15 community, amongst other criteria.

16 Of those 11 applications, \$30 million was  
17 requested from the MWRD with a total of around  
18 \$70 million total construction costs. This  
19 prioritization list is a little new this year, and  
20 applicants will be notified based on their grouping  
21 as funding becomes available.

22 Moving on to the capital improvements,  
23 first up is the diversion channel for flood control  
24 project on Midlothian Creek in Robbins, Illinois.

1 This is the first part of a two-phase flood control  
2 project. It includes the establishment of a new  
3 culvert under 135th Street and diversion channel  
4 with three drop structures to control flow from an  
5 upstream stormwater pond, to provide storage, and a  
6 new outlet to the Cal-Sag Channel. The project is  
7 currently under construction and is to be completed  
8 this year.

9 The second phase, which is a stormwater  
10 pond of the Midlothian Creek restoration and rain  
11 gardens to be bid -- or actually, yeah, should have  
12 been -- will be rebid like later on this year.

13 MR. FISHER: It's already awarded.

14 MR. CASTILLO: It's already awarded.

15 Yeah, I'll have to talk to this person because they  
16 didn't update their slides.

17 Next up is the Worth local flood control  
18 project in the Worth Woods Subdivision. This  
19 project provides stormwater management improvements  
20 to the -- to address flooding in the Worth Woods  
21 Subdivision in the northwestern portion of the  
22 village between Southwest Highway, 111th Street,  
23 Oketo Avenue, and 76th Avenue. Easements are  
24 currently in negotiation, and design documents are

1 being produced.

2 MS. WERNER: Can I ask, we thought that  
3 was already ready to go out to bid. And this school  
4 has a huge project going on right now that includes  
5 detention. They thought that there would already be  
6 our -- this system installed that they'd be able to  
7 hook into. Do we know why? Because we had a big  
8 town hall meeting, invited all the residents from  
9 that neighborhood, and they were all excited, and  
10 now this. Nothing is happening.

11 The school is upset because they said  
12 their project is halfway through construction  
13 already and they're going to have to add some cost  
14 because they're going to have to measure the outflow  
15 without having the connecting pipe that they thought  
16 MWRD was going to allow them to hook into. None of  
17 your notes anywhere explain, like, why this is  
18 delayed?

19 MR. FISHER: I can answer. I can give you  
20 some of the answers. This is Rich Fisher, MWRD.

21 I think we are still in negotiation with  
22 the school district for getting land rights across  
23 their property -- I think that's part of what's part  
24 of the holdup -- and finalizing the final design

1 based on if we can get the land rights across the  
2 school district property for that.

3 MS. WERNER: Oh, that's totally different  
4 story than I'm getting from the superintendent of  
5 the schools.

6 MR. FISHER: Yeah. That's my  
7 understanding, is that we are still --

8 MR. CASTILLO: Yeah, because I think even  
9 looking at the exhibit here, from what I remember,  
10 it does seem like the improvements go through like  
11 that playground area.

12 MS. WERNER: It does.

13 MR. FISHER: We had contacted them and  
14 requested, you know, ability to purchase the  
15 easement to go across the property, but my  
16 understanding is we are still kind of waiting on  
17 them.

18 MS. WERNER: Thank you.

19 MR. BENNETT: Now you know what to tell  
20 them.

21 MS. WERNER: Now I know what to tell them.

22 MR. CASTILLO: Next up is the Palos  
23 Heights local flood control project on  
24 131st Street and Cypress Lane. This is the

1 installation of a drainage swale and downstream  
2 sewer and outfall to Navajo Creek to protect three  
3 properties from flooding during the hundred-year  
4 design storm and reduce roadway flooding for  
5 neighboring residents. Contract has been awarded  
6 and construction is planned next year.

7 Next up we have the flood control project  
8 on Cal-Sag Tributary C in Midlothian and Crestwood  
9 in the Village of Midlothian and the Village of  
10 Crestwood. This is a conveyance project and  
11 stormwater detention improvement of the Cal-Sag  
12 Tributary C between Central Avenue and Midlothian  
13 Turnpike. Currently IGA is being negotiated between  
14 all parties, and this project has ARPA money, so  
15 American Rescue Plan Act, \$1.5 million has been  
16 awarded.

17 Next we have the stormwater storage at  
18 Community High School District 218 Administration  
19 sports field and stormwater improvements in  
20 Oak Lawn. This is a stormwater detention at the  
21 school district site with new storm sewers to be  
22 provided and drainage improvements in the Stony  
23 Creek subwatershed. An IGA is being negotiated  
24 between us and the village, and currently the



1 project is at 98 percent design, and construction is  
2 anticipated later this year.

3 Is that right, Rich?

4 MR. FISHER: This one I think is  
5 probably -- my understanding is that final  
6 engineering is going to finish next year and  
7 hopefully construction will start in the fall.

8 MR. MALLO: Preconstruction will start in  
9 the fall?

10 MR. FISHER: Yeah. My understanding is  
11 construction will start next fall.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We delayed it due  
13 to the applying for that grant. So it's been pushed  
14 back a year for that.

15 MR. MALLO: From what I understand,  
16 holding 20 million gallons.

17 MR. FISHER: Yes, I don't have that  
18 detail. Sorry.

19 MR. MALLO: That's what I was  
20 understanding.

21 MR. CASTILLO: Thanks for clarifying that.

22 MR. FISHER: We can confirm that.

23 MR. VORDERER: How much is 20 million  
24 gallons? That fill up this room?

1 MR. FISHER: Yeah.

2 MR. MALLO: It's in Siesta Key right now.

3 MR. CASTILLO: On to the conceptual  
4 project that's in this watershed. Orland Township,  
5 Illinois, 157th Street and Spring Creek flood study,  
6 that's a study of possible alternatives to mitigate  
7 flooding of 157th Street and surrounding  
8 residential properties caused by high water levels  
9 due to Spring Creek and high precipitation. It's  
10 currently being reviewed, and this project has  
11 \$150,000 received from ARPA.

12 We also have an alternative stormwater  
13 diversion plan in Bedford Park, Justice, and Summit.  
14 This is a planning study to address flooding and  
15 drainage issues within the Village of Bedford Park  
16 and neighboring communities. Project or the design  
17 is to construct a new storm sewer and new outfall to  
18 the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to upsize the  
19 proposed IDOT storm sewer on Harlem Avenue and to  
20 construct a detention basin at the Summit Park  
21 District. We are continuing to coordinate with  
22 Bedford Park, Summit, and the Park District and  
23 IDOT, and engineering will begin later this year.

24 Now on to the green infrastructure

1 projects. Earlier this year, we had 12 GI projects  
2 that were selected and will begin construction in  
3 2025, \$8.6 million total GI construction costs,  
4 34.5 acres of stormwater area draining to each of  
5 the projects in total providing 862,000 gallons of  
6 design retention capacity.

7 We have the -- oh, in this area, we have  
8 the Lake Katherine commuter parking lot in Palos  
9 Heights. So this project serves as a demonstration  
10 site for various GI applications and practices. It  
11 included permeable pavement parking at the  
12 Lake Katherine Nature Center on Harlem Avenue,  
13 providing 120,000 gallons of design retention  
14 capacity. The IGA has been executed, and I believe  
15 it actually looks like should be completed soon,  
16 October this year.

17 We have the Chicago Ridge permeable  
18 parking lot in Chicago Ridge, Illinois. This is a  
19 parking lot for the east police department located  
20 near the intersection of Ridgeland Avenue and  
21 Washington Street providing 56,000 gallons of  
22 capacity. An IGA has been executed with  
23 construction beginning within a few weeks, to be  
24 completed by November of this year.

1           One of the new selected projects is a  
2 public library green roof in Blue Island. So this  
3 is the Blue Island Public Library applied to our  
4 program, and they're planning to install a green  
5 roof on an existing -- on their library providing  
6 about 3,000 gallons of detention. So we are  
7 currently in negotiations with the public library.  
8 The design is to be completed this year and  
9 constructed next year.

10           And then finally we have the town center  
11 green infrastructure and improvement in Willow  
12 Springs. This is another new green infrastructure  
13 project. Here we are replacing or we are installing  
14 permeable pavers, providing an estimated  
15 171,000 gallons of design retention capacity.  
16 Again, IGA's are just currently under negotiation,  
17 and the program's time line is always designed to be  
18 completed this year, constructed next year.

19           All right. With that, if you have any  
20 questions about our partnerships and the current  
21 capital improvement projects, please let us know.  
22 You can always e-mail us at [stormwater@mwr.org](mailto:stormwater@mwr.org).

23           Do I have any questions?

24           MS. MILOVICH-WALTERS: I just had a

1 question about the app -- oh, sorry. Nicole  
2 Milovich-Walters, Palos Park.

3 My new office overlooks it so I was just  
4 curious. It looks like -- does that road dead end  
5 at the roundabout or does it go somewhere?

6 MR. CASTILLO: I think it looks like it  
7 continues on. I was actually supposed to go out  
8 there and take photos of it -- I hear it was  
9 supposed to be near complete -- but I got caught in  
10 traffic.

11 MS. MILOVICH-WALTERS: It looks pretty  
12 close to complete. I just hadn't walked over there  
13 yet. I was just curious.

14 MR. SPOLER: Mike Spoler, Robinson  
15 Engineering.

16 You mentioned at the start of the program  
17 that the applications are open for the next round of  
18 projects.

19 MR. CASTILLO: Yeah, this next cycle is  
20 going to be open.

21 MR. SPOLER: When is the due date on that?

22 MR. CASTILLO: I actually have another  
23 presentation going through, like, our programs, but  
24 they're up here. So the stormwater partnership

1 program, green infrastructure, and conceptual  
2 projects all have a pre-application with various due  
3 dates. And then those programs will have a period  
4 where we review your application, provide feedback,  
5 contact you, we say, hey, provide us additional  
6 information as well as finalize your application.

7 I believe green infrastructure's final  
8 applications is going to be sometime in April.  
9 Stormwater partnership is -- excuse me. Green  
10 infrastructure I think is March, stormwater  
11 partnership is April, and then conceptual will be  
12 sometime like in January for their full application.  
13 And then the voluntary flood-prone property  
14 acquisition program is just a single form with the  
15 deadline of the end of January.

16 MR. BENNETT: Just a question generally.  
17 We brought it up before in the past. The funding  
18 aspect of this as far as the share is concerned, it  
19 appears that kind of all over the place as to the  
20 type of share. It's not necessarily 50-50. It  
21 depends on the project, I gather, and you're also  
22 indicating the affordability of a community. Are  
23 those always negotiated off the start or usually  
24 when you're done with preliminary engineering you

1 get a better idea on the split?

2 MR. FISHER: On the conceptuals, yeah, I'd  
3 say when we are developing the project, they're  
4 working with a community developed project. We kind  
5 of look at the cost and like what, you know, the  
6 community has to offer to bring. Sometimes it can  
7 vary from community to community what they can  
8 bring. Sometimes they have land. Sometimes they  
9 can offer, like, services in kind, that type of  
10 thing to kind of help pay for a project.

11 So we do, with conceptual, we do kind of  
12 look at it and kind of determine what the  
13 community's capacity and then kind of go from there.

14 On the stormwater partnership and green  
15 infrastructure, it's pretty close to -- we try to  
16 stick with somewhere around the 50-50 on those when  
17 we do those.

18 MR. BENNETT: I was just looking at the  
19 ratio of numbers on the screen, but it was community  
20 share was greater than or more than 50 percent.  
21 Just wondered in general. I didn't have the details  
22 of each one of those projects, but, again, I was  
23 just looking at ratios and it was below 50 percent.

24 MS. SMITH: Yeah, the other thing too is,

1 the thing to consider too is we do get a wide range  
2 of projects that we get submitted to from -- we've  
3 had some submit, like, \$20 million projects, and  
4 then we have some that submit, you know, million  
5 dollar projects. And basically our budget on an  
6 annual basis for like stormwater partnership program  
7 is around \$4 million that we got to spend.

8 So we look at the top priority and look  
9 how we can get those dollars in there, and part of  
10 the prioritization too -- Mark might go over this a  
11 little bit -- we're kind of hoping to give us a  
12 little flexibility to where if we're looking at a  
13 project that maybe was a higher priority but they're  
14 just not ready to go just yet, if we can reallocate  
15 those dollars to the projects that are more ready to  
16 go or try to get a little bit more flexible getting  
17 the dollars out. We realize that we have a  
18 responsibility to spend the dollars that we are  
19 collecting, you know.

20 MR. BENNETT: Yeah, because obviously with  
21 time schedule of these projects, they're not done in  
22 one year, sometimes they spread some of these  
23 projects over a three or four. I'm just wondering  
24 how the District obviously commits to a dollar and



1 carries that over each year to year, or is  
2 additional new money put in each year beyond that?

3 MR. FISHER: Well, we try to -- I know  
4 everybody tries to do this. We try to maintain our  
5 budget, and it's a hard thing to do a lot of times,  
6 especially when we got -- like currently, we have,  
7 like, 80 projects going on currently we are  
8 partnering with -- 80. We try to do our best to get  
9 a projection on where those funds are going to be  
10 spent and make sure that we have the budget  
11 allocated for when those dollars will be spent.

12 But with that many projects, you know, a  
13 lot of times there's shifts in them so that's  
14 another reason we are trying to leverage some of  
15 those dollars maybe where there's a slide in the  
16 project, maybe we can pull in another project, get  
17 those done. It is part of our strategy to get those  
18 dollars out for sure.

19 MR. BENNETT: Other questions?

20 MR. CASTILLO: All right. Thank you.

21 MR. BENNETT: I'm sorry, Mark. Are you  
22 done?

23 MR. CASTILLO: Yes. Sorry.

24 MR. BENNETT: Moving on to small streams,

1 Javier.

2 MR. MONTEIRO: Good evening. My name is  
3 Javier Monteiro. I'm an associate civil engineer  
4 for MWRD. I work with the Small Streams Maintenance  
5 Program, and for this watershed planning council  
6 meeting, I'd like to present what we do and how can  
7 you be part of it, also touch a little bit on the  
8 Rain Barrel Program and Restore the Canopy.

9 So Cook County through all has very little  
10 difference in elevation; and the streams, they flow  
11 very, very slowly so they're naturally prone to  
12 flooding. So when we have heavy rains, even minor  
13 blockages and weeds get built up very quickly and,  
14 you know, increases the chances of flooding. So the  
15 streams, they must be maintained and blockages must  
16 be taken care of.

17 So in 2006 as the Small Streams  
18 Maintenance Program, or SSMP, was created with the  
19 main mission of removing the blockages in our  
20 waterways, and we have been removing thousands of  
21 yards each year.

22 And outside of our primary mission, we do  
23 also, we'll assess case by case. We'll remove dead  
24 trees and unhealthy trees or even healthy trees if

1 they're on the banks. We will remove invasive  
2 species. We'll do beaver trapping, do erosion  
3 control. Whereas the very, you know, it's we'll do  
4 smaller projects than was just presented but that  
5 are relevant for mitigating flooding.

6 And here are some pictures of before and  
7 after the work.

8 And here's the table with the total debris  
9 removed by watershed. Last two years in Cook  
10 County, 2023, we spend about \$2 million, average  
11 cost per cubic yard removed of \$131. And 2024 we  
12 been continuing with the program and some rules such  
13 as standardizing procedures and find critical  
14 streams, scheduling critical inspections, increase  
15 the public awareness of our presence and execution  
16 of program.

17 Some of the equipment that we use is  
18 skidsteer, mini skidsteer, chipper, and other  
19 resources such as chainsaws. So the depending on  
20 the stream water elevation, location, and the type  
21 of blockage usually it's with the material, dead  
22 trees, we will discuss if we will secure the  
23 blockage -- the removed blockage on the riverbank or  
24 we will chip it. If we end up chipping, we'll meet

1 with the municipality for disposal of material. The  
2 mini skidsteer we use for picking up, dragging, and  
3 winching material. It does brush cut as well. And  
4 the main skid steer is pretty much the same  
5 capability but with more sensitive areas.

6 So you can help us by reporting; not  
7 leaving yard waste in your streams; properly  
8 disposing of trash; and if you live on a stream, I  
9 would recommend landscaping with native plants,  
10 removing evasive plants such as buckthorn. The  
11 native plants have a strong root system that will  
12 resist erosion.

13 And for reporting, there's two ways. One  
14 is through our website -- mwrdd.org. You contact us  
15 to report blockage in creeks and streams or  
16 involving and e-mailing Arturo or me, Fabio  
17 Monteiro. Please notify us immediately when you see  
18 an issue.

19 So this is how it looks like on our -- oh,  
20 sorry. I've been not moving it. I apologize.

21 Okay. So this is the table I mentioned.

22 Those are the pieces of equipment.

23 Contact for Arturo and me.

24 This is how it looks like on our web page.

1 You can scroll down. When you get to our main web  
2 page, scroll down all the way to bottom. You'll  
3 find contact us, click on it, and then you can find  
4 report blockage on creeks and streams, click on it,  
5 and our form will pop up. It's a very simple form.  
6 Just put in your information and most importantly  
7 the location of the blockage. If you don't want to  
8 put your own information, you can just put in the  
9 location and we'll inspect anyways.

10 So if you want to know more about stream  
11 maintenance, you can visit our website, MWRD,  
12 Stormwater Management, Stream Maintenance. For  
13 questions, you can contact Arturo or Fabio.

14 So Rain Barrel Program, it's still on.  
15 MWRD provides discounted prices for Cook County  
16 residents. It's important because it collects some  
17 of the rainwater and so it doesn't go to our system.  
18 And you can use the water. It looks -- the barrel  
19 looks just like the picture with the overflow hose,  
20 spigot with mosquito screen. You can find more  
21 information on our website.

22 Restore the Canopy Program. It's -- so we  
23 still -- we are still providing saplings through  
24 October, to the end of October, on our water

1 reclamation plants from 9:00 AM to noon. Very  
2 important because they can really soak up some of  
3 the rainwater so it helps with the flooding as well.  
4 We donated over a hundred thousand of those free  
5 trees since 2016.

6 Thank you. Any questions?

7 MR. BENNETT: Just a question on  
8 maintenance. You're always great coming out if  
9 there's an emergency or bad storm. And I know you  
10 have a maintenance program that goes on constantly.  
11 Do you list the areas that you're in or going to be  
12 in each year? Is that readily available?

13 MR. MONTEIRO: I have it internally; but,  
14 yeah, that's a good point. We should have that.

15 MR. BENNETT: And I think you contact the  
16 municipality if you are going in to look at the town  
17 prior to it.

18 MR. MONTEIRO: Not necessarily every  
19 single time because there's so many. But usually,  
20 yes, especially when we're chipping. We work  
21 together. And, yeah, sometimes there's maintenance  
22 agreements for the municipality.

23 MR. BENNETT: I would suggest, if you can,  
24 possibly post start of the year, you know, a

1 potential schedule going into towns. Give us a  
2 heads-up to the public works commissioner out there  
3 that when you're in that area may want to point out  
4 some other area potentially on that maintenance, on  
5 the -- in the area that you're cleaning. Give them  
6 a heads-up if that's possible.

7 MR. MONTEIRO: Okay. Noted.

8 MR. VORDERER: So based on your answers  
9 here, I'm assuming you do a regular inspection. We  
10 had three creeks that run through Oak Lawn. Make it  
11 four. Other than getting reports of blockages,  
12 you're looking at these creeks on an annual basis?  
13 Semiannual? What?

14 MR. CASTILLO: Yes, we don't have a  
15 schedule that we follow for each of the streams, but  
16 we try to keep them updated every year to have a  
17 look on all of them. We mainly go off of reports.  
18 We already pretty busy with just the reports. But  
19 so, yeah, at the end of the year, we end up taking  
20 care of the flooded streams in the county.

21 MR. MALLO: Real quick. Trustee Paul  
22 Mallo.

23 Back to the rain barrel how -- is that  
24 something that continues through the winter where

1 residents can order? And how do they order and --

2 MR. MONTEIRO: I believe that the rain  
3 barrel they get throughout the year.

4 MR. MALLO: Throughout the year. Where --

5 MR. MONTEIRO: Until the last. I don't  
6 know the part.

7 MR. MALLO: They did mention that delivery  
8 was included in that --

9 MR. MONTEIRO: It is.

10 MR. MALLO: -- ordering and seniors are  
11 able to get in for a cheaper price, but they are  
12 delivered directly to their house.

13 MR. MONTEIRO: Right.

14 MR. MALLO: That's right on the website?

15 MR. MONTEIRO: Yes.

16 MR. BENNETT: They've come down a long way  
17 in their price. Started out about 50 bucks,  
18 60 bucks a barrel. So good price.

19 MR. VORDERER: I remember when they were  
20 free.

21 MR. BENNETT: For a short period.

22 MR. VORDERER: I got two of them for free.

23 MR. BENNETT: Thank you.

24 Any other business before the Watershed?



1 We are going to meet again next month. In fact, I'm  
2 hosting next month in Palos Hills. We'll be back  
3 again for a further update on especially on the  
4 capital projects. Thank you for the cooperation of  
5 the District on all your programs.

6 And again, especially you folks who have  
7 projects or thinking about them or can cooperate  
8 with another community on solving that problem,  
9 please do so. Again, it goes -- I asked about  
10 funding. Sometimes it helps to begin to reach out.  
11 We were able to pick up about \$3 1/2 million grant  
12 from the federal government for our municipal  
13 project which was about \$10 million. So it stalled  
14 it a little bit, but certainly it covered our cost.  
15 So some option you may want to think about when you  
16 begin to plan that where you can come up with the  
17 money.

18 MR. FISHER: I do have a couple things to  
19 add.

20 MR. BENNETT: Sure. Go ahead.

21 MR. FISHER: So on the programs, we are  
22 going to be doing a webinar here pretty soon to kind  
23 of go over like application process that we'll be  
24 sending out to all the villages so that they're

1 aware of that. We are recording it too, putting it  
2 on our website, so that information will be coming  
3 out pretty soon.

4 MR. CASTILLO: There's actually going to  
5 be two. So one is going to be specifically for GI  
6 because they have a completely different approach to  
7 how they're going to provide funding towards  
8 projects now. It's going to dollar-per-gallon basis  
9 instead of just the straight like lump sum request.

10 And then there will be a second  
11 presentation that will kind of go over like the  
12 other three programs.

13 MR. FISHER: And then the other thing I  
14 was going to mention too, actually some news from  
15 IEMA, Illinois Emergency Management Agency. I just  
16 found out about it Wednesday. So FEMA, the Federal  
17 Emergency Management Agency, usually by this time  
18 they have announced the notice of funding  
19 opportunity with the Building Resilient  
20 Infrastructure and Community, or BRIC. They haven't  
21 announced it yet, but IEMA had said that they're  
22 having a deadline for letters of intent for  
23 submitting to BRIC which is this Friday.

24 MR. BENNETT: Oh.

1 MS. WERNER: Oh, my gosh.

2 MR. FISHER: Just so you know. It's  
3 Friday, October 4th.

4 Good news is that the letter of intent is  
5 short. It's just a one pager. Very similar to what  
6 they did with the hazard mitigation grant program,  
7 is a one pager. They wanted to keep it simple so  
8 it's still one pager again. Just want to kind of  
9 make that announcement.

10 I know, I think Vicky sent it out last  
11 week. So when we found out, we kind of pushed it  
12 out; and I seen Vicky sent it out too last week.

13 And the second thing just to kind of keep  
14 in back of your minds too is that President Biden  
15 declared a national -- or a disaster for the  
16 July 18th tornadoes that come through. So that's  
17 going to result in another IEMA hazard mitigation  
18 grant. I imagine it's probably -- right now they're  
19 kind of collecting information on the damages from  
20 that. From that, they'll determine how much is  
21 going to be in that HMGP. I assume it's probably  
22 going to come out next spring, we should hear on  
23 that, but kind of keep that in everybody's mind,  
24 that those two funding events are available too.

1           MR. BENNETT: Thanks. Any further  
2 questions?

3           Our conference will meet in about  
4 ten minutes. If there are no further questions or  
5 business, ladies and gentlemen, I'll entertain a  
6 motion to adjourn.

7           MR. VORDERER: So moved.

8           MR. BRADY: Second by Bridgeview.

9           MR. BENNETT: All in favor, signify by the  
10 usual manner.

11                                 (Chorus of ayes.)

12           MR. BENNETT: Meeting adjourned.

13                                 (WHEREUPON, at 6:50 P.M. the  
14 proceedings were adjourned.)

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do set my hand at  
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