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M E E T I N G

CAL-SAG WATERSHED PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING

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Oak Lawn Village Hall
9446 Raymond Avenue
Oak Lawn, Illinois

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Tuesday, April 30, 2024
6:15 o'clock P.M.

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 Tuesday, April 30, 2024, commencing at
the hour of 6:15 o'clock P.M., at 9446 Raymond
Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

1 PRESENT (District Personnel):

2 MR. RICHARD FISHER, Principal Civil Engineer

3 MR. MATTHEW ALDRICH, Assistant Civil Engineer

4 MS. DAYANA REYES, Assistant 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. JOHN RYAN, Village of Alsip

11 MR. GARY D. LEWIS, Village of Bridgeview

12 MS. SUSAN LEHR, City of Hickory Hills

13 MR. LANCE BEIGH, Village of Justice

14 MR. BUD STALKER, Village of Oak Lawn

15 MR. TERRY VORDERER, Village of Oak Lawn

16 MR. JAIME PEMBROKE, Village of Oak Lawn

17 MR. RALPH SOCH, Village of Oak Lawn

18 MR. JOEL VAN ESSEN, Village of Orland Park

19 MR. ROBERT STRAZ, City of Palos Heights

20 MR. ADAM JASINSKI, City of Palos Heights

21 MS. NICOLE MILOVICH-WALTERS, Village of Palos
22 Park

23 MS. MARY WERNER, Village of Worth

24 MR. KEN CHASTAIN, Farnsworth Group

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ALSO PRESENT (continued):
MR. RYAN GOUGIS, CMAP
MS. ERIN ALEMAN, CMAP
MR. DENNIS POPLSY, WSP
MR. HOUSAM HAJ YOUSIF, GSI

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Members of the Public

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

3 Vick, you want to read the roll call,
4 please.

5 MS. SMITH: Yes.

6 Alsip.

7 MR. RYAN: Mayor John Ryan.

8 MS. SMITH: Bedford Park.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. SMITH: Blue Island.

11 (No response.)

12 MS. SMITH: Bridgeview.

13 MR. LEWIS: Trustee Lewis.

14 MS. SMITH: Burbank.

15 (No response.)

16 MS. SMITH: Chicago.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. SMITH: Chicago Ridge.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. SMITH: Crestwood.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. SMITH: Evergreen Park.

23 (No response.)

24 MS. SMITH: Hickory Hills.

1 MS. LEHR: Sue Lehr, public works.

2 MS. SMITH: Hometown.

3 (No response.)

4 MS. SMITH: Justice.

5 MR. BEIGH: Lance Beigh, village engineer.

6 MS. SMITH: Lemont.

7 (No response.)

8 MS. SMITH: Merrionette Park.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. SMITH: Midlothian.

11 (No response.)

12 MS. SMITH: Oak Forest.

13 (No response.)

14 MS. SMITH: Oak Lawn.

15 MR. VORDERER: Mayor Terry Vorderer.

16 MS. SMITH: Orland Hills.

17 (No response.)

18 MS. SMITH: Orland Park.

19 MR. VAN ESSEN: Joel Van Essen, public
20 works director.

21 MS. SMITH: Palos Heights.

22 MR. STRAZ: Bob Straz, mayor of City of
23 Palos Heights, and Adam Jasinski, public works
24 director.

1 MS. SMITH: Palos Hills.

2 MR. BENNETT: Jerry Bennett, mayor.

3 MS. SMITH: Palos Park.

4 MS. MILOVICH-WALTERS: Mayor Nicole
5 Milovich-Walters.

6 MS. SMITH: Robbins.

7 (No response.)

8 MS. SMITH: Summit.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. SMITH: Tinley Park.

11 (No response.)

12 MS. SMITH: Willow Springs.

13 (No response.)

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: Ladies and gentlemen, we
12 have a quorum, and the first item on the agenda --
13 and I remind the members that when you speak to
14 identify yourself for the court clerk so she knows
15 who is speaking. There are before you the minutes
16 of the January 31st meeting. I'll entertain a
17 motion to accept those minutes.
18 MR. LEWIS: So moved.
19 MS. MILOVICH-WALTERS: Second.
20 MR. LEWIS: Trustee Lewis.
21 MS. MILOVICH-WALTERS: Milovich-Walters.
22 MR. BENNETT: Moved and seconded. All in
23 favor, signify in the usual manner.
24 (Chorus of ayes.)

1 MR. BENNETT: All opposed.

2 (No response.)

3 MR. BENNETT: Motion carries.

4 First item on the agenda is the Capital
5 Improvements Updates. So, Matthew.

6 MR. ALDRICH: Good evening, and welcome to
7 the Cal-Sag Channel Watershed Planning Council
8 meeting. At today's meeting we'll cover capital
9 improvement updates for the Cal-Sag Channel
10 watershed planning area.

11 My name is Matthew Aldrich, and I'm an
12 assistant civil engineer with the Metro Water
13 Reclamation District. I will be the moderator for
14 the WPC meeting.

15 As you can see, the time lapse footage
16 illustrates the stormwater infrastructure projects
17 awarded by the type since January 2011. Note that
18 until 2014, MWRD stormwater was only involved in
19 several regional stormwater projects. However, in
20 our current day, MWRD is engaged in a diversity of
21 stormwater and flood relief projects countywide.
22 Over 200 projects are throughout Cook County.

23 The total -- for the Cal-Sag Channel
24 watershed, there are a total of 36 projects, six

1 regional projects that are all complete, 16 local
2 partnership projects with eight ongoing, 12 green
3 infrastructure projects with two ongoing, and one
4 flood-prone property acquisition completed.

5 As you can see, the three of the four of
6 our partnership programs are closed to new
7 applicants at this time. The partnership
8 applications will reopen by the end of quarter -- by
9 the second quarter, which will be June or July.

10 The stormwater partnership program
11 pre-applicants were notified to finalize their
12 application by May 17th. If you have any
13 questions, please contact our e-mail address
14 stormwater@mwrdd.org or visit our website at
15 mwrdd.org/stormwater/partnerships.

16 Now to the first project. The first
17 project is the diversion channel for a flood project
18 on Midlothian Creek in Robbins, Illinois. The lead
19 agency for this project is MWRD. The project is the
20 first part of a two-phase flood control project. It
21 includes establishment of a new culvert under
22 135th Street and a diversion channel with three drop
23 structures to control flow from an upstream
24 stormwater pond to provide storage and a new outlet

1 to the Cal-Sag Channel.

2 The current status of the project:
3 Construction is to be completed in spring of 2024,
4 and the second phase, which includes a stormwater
5 pond, Midlothian Creek restoration, and rain gardens
6 are to be bid in spring 2024.

7 The Palos Heights local flood control
8 project at 131st Street and Cypress Lane. This
9 project is in Palos Heights, Illinois, and the lead
10 agency is MWRD. The project is an installation of
11 drainage swale and downstream sewer and outfall to
12 Navajo Creek to protect three properties from
13 flooding during a 100-year design storm and reduce
14 roadway flooding for neighboring residents.

15 The current status of the project: The
16 advertisement went out April 2024, and construction
17 is anticipated to start July 2024.

18 Our next project, Worth II, local flood
19 control project in Worth Woods subdivision. It's in
20 the location of Worth, Illinois. The lead agency is
21 once again MWRD, and the project is to provide
22 stormwater management improvements to address
23 flooding in Worth Woods subdivision in the
24 northwestern portion of the village between

1 Southwest Highway -- Southwest Highway,
2 111th Street, Oketo Avenue, and 76th Avenue.

3 The current status of the project: There
4 are design documents being produced, easement
5 property interest starting negotiation, and
6 construction starts -- construction start
7 anticipated January 2025.

8 To our next project, stormwater storage at
9 Community High School District 218 administration
10 sports field and stormwater sewer improvements,
11 Oak Lawn, Illinois. The lead agency for this
12 project is the Village of Oak Lawn. This project
13 proposes stormwater detention at school district
14 site and new storm sewers to provide drainage
15 improvements in the Stony Creek subwatershed.

16 The status of this project: The IGA is
17 being negotiated between MWRD and the Village;
18 98 percent design by village's engineering
19 consultant pending; construction is anticipated in
20 the fall of 2024.

21 Our next project is the flood control
22 project on Cal-Sag Tributary C in Bremen Township,
23 Midlothian, and Crestwood. The lead agency of this
24 project is the Village of Crestwood. The project

1 proposes conveyance and stormwater detention
2 improvements of the Cal-Sag Tributary C between
3 Central Ave. and Midlothian Turnpike.

4 And the current status of the project:
5 The IGA is being negotiated between the parties.
6 This also, project, has been awarded by the American
7 Rescue Plan Act of \$1,500,000.

8 Our next project is the alternative
9 stormwater diversion plan in Bedford Park, Justice,
10 and Summit, Illinois. The lead agency for this
11 project is MWRD. This project is a plan study to
12 address flooding and drainage issues within the
13 Village of Bedford Park and neighboring communities.

14 The status of this project -- of this plan
15 study: Identify a preferred alternative to
16 construct a new storm sewer and new outfall to the
17 Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. We'll begin
18 preliminary design later this year.

19 Our next project is the 157th Street and
20 Spring Creek flood study in Orland Township,
21 Illinois. The lead agency is MWRD. The description
22 of the study, it's a study of possible alternatives
23 to mitigate flooding of the 157th Street and
24 surrounding residential properties caused by high

1 water levels of Spring Creek during periods of high
2 precipitation.

3 The current status of this project: The
4 conceptual report was prepared by OTHD was recently
5 received and is currently being reviewed. The
6 American Rescue Plan Act awarded \$150,000 for this
7 study.

8 Our next project is a green infrastructure
9 project, Chicago Ridge permeable parking lot. The
10 lead agency is the Village of Chicago Ridge. This
11 project proposes a permeable pavement at the east
12 police department parking lot located near the
13 intersection of Ridgeland Avenue and Washington
14 Street providing an estimated 56,800 gallons of
15 designed retention capacity.

16 The status of this project: The IGA has
17 been executed, design is underway, and construction
18 is anticipated to begin in summer of 2024.

19 Our next project is the Lake Katherine
20 commuter parking lot in Palos Heights, Illinois.
21 The lead agency is the City of Palos Heights, and
22 project proposes permeable pavement commuter parking
23 lot at Lake Katherine Nature Center on Harlem
24 Avenue, Route 83, providing approximately

1 120,000 gallons of designed retention capacity.

2 The current status is the IGA is being
3 finalized and construction is anticipated in summer
4 of 2024.

5 And now a little more about our green
6 infrastructure partnership program. Pre-application
7 forms were received July through December 31st,
8 2023. There were 35 pre-applications that were
9 received. Full applications were received from
10 qualified pre-applicants January through
11 March 8th, 2024, and 22 full applications were
12 received.

13 New pre-applications will be accepted
14 beginning summer of 2024 for projects to be
15 constructed in 2026. Projects must manage
16 stormwater using -- these projects must manage
17 stormwater using green infrastructure.
18 Pre-applications are mandatory. Applicants must
19 have a pre-application form on file by the deadline
20 in order to apply via full application.

21 There's more info about this program
22 available at this website, mwrdd.org/stormwater/gipp.

23 And now about some FEMA grant
24 opportunities.

1 Funding is available due to two
2 presidential disaster declarations in 2023.
3 Eligible projects include stormwater management
4 projects and green infrastructure projects.
5 Twenty-five percent nonfederal cost share, work must
6 be completed within 36 months. If pre-application
7 is approved, a full application will be due in
8 August and/or November.

9 For information -- for more information,
10 visit the website at the lower left corner of the
11 slide at fema.gov. The pre-applications will be
12 accepted until May 17th. If there's any
13 questions, please contact Jeffrey Thompson, the
14 state hazard mitigation officer at Illinois
15 Emergency Management Agency. And there's more
16 information about the pre-application link at the
17 link in the bottom right corner of the slide.

18 If you have any questions about the
19 stormwater management programs, please contact the
20 stormwater management at the e-mail in the middle,
21 stormwater@mwrdd.org.

22 And now for any questions.

23 MR. BENNETT: Any questions regarding your
24 projects that are up on the board?

1 Just I didn't catch that. So the new
2 projects that have yet to be approved from the
3 District, or are you still pending review of
4 application?

5 MR. FISHER: I can answer.

6 MR. BENNETT: How are you?

7 MR. FISHER: Rich Fisher, MWRD.

8 So our stormwater partnership applications
9 which are the shovel-ready ones -- which are the
10 shovel-ready projects, the final applications are
11 due May 17th on those. We're anticipating
12 probably selecting those projects probably by the
13 end of June, July, will probably be the time we pick
14 those.

15 MR. BENNETT: Rich, how many from our
16 area?

17 MR. FISHER: That's a good question. I
18 don't know exactly how many. We had probably around
19 25 applications total, but we did get pretty good
20 turnout on that.

21 MR. BENNETT: That's good to hear. We
22 keep pushing the opportunities that are out there.

23 And also the -- on the FEMA funding,
24 that's separate from you guys; right?

1 MR. FISHER: Yeah. So -- this is Rich
2 again.

3 So that's associated with the last
4 summer's rainfall events, the two presidential
5 disaster declarations. Basically it's a hazard
6 mitigation grant program. I strongly encourage you
7 to check it out. The application is very easy.
8 It's like a two-pager, very preliminary. They just
9 want kind of a narrative and a budget on that.

10 If you submit any applications, you know,
11 MWRD would be glad to look at them and I'd like to
12 see them. One thing that we are really promoting is
13 because that disaster did occur in Cook County. We
14 are trying to really make sure that those dollars
15 stay in Cook County and they're not spread out
16 throughout the state so.

17 MR. BENNETT: So they would be not
18 coordinated with the MWRD but would be strictly with
19 FEMA?

20 MR. FISHER: With FEMA, yes.

21 MR. BENNETT: And what kind of process or
22 timeline as far as don't they have to review the
23 plans, engineering, and create stages of that or
24 these are straight-up simple projects?

1 MR. FISHER: It's a little bit more
2 expedited with this one. Basically --

3 MR. BENNETT: You're saying they're better
4 than you.

5 MR. FISHER: Yeah, exactly. They're
6 better than us, absolutely.

7 But, I mean, just to kind of give you a
8 timeline, I would expect just on our own experience
9 with FEMA, it -- they'll probably do the pre-app,
10 they'll probably ask for final apps I'm going to
11 guess around August.

12 Now, the time to get the money, that's the
13 big question. Our experience is -- this is an
14 estimate. I would guess that the money would
15 probably be available probably in 2026. So if you
16 have a project, I'd be looking at, you know, getting
17 it rolling in 2026.

18 MR. BENNETT: Yeah, usually the Fed is
19 longer. I didn't mean to give you a hard time.

20 MR. FISHER: Oh, no. That's all right.

21 MR. BENNETT: The reason for my question
22 is that the engineering that's involved certainly in
23 your projects is similar to FEMA. So they've got to
24 go through a process of preliminary engineering and

1 construction engineering and all that kind of stuff?

2 MR. FISHER: So their -- they kind of
3 really rely on the local applicants a little bit
4 more for that process. So they really depend on the
5 local agency's engineering to make sure that they
6 got everything in place.

7 The big things that they look at is they
8 do require a benefit-cost analysis, but that's got
9 easier really in recent years on how to produce
10 those, and FEMA has a real simple program for how to
11 do that. The only thing is, just kind of a caveat
12 to this whole thing is that once you get selected,
13 if you get down to the point where you're picked,
14 they do have an environmental assessment that you
15 have to go through. We recently went through that
16 last year, and they said it was fast. We went
17 through it in like a seven-month period.

18 So it is a federal bureaucracy a little
19 bit, but it's worth going after those dollars for
20 sure. I mean, preliminarily we kind of heard, you
21 know, number floating around that this could be
22 somewhere around the neighborhood of \$50 million
23 that will be made.

24 MR. BENNETT: But there's also a

1 25 percent local share.

2 MR. FISHER: Yes, that's correct.

3 MR. BENNETT: And that's all the way
4 through, from engineering to whatever cost it is for
5 the project?

6 MR. FISHER: That's correct. You can --
7 just so you know, you can include administrative fee
8 cost in that too. So, you know, for --

9 MR. BENNETT: In kind, I gather?

10 MR. FISHER: Yeah, you can do that. Yep,
11 for sure.

12 MR. VORDERER: Is there any caps on the
13 grant as far as -- you said they had \$50 million.
14 Are they capping it for each individual project?

15 MR. FISHER: I haven't heard anything on
16 that.

17 MR. VORDERER: The project has to be done
18 withing 36 months?

19 MR. FISHER: Well, usually from the time
20 that it's awarded, they'll give about a three-year
21 period to perform it. So if you're looking at, you
22 know, two years from now, if you started in 2026,
23 then you'd have to like probably 2029 to get work
24 done. So.

1 MR. VORDERER: Okay.

2 MR. FISHER: Just in general. I strongly
3 encourage it.

4 MR. BENNETT: Mayor of Oak Lawn, Terry
5 Vorderer.

6 MR. VORDERER: Yeah, sorry.

7 MR. BENNETT: Question.

8 MR. VAN ESSEN: Joel Van Essen, Village of
9 Orland Park.

10 We attended some of the public works, some
11 FEMA training this past week. That -- even though
12 you may not have disaster in your village, you are
13 eligible for about 15 to 20 percent of the funding
14 if you're doing mitigation, and they look at
15 flooding as one of the major issues.

16 So anybody can put in for a project, like
17 they said. There is a lot of steps you have to do,
18 but it is available for everybody in Cook County.
19 So you don't have to have actually disaster in your
20 village, you know, say you didn't have as bad
21 rainfall or whatever up north.

22 MR. BENNETT: Yeah, when it happened,
23 the -- I know FEMA stepped in right away and helped
24 the impacted villages with funding directly right

1 away. And I know that when they were going to
2 declare it, they have to do it countywide. So they
3 can't -- they have got to offer it countywide.

4 So yeah, it's a great program. I'm still
5 scratching my head about the whole engineering
6 process and who approves what. God bless them if
7 they're relying on our local engineers, which I
8 trust too, that come up with a good plan.

9 MR. FISHER: For the most part, they do.
10 They do review it some, but it's not -- they do
11 review it some, but they don't necessarily get into
12 the weeds as far as like your engineer would. But
13 they do look at the benefit-cost analysis, and they
14 look at the information you provide as far as the
15 benefiting structures and that type stuff. But the
16 actual design, they kind of leave it up to the
17 village or the communities as to how they want to do
18 it their way.

19 MR. BENNETT: So you guys couldn't team up
20 with any and parlay 25 percent of the local costs,
21 pick that up, and we can do a whole lot of projects?

22 MR. FISHER: Well, I mean, to go along
23 with that, I mean, if you're looking at that time
24 frame, you can submit those type projects to us and

1 ask for, like, local match when we have application.
2 We have had instances where that occurred where
3 we've --

4 MR. BENNETT: You've tied in --

5 MR. FISHER: Yeah, we tied.

6 MR. BENNETT: -- that money to yours?

7 MR. FISHER: Yep, we have done that.

8 MR. BENNETT: Just throwing that out
9 there. Any time we can get somebody to pick up our
10 cost, it helps. Certainly it's a lot of money out
11 there, and hopefully it's not -- it's not going to
12 be wasted but it's used up.

13 MR. FISHER: Yeah, absolutely.

14 MR. BENNETT: Other questions?

15 MR. LEWIS: Yes. The application
16 process --

17 MR. BENNETT: Identify yourself, please.

18 MR. LEWIS: Trustee Lewis, Village of
19 Bridgeview.

20 What's the percentage of successful
21 applications generally?

22 MR. FISHER: Well, it is IEMA. I mean, I
23 couldn't really state as far as what the percentage
24 of that would be. The thing is, I would say, is

1 that they are -- IEMA is very focused on trying to
2 get those dollars here to stay in Cook County. And
3 I think if, you know, if you have any kind of a
4 decent project, they're probably going to look at it
5 pretty hard, make sure they can try to fund it if
6 they have.

7 MR. LEWIS: So hundred percent; right?

8 MR. FISHER: That's what I'm hoping.
9 That's what I'm working for, absolutely, trying to
10 get a hundred percent of that here.

11 MR. BENNETT: Yeah, I would think like
12 certainly green infrastructure projects, if they're
13 not that complicated, could be a no-brainer for them
14 or a quick okay for that to go ahead.

15 And they have set dates themselves as to
16 when this money you will run out?

17 MR. FISHER: Yeah. Like I said, I think
18 typically it varies a little bit, but IEMA has been
19 doing a better job of trying to process their HMGP a
20 little quicker. But, you know, I would say, you
21 know, from the time that they get it, they do want
22 to see the dollars spent in like three to
23 four years.

24 MR. BENNETT: Yeah, and I said only

1 because, you know, if there's not enough towns
2 that -- or interest isn't there or some towns aren't
3 aware of it, if they would readvertise I would say
4 as far as that leftover, so-called leftover money to
5 not let it leave the county.

6 MR. FISHER: Yeah. Absolutely.

7 MR. BENNETT: Other questions, comments?

8 MR. VAN ESSEN: May 17th is the due
9 date.

10 MR. FISHER: Yeah. Just to reiterate,
11 May 17th is the due date for the pre-app. It's only
12 two pages, so it's not too difficult.

13 MR. BENNETT: We'll pass that along, Vick,
14 to our members who aren't here. And I know our
15 public works superintendent attended that FEMA
16 meeting, I think it was earlier this week, when they
17 went over the grants.

18 Thank you, Matthew. Under the local
19 sewers, watershed management ordinance. Is it Diana
20 [phonetic]?

21 MS. REYES: Dayana.

22 MR. BENNETT: Dayana Reyes. Welcome.

23 MS. REYES: Thank you.

24 Hello. My name is Dayana Reyes, and I'll

1 be presenting for MWRD. I am from the local sewer
2 section, and I'm an associate civil engineer. And
3 I'll be presenting on the Watershed Management
4 Ordinance and Infiltration and Inflow Control
5 Program.

6 So to begin, our website has been updated.
7 If you look to the screens, right now it's been
8 updated where it's basically more friendly, more
9 user friendly basically. If you go to Doing
10 Business and then you click WMO, you're going to see
11 a right-hand corner where it's going to have all the
12 prompts, you'll be able to access the WMO, the
13 ordinance, the technical guidance, and any important
14 information like document inquiries.

15 And then if you look at the left, you'll
16 be able to submit your permit application. You'll
17 have WPASS instructions, and then you'll be able to
18 make your payment as well.

19 Are you guys able to hear me all right?

20 So I'm going to start now with the TGM
21 updates. There are some proposed cells which
22 include permit requirements, flood protection, and
23 sewer construction.

24 Some other updates for the WMO are the

1 following. There is a proposal for an amendment.
2 But now that you know there's going to be a
3 proposal, what's the next step? Well, there's
4 actually been a streamline for a WMO amendment
5 that's going to be done in the following -- this
6 week, May 2nd.

7 And you're probably wondering why is there
8 such a streamline? Well, due to U.S. Corps of
9 Engineering has changed what they're going to
10 provide now for their services. They're no longer
11 going to be issuing standalone JD letters, and now
12 the WMO has to change to keep up to date. Because
13 they're no longer providing these services, the
14 update is suggested to no longer require submittals
15 of JDs.

16 MR. BENNETT: That makes sense.

17 MS. REYES: In the absence of that, if
18 you're not able to get a permit, then it's going to
19 be registered as an isolated wetland. So then you
20 would have to follow the WMO for those regulations.

21 Some other updates that are going to
22 happen in further year of 2024 is the pilot study.
23 So the pilot study is for offsite retention-based
24 practice and detention facilities. If you haven't

1 done so, the deadline has extended from 2025 to
2 2026.

3 I think the next one is the most
4 important, which is the volume control. If your
5 site is very small, well, good news. Now there's a
6 proposed increase for the property interest and then
7 also for the impervious area.

8 And now we are going to go to what
9 triggers a permit and kind of changing some
10 guidelines.

11 So before if there was any new or
12 reconstructed outfalls, it immediately triggered a
13 permit. Now it's going to be for District
14 controlled waterways or to Lake Michigan.

15 Another thing is that if you are in a
16 District detention service facility, then that will
17 require a permit.

18 And then if there's any modification to
19 the control structure -- the volume control facility
20 or the detention facility, that will also require a
21 permit.

22 So for wetlands, because we are doing a
23 streamline for the wetland, there could be further
24 changes, but that will be updated later.

1 For riparian environments, we are trying
2 to introduce a minimum threshold for impacts
3 requiring mitigation. Right now the requirement is
4 that any type of impacts will require mitigation.

5 Some further updates will include
6 definitions and also for fees. We are trying to do
7 a flat fee for violations to kind of go in order
8 with our fee. Right now this is the only fee that
9 every time an inspector goes on site, you'll have to
10 pay additional fees. So to try to get away from
11 that, we are trying to do a flat fee.

12 So now that you know what's the proposals,
13 what's next? Well, right now for the wetland, there
14 is a Board meeting for May 2nd. For everything
15 else, there is update by Law first that will happen
16 in May. And then if Law approves, then it's going
17 to go for public presentation. And then if
18 everything goes well with the public, then it will
19 be brought on our Board. And then everything is
20 subject to change until our Board approves it.

21 So now that we have talked about the WMO,
22 now it's time to the talk about the Infiltration and
23 Inflow Control Program.

24 Short-term requirements. So it's due

1 March 1st. So if you haven't done so, please
2 submit. And then if you are unsure if you're in
3 compliance, please contact Ann Gray. Once you have
4 finished with your short-term requirements and if
5 approved by MWRD, then you'll be transitioned into
6 long-term program.

7 So for construction, please be aware that
8 our field service -- our field office unit does
9 monitor construction. Please notify them two days
10 beforehand, and you can notify them by e-mail or by
11 phone number. And then please do note that if a WMO
12 permit is required, then a issued permit by MWRD is
13 required for construction to start.

14 For a village, we hope to have a great
15 communication with you guys, and we know that your
16 role is very important. Please do not issue grading
17 plans and then no occupancy permits before and RFI
18 is signed, and then please do note that as system
19 engineers and as permittees, you are required to
20 sign the RFIs and to do the inspection.

21 If you have not done so, please share your
22 GIS with us. It does make the process of reviewing
23 permits a lot easier.

24 And then for contact information. If you

1 are unsure if you need a WMO permit, you can request
2 a permit determination with Constance. If you would
3 like to schedule a pre-application meeting, you can
4 contact Dan. If you are unsure if you're in a
5 service for detention, you can always ask for issued
6 permits from that website and then if you have WPASS
7 questions.

8 I do recommend you guys sign up for the
9 e-mail list, especially because there's a lot of
10 changes that are going to happen. And then if
11 you're unsure if you're using the most current
12 documents, please check out our website.

13 Thank you so much for your time. I
14 appreciate it. Do you guys have any questions?

15 MR. BENNETT: Any questions of the
16 members?

17 (No response.)

18 MR. BENNETT: Thank you very much,
19 appreciate it Dayana.

20 Next is the Cook County Hazard Mitigation
21 plan. Kim Nowicki.

22 MR. FISHER: Kim did a, she did a video
23 for us.

24 MR. BENNETT: Oh, okay. Just

1 five minutes; right?

2 MR. FISHER: That's what I'm hoping.

3 MR. BENNETT: You could clear the room
4 real quick.

5 (WHEREUPON, a video presentation
6 was made.)

7 MS. NOWICKI: What I'm going to be
8 talking about is the overview of the planning
9 process for the updated plan. We are going to
10 get right into it.

11 So these are some of the requirements
12 for the hazard mitigation plan, and the update
13 is done every five years. And last time we did
14 it, we had 123 participants including MWRD, and
15 this time we expect to have 124. This is a
16 mandatory five-year update, and this ensures
17 continued federal grant funding and eligibility
18 from FEMA.

19 And here's some interesting facts
20 about the plan. This is one of the largest
21 plans in the country, and the current plan
22 expires on September 26th, 2024, and must be
23 approved by IEMA and FEMA and adopted by that
24 date, September 26th of 2024.

1 We have two new participants: The
2 City of Elgin and the Forest Preserves of Cook
3 County, and these were not previously in our
4 plan. And again, this is to maintain
5 eligibility for federal grant funding.

6 Here is some examples of federal
7 assistance that's available, and then you can
8 note here these are all the ones that are
9 required to have to be part of a hazard
10 mitigation plan.

11 And so these are some of the hazard
12 mitigation plan assistance programs. Again,
13 you're required to be part of this hazard
14 mitigation plan.

15 So the plan update process comprises
16 the following groups. Each group has to show
17 that they actively participated in the plan
18 development in order to receive approval from
19 FEMA to be part of the plan. We have our
20 planning team, and it's the people at EMRS, our
21 PIO, our planners, and even some of the
22 preparedness people that assist with the plan.
23 We have our steering committee which is
24 comprised of a cross section of various groups

1 from Cook County, a lot of Cook County agencies
2 like Department of Bureau of Asset Management,
3 Bureau of Economic Development, our Building
4 and Zoning Department, our Department of
5 Transportation and Highways, various county
6 agencies. And then it also includes some
7 Red Cross -- some NGOs, Red Cross and Salvation
8 Army, and it also includes MWRD.

9 Then the next layer of the group is
10 community organization and stakeholders. That
11 is a layer that's new and has been added by
12 FEMA as a criteria for this update. That
13 includes public, private entities, more NGOs,
14 academia to all be included in the planning
15 process to try to gain a more community
16 approach and to make sure that stakeholders can
17 also speak for the underserved communities as
18 well.

19 Then the next layer is the general
20 public. Once we determine some of our goals
21 and objectives, we have public meetings to make
22 sure that the public has a say in which way our
23 hazard mitigation plan is going to go. So
24 that's one of the things that we are -- we want

1 to make sure we are ensuring the public is
2 aware. We sent a survey to all the public, as
3 many as we can reach, to get their input in our
4 plan. And we also hold the public meetings.

5 So this is the new updated guidance
6 from FEMA that we are using to update the plan.
7 This just came out last year; and again, it has
8 some additional criteria. You'll see the
9 additional criteria here is bolded, a greater
10 focus on ensuring underserved populations, and
11 we also want to make sure we address climate
12 change and each of the natural hazards that are
13 in our plan. And again, we want to make sure
14 the public sector nonprofits are included, and
15 we want to make sure the, you know, that the
16 projects, you know, go according to the need
17 guidance for BRIC, FMA, and HMGP grants.

18 There's also some additional
19 information required regarding substantial
20 improvements and substantial damage provision
21 from each jurisdiction, and that's regarding
22 improvements to be the buildings in a
23 floodplain and how to regulate reconstruction
24 and repairs to buildings that have been

1 damaged.

2 So this is our planning process. We
3 are -- first of all, we are doing, we are
4 identifying our hazards, our risk assessment,
5 and then we are going to do a capability
6 assessment. And then we go into our mitigation
7 strategies, and that goes along with our action
8 items on how to mitigate -- if you're having
9 flooding in your community, how to mitigate
10 that, what kind of projects or solutions can
11 you come up with to mitigate those problems.

12 And then next is our plan
13 maintenance. That we do every year in between
14 the five-year update to make sure that we look
15 at our plan, it just doesn't sit on a shelf for
16 five years, that we take it down, we look at
17 what actions we have in there, and report out
18 on the status of those projects that will
19 mitigate those hazards. For instance, if it's
20 flooding, we want to look and see if those
21 projects to increase sewer capacity or to help
22 with checking for water marks, if those things
23 have been implemented where that status is.

24 And then next is we evaluate the

1 plan, making sure that we meet all of our goals
2 and they're all applicable and we are standing
3 behind what we have developed.

4 And the next phase is our plan
5 adoption. Cook County will adopt a plan by
6 September 26th, and each jurisdiction has one
7 year from that date to adopt a plan to be
8 considered eligible and included in the Cook
9 County multijurisdictional hazard mitigation
10 plan.

11 And our hazard mitigation plan
12 consists of two volumes. One has all of the
13 information regarding the entire Cook County
14 area, and Volume II has all of the
15 jurisdictional annexes from all
16 124 participants, and that has each -- it
17 breaks down each jurisdiction for its own
18 hazard mitigation plan.

19 Here are some of our hazards that we
20 have identified. These will be -- these will
21 be determined to be the ones that will be used
22 by our steering committee and even our public;
23 but as of right now, this is our current
24 natural hazard list. And we will be looking at

1 all of these to see where they rank as well.
2 We have dam levee failure, drought, earthquake,
3 and these are not in any specific order. And
4 we will -- again, we'll be addressing these,
5 not just which ones to include but the order of
6 their importance and how we feel the ones that
7 have the most chance of occurring and the
8 severity.

9 These are our goals. I'm not going
10 to read through each one, but I will allow
11 everybody time to read through that. We want
12 to make sure that the entire county, all
13 participants, and even the public, we want to
14 make sure everyone understands the goals and
15 objectives for this plan and they accept that,
16 they adopt these goals and objectives as part
17 of adopting a plan.

18 Going to the next objectives, these
19 are the objectives; and these objectives are
20 again for the entire county to guide the plan.
21 And if you notice, there's some of the new
22 criteria for FEMA as they're implemented to
23 make sure they're included in these objectives.
24 For instance, looking at Number 12, we want to

1 reduce the natural hazard-related risks and
2 vulnerability to potentially isolated and
3 underserved populations within a planning area
4 and ensure mitigation strategies result in
5 equitable outcomes.

6 This is our project timeline. We are
7 already in the middle of -- in the middle of
8 developing the plan, and many of these things
9 have already been going on. We just finished
10 our webinars, and we will be going into the
11 community stakeholders and then the countywide
12 workshops at the end of April, and the public
13 meetings will begin the end of April, beginning
14 of May; and they will be held in the -- one in
15 north, one in central, and one in south regions
16 of the county so that could apply to all
17 residents.

18 These are some of our benchmarks of
19 our major activities. This is -- this is when
20 many of these items are due.

21 Again, this the largest plan in
22 Cook County. We have 124 participants, and we
23 are trying -- we want to make sure that
24 everyone has a say and they have a chance to be

1 part of the plan. We want to make sure that we
2 are meeting the expedited timeline set forth by
3 FEMA, and we want to make sure that we do our
4 outreach and support all of the participating
5 jurisdiction as best we can.

6 The Volume I represents -- we had to
7 do some overhaul to meet the new criteria, so
8 the Volume I has to be changed a little bit;
9 and the new FEMA mitigation planning
10 requirements mandates a higher level of
11 community stakeholder and public outreach and
12 participation. Again, the emphasis is on
13 underserved populations.

14 And this one is one of our few plans
15 that we have at our agency that requires State
16 and FEMA approval. As you can see here, our
17 plan is very complex compared to some other,
18 you know, some other plan in the state. We
19 have a very high complexity level of our plan
20 to be able to meet all the criteria for all the
21 municipalities [inaudible].

22 As we go through here, we are going
23 to switch to our -- to sharing some information
24 regarding our agency as it pertains to sharing

1 and requesting equipment that we have. And so
2 with our agency, Cook County Department of
3 Homeland -- or Emergency Management and
4 Regional Security, what we do is we provide
5 equipment to our municipalities, whether it be
6 for emergency purposes or we also provide for
7 special events. And we just ask them to put in
8 a request, and we try to accommodate them as
9 best we can, making sure that emergencies are
10 priority, and then we will try to facilitate
11 that the best we can.

12 Here are some pumps that we have in
13 case someone needs to reroute water. We have
14 various sizes of pumps. If someone knows, for
15 instance, that an area is flooding, we can
16 pre-position these pumps to pump I want to say
17 thousands of gallons of water an hour. So
18 these can be requested by each municipality
19 through the regional coordinators.

20 This is for moving people. We no
21 longer have our bus in service, but the one on
22 the right is specifically purposed for flooding
23 situations. This is more of an emergency
24 response vehicle.

1 And these are some other things that
2 can be requested by the municipalities. This
3 is a traffic control trailer where we have
4 various traffic control devices, cones, horses,
5 that can -- if there's something going on, an
6 incident, that this can be requested to help
7 direct traffic away from the area. We can also
8 request programmable signs. These can also --
9 someone can put in a request, especially if
10 they need to route traffic. These are all
11 items that can be asked for.

12 The next slide, we have our unified
13 command post which is used and requested if we
14 have an incident. Most recently we were
15 requested to bring this, we had a hazmat spill
16 on I-55, and we were asked to bring this to
17 help coordinate the efforts on the scene. This
18 inside has Wi-Fi, can have a complete command
19 post, remote command post inside. This is also
20 requested if someone is having a fest. These
21 are at the 4th of July festivals. And this is
22 at functions where it can be set up ahead of
23 time. Again, the priority is given to
24 emergency response, but we have municipalities

1 that request it for planned events as well.

2 And the one vehicle on the right is
3 our mission support vehicle. This is our MSVA.
4 This is used, for instance, if a
5 municipality -- we had a municipality that
6 their village hall, something happened to
7 village hall, they lost power. They were able
8 to work out of this vehicle and be able to
9 bring all their computers and everything up to
10 speed and be able to work out of this vehicle.
11 This is also requested.

12 This is our EOC. When we activate
13 our EOC for incidents, it could be an emergency
14 response or a planned event such as last summer
15 we did the BMW golf tournament, and this is
16 where we activate our EOC, work out of here,
17 with various participating and coordinating
18 agencies.

19 WebEOC is our mass communications
20 throughout the county. Each of our
21 municipalities has a WebEOC account that they
22 can use and to be able to report out back to us
23 in the event of an emergency with our various
24 status [inaudible].

1 So my name at Kim Nowicki. My
2 information is on the left, and I can be
3 reached at Cook County. We also have our
4 regional coordinators on the right. If anyone
5 wants to request equipment, it's David Olson
6 and John Daniel. They can be reached at those
7 addresses and phone numbers. And then we also
8 have our 24-hour 7-day-a-week duty desk number
9 which is below; and that is managed 24 hours a
10 day, 7 days a week.

11 So I want to take the opportunity and
12 thank everyone for listening. If anyone has
13 any questions, please feel free to reach out to
14 me regarding our hazard mitigation plan or our
15 equipment, you can reach out to me or the
16 regional coordinators that were listed. I want
17 to take the opportunity to thank everyone.

18 (End of video.)

19 MR. BENNETT: Thank you. Five minutes,
20 there's no way it's going to happen. I know these
21 guys, they do a great job, but that group had a
22 seminar this week that I heard somebody talk for
23 three straight hours to our public works, police
24 department.

1 I mean, especially the equipment, if
2 you've never utilized it, it's great. You know, if
3 you have an emergency, special event, they are very,
4 very cooperative in lending out that equipment. So
5 please take that out, if anything, out of that
6 presentation.

7 MS. MILOVICH-WALTERS: Speaking of that,
8 Jerry, I did have a question.

9 MR. BENNETT: Mayor.

10 MS. MILOVICH-WALTERS: I'm sorry,
11 Milovich-Walters here.

12 Where on their website is the list of
13 equipment? Because I'm like on the website trying
14 to find it. So I was just wondering.

15 MR. BENNETT: You know, the best response
16 to that would be your chief should be in contact
17 with them, let him do that work.

18 MS. MILOVICH-WALTERS: Yeah, yeah, I'd
19 just like to look at it and try to see what else I
20 can figure out we can use, you know. But all right,
21 I'll just tell him to reach out.

22 MR. BENNETT: Yeah, the chief is usually
23 the first contact person.

24 Any other business before the group?

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(No response.)

MR. BENNETT: We won't meet again with Cal-Sag until September. Our last meeting is next month. So any other questions or comments? Because we are going to roll right into our regular meeting.

With that in mind, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. LEWIS: So moved. Gary Lewis.

MS. MILOVICH-WALTERS: Second.
Milovich-Walters.

MR. BENNETT: Moved and seconded. All in favor, signify in the usual manner.

(Chorus of ayes.)

MR. BENNETT: Motion carries. Meeting adjourned.

(WHEREUPON, at 7:04 o'clock P.M. the proceedings were 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 14th day of May, 2024.



Certified Shorthand Reporter
License No. 084-004438

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