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4 CAL-SAG WATERSHED PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING
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10 Oak Lawn Village Hall
11 9446 South Raymond Avenue
12 Oak Lawn, Illinois
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18 Monday, September 30, 2019
19 6:02 o'clock P.M.
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CAL-SAG WATERSHED PLANNING COUNCIL

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

OF GREATER CHICAGO

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Held on Monday, September 30, 2019, commencing
at the hour of 6:02 o'clock P.M., at 9446 South
Raymond Avenue, Oak Lawn, Illinois.

1 PRESENT: (District Personnel)

2 MR. RICHARD FISHER, Principal Civil Engineer

3 MR. ANDRE HAYNES, Senior Civil Engineer

4 MR. GEORGE VELEZ, Civil Engineer

5 ALSO PRESENT:

6 MS. VICKY MATYAS-SMITH, SCM, Executive Director

7 MS. KELSEY PASSI, SCM

8 MS. SANDRA BURY, Village of Oak Lawn

9 MR. LARRY DEETJEN, Village of Oak Lawn

10 MR. BILL MEYER, Village of Oak Lawn

11 MR. STEVE BARRETT, Village of Oak Lawn

12 MR. BUD STALKER, Village of Oak Lawn

13 MR. KEVIN MCGUINNESS, Village of Oak Lawn

14 MR. TERRY VORDERER, Village of Oak Lawn

15 MS. MARY WERNER, Village of Worth

16 MS. SUSAN LEHR, City of Hickory Hills

17 MR. KRZYSZLOF WASOWICZ, Village of Justice

18 MR. MATTHEW ZAREBCZAN, Village of Justice

19 MR. GEORGE SCHAFER, Village of Lemont

20 MR. JOHN EGOFSCHE, Village of Lemont

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

22 MR. ROBERT STRAZ, City of Palos Heights

23 MR. ADAM JASINSKI, City of Palos Heights

24 MR. DAVE BRADY, Village of Bedford Park

1 ALSO PRESENT (Continued):

2 MR. TIMOTHY H. KLASS, Evergreen Park

3 MR. MIKE FRAIDER, Village of Alsip

4 MR. RICK BOEHM, Village of Palos Park

5 MS. THERESA FLYNN, Village of Crestwood

6 MR. GENE RYAN, Cook County Homeland Security
7 and Emergency Management,

8 www.cookcountyhomelandsecurity.org

9 MR. KEN CHASTAIN, Farnsworth Group

10 MR. ALEX SCHAEFER, Christopher Burke
11 Engineering

12 MR. RYAN ANDERSON, Metro Strategies

13 MR. MIKE SPOLAR, Robinson Engineering

14 MR. STEVE PAPPAGEORGE, MVCC Foundation

15 MS. SUSIE OTHMAN, HBK Engineering

16 MS. NOREEN KUBINSKI, HBK Engineering

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18 Members of the Public

1 MR. BENNETT: The meeting of the Cal-Sag
2 Watershed Planning Council will now come to order.

3 Mary, you want to say a couple words.

4 MS. BURY: I just want to welcome everyone
5 to Oak Lawn on behalf of myself, our board of
6 trustees. And I have Trustee Bud Stalker here,
7 Trustee Terry Vorderer, our village clerk Jane
8 Quinlan, our village manager Larry Deetjen, our
9 economic development team, and especially my
10 assistant Carmie who helped make this bonanza
11 happen.

12 We just want to welcome you. This is a
13 Taste of Oak Lawn tonight. The restaurants, some of
14 them are old-time favorites like Palermo's. You
15 will not find a better stuffed pepper anywhere.
16 We're so happy to have it for you. Please take a
17 little taste.

18 We have The Barrel Club, which just opened
19 up on 111th and Cicero, fine dining. If you think
20 of Crapples meets Cooper's Hawk except wine it's a
21 whiskey kind of bar with live music, probably the
22 most beautiful restaurant to go up in Oak Lawn since
23 Cooper's Hawk. I mean, they're just beautiful.
24 Please check them out.

If you're looking for something more casual, The Whistle donated appetizers. They're incredible. The Whistle is on 95th Street.

4 And we just want you to really enjoy.
5 Take a menu. Let's shuffle around. I just want to
6 give a round of applause again to my team and
7 especially Carmie.

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. BURY: And Steve Radice who couldn't
10 be here but who made this happen too. So thank you
11 very much and welcome.

12 MR. BENNETT: Thank you, Mayor. If I gave
13 you another hour, you'd probably come up with about
14 50 more restaurants.

15 MS. BURY: Well, we have menus if anyone
16 would like to take one.

17 MR. BENNETT: That's the whole point of
18 our towns hosting these meeting once a month. You
19 get a taste of each of the towns, and we are glad to
20 be back in Oak Lawn. It's been a while.

21 MS. BURY: It is. It's wonderful to have
22 you here.

23 MR. BENNETT: Thank you.

This is the Cal-Sag Watershed Planning

1 Council. Our regular meeting starts at 7:00. This
2 is for technocrats out there who want to know
3 everything and anything about sewer and water. Find
4 it out right now.

5 So, Vick, you want to read the roll call.

6 MS. SMITH: Sure.

7 Alsip.

8 MR. BENNETT: Again, we have a court
9 reporter. So your name and the city or village
10 you're representing.

11 MS. SMITH: Alsip.

12 MR. FRAIDER: Mike Fraider.

13 MS. SMITH: Bedford Park.

14 (No response.)

15 MS. SMITH: Blue Island.

16 (No response.)

17 MS. SMITH: Bridgeview.

18 (No response.)

19 MS. SMITH: Burbank.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. SMITH: Chicago.

22 (No response.)

23 MS. SMITH: Chicago Ridge.

24 (No response.)

1 MS. SMITH: Crestwood.
2 MS. FLYNN: Present. Theresa Flynn.
3 MS. SMITH: Evergreen Park.
4 MR. KLASS: Tim Klass.
5 MS. SMITH: Hickory Hills.
6 MS. LEHR: Sue Lehr.
7 MS. SMITH: Hometown.
8 (No response.)
9 MS. SMITH: Justice.
10 MR. WASOWICZ: Kris Wasowicz, mayor.
11 MS. SMITH: Lemont.
12 MR. SCHAFER: Present. George Schafer.
13 MS. SMITH: Merrionette Park.
14 (No response.)
15 MS. SMITH: Midlothian.
16 (No response.)
17 MS. SMITH: Oak Forest.
18 (No response.)
19 MS. SMITH: Oak Lawn.
20 MR. BARRETT: Steve Barrett.
21 MS. BURY: Steve Barrett or Sandra Bury.
22 MS. SMITH: Orland Hills.
23 MR. O'NEILL: Brian O'Neill.
24 MS. SMITH: Orland Park.

1 (No response.)

2 MS. SMITH: Palos Heights.

3 MR. STRAZ: Bob Straz and Adam Jasinski.

4 MS. SMITH: Palos Hills.

5 MR. BENNETT: Jerry Bennett, mayor.

6 MS. SMITH: Palos Park.

7 MR. BOEHM: Rick Boehm, village manager.

8 MS. SMITH: Robbins.

9 (No response.)

10 MS. SMITH: Summit.

11 | (No response.)

12 MS. SMITH: Tinley Park.

13 MR. SCHAEFER: Alex Schaefer, Christopher
14 Burke Engineering.

15 MS. SMITH: Willow Springs.

16 | (No response.)

17 MS. SMITH: Worth.

18 MS. WERNER: Mary Werner.

19 MS. SMITH: Unincorporated Cook County.

20 (No response.)

21 MS. SMITH: Bremen Township.

22 | (No response.)

23 MS. SMITH: Calumet Township.

24 | (No response.)

1 MS. SMITH: Lemont Township.
2 (No response.)
3 MS. SMITH: Lyons Township.
4 (No response.)
5 MS. SMITH: Orland Township.
6 (No response.)
7 MS. SMITH: Palos Township.
8 (No response.)
9 MS. SMITH: Stickney Township.
10 (No response.)
11 MS. SMITH: Worth Township.
12 (No response.)
13 MS. SMITH: And Bedford Park is present,
14 Mayor Brady.
15 MR. BRADY: David Brady.
16 MR. BENNETT: Thank you, Vick.
17 MS. SMITH: You're welcome.
18 MR. BENNETT: First item on the agenda is
19 approval of the April 29th meeting transcripts. I
20 will entertain a motion to accept the minutes.
21 MR. STRAZ: Bob Straz.
22 MS. BURY: Second.
23 MR. BENNETT: Second by Oak Lawn, Mayor
24 Bury.

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

2 (Chorus of ayes.)

3 MR. BENNETT: Opposed a vote of no.

4 (No response.)

5 MR. BENNETT: The motion carries.

6 First item on the agenda is the Capital
7 Projects Update. Andre.

8 I will move aside here, Andre. Sure you
9 don't want my fat head in the picture.

10 (Slide presentation.)

11 MR. HAYNES: Good evening, everyone. I'm
12 Andre Haynes from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation
13 District, and I'll be bringing a brief overview of
14 what we are doing in the Calumet-Sag Channel capital
15 improvement projects since our last quarter.

16 Cook County map here provides the location
17 of our capital improvement projects.

18 Here you'll see a few of the main projects
19 that we have in the Calumet-Sag. We have green
20 infrastructure. We also have Phase II projects
21 which are local projects. We have Phase I regional
22 projects. We have buyouts as well.

23 And also in our Phase II we had 14
24 Phase II projects which include four recently

1 initiated projects into our program and three recent
2 green infrastructure projects.

3 Our Phase II localized flood control
4 program, it involves a partnership opportunity
5 between the District, MWRD, to address flooding with
6 other municipalities. We have shovel-ready and
7 conceptual projects. Our focus is localized
8 detention, green infrastructure, expanding sewers
9 and culverts, and pump stations.

10 Currently we have applications that will
11 be sent out to municipalities in the fourth quarter
12 of 2019.

13 Here's a sample of some of the projects
14 that we've completed recently. We have the stream
15 bank stabilization project on Tinley Creek, and that
16 project is substantially completing construction.
17 It's benefiting 173 structures.

18 Next we have the stream bank stabilization
19 flood control project on Tinley Creek in
20 Orland Hills, and that project constructed
21 naturalized channel improvements from Lake Lorin to
22 88th Avenue in Orland Hills. That project is
23 considered substantially complete, and the
24 contractor is maintaining growing season, the

1 growing season, three more growing seasons
2 currently.

3 We have the Lemont 1 flood control project
4 where we have a culvert improvement between the
5 Illinois and Michigan Canal and the Chicago Sanitary
6 and Ship Canal, and the construction is completed.

7 Next the Blue Island green infrastructure
8 project is completed, and there we had six rain
9 gardens and two permeable pavement parking lots that
10 we installed in the northeast corner of Blue Island.
11 That project is fully completed.

12 Stream bank stabilization on Oak Lawn
13 Creek in Oak Lawn, Illinois, where we stabilized
14 1200 linear feet of the Oak Lawn Creek from Central
15 Avenue to Massosoit Avenue. This project is
16 substantially complete, and the contractor is
17 currently planting -- providing planting and
18 maintenance period.

19 We have the Melvina Ditch Reservoir
20 improvement. That project has established a
21 increase in storage of 195-acre feet, and we have
22 also modified the pump station and refurbished our
23 pumps. We're currently in the process of
24 refurbishing, starting our refurbishing process of

1 the pump starting in November, and that will last
2 for the next two years. The project will be
3 complete in June 2021. The project is only left to
4 complete pump removal and refurbishment and
5 establishment of the seeding and the landscaping.

6 Next we have the flood control project at
7 Arrowhead Lake where we are increasing the flood
8 storage at Arrowhead Lake removing 70 structures
9 from the hundred year floodplain, and that project
10 is currently under construction.

11 We have the stream bank stabilization on
12 Melvina Ditch in Chicago Ridge and Oak Lawn where we
13 are stabilizing from 95th Street to 99th Street as
14 well as approximately 150 linear feet of box culvert
15 we are installing. This project is currently in the
16 process of finalizing easements, and then it's going
17 to be advertised later in the fall.

18 We have the Blue Island Phase II flood
19 control project. This project is developing an
20 overland flooding solution for the Washington Avenue
21 area in the northeastern section of Blue Island, it
22 will affect 44 structures that are affected by the
23 100 year storm. Currently we are in discussion with
24 the city to provide the best alternatives and to

1 move forward with an effective solution.

2 We have the Bremen Township project. Here
3 we have preliminary engineering alternatives that
4 have been developed, and this is along the
5 Calumet Sag and Tributary C in the vicinity of
6 143rd Street and Linder Avenue. This project is
7 coming toward close of design, and we are still
8 working out the schedule, but we are making progress
9 on this project as well.

10 We have the Crestwood 1 project, and on
11 this project we are located at 135th Street and
12 Central Avenue; and we are aiming at removing dozens
13 of homes from flooding. Currently we are
14 coordinating with IDOT and Forest Preserve, and we
15 are also moving toward 60 percent design plans.

16 We have the Worth Woods subdivision flood
17 control project. Here we have a low area in Worth
18 in the 111th Street and 76th Avenue northwest
19 portion of the village, and we are currently
20 wrapping up our agreement with our consultant, look
21 to start design in mid October.

22 The Crestwood 2 project, here it addresses
23 flooding at the Laverne and Midlothian Turnpike
24 intersection.

1 And also the Palos Heights flood control
2 project. And we are going to protect three
3 properties from the flood -- 100 year flood storm.
4 This project we are moving forward with 60 percent
5 plans to be submitted at the end of October, and our
6 100 percent plans are going to be done by the end of
7 the year.

8 Next we have the Stony Creek flood control
9 improvement in Oak Lawn where our flood improvement
10 is surrounding the Stony Creek, and we're currently
11 reviewing proposals.

12 Also in Palos Hills we have the Roberts
13 Road drainage improvement project which will improve
14 drainage to 95th Street to 103rd Street. We are
15 also reviewing proposals.

16 I'll go over some of the green
17 infrastructure projects that we have had starting
18 with the 2017 where we had 20 green infrastructure
19 projects and we benefited 730 structures throughout
20 Cook County.

21 On the 2018 green infrastructure program,
22 we benefited 708 structures over 20 different green
23 infrastructure projects.

24 Currently we have a call for green

1 infrastructure projects. There's been 41
2 applications that we received, and we look to make a
3 decision in October for our next phase of projects.

4 Here are some of the before and after
5 pictures. Blue Island rain garden.

6 We also have a green infrastructure
7 project, the Palos Heights Lake Katherine commuter
8 parking lot where it's located at the Lake Katherine
9 Nature Center on Harlem Avenue and Route 83. We are
10 anticipating construction starting in 2020.

11 The Winchester Avenue green infrastructure
12 project also starting in 2020 where we are going to
13 provide bioswales and permeable pavements in the
14 parking lot on Winchester Avenue.

15 We have the Barbara Vick outdoor
16 classroom. It's going to be an outdoor classroom in
17 the Beverly community of Chicago, and it's going to
18 involve a lot of different green infrastructure
19 technologies. This one is still in the design
20 phase, but construction again is starting in 2020.

21 We have the green infrastructure alley
22 improvement in Summit where two alleys will be
23 improved near 60th Place between 73rd and 76th
24 Avenue. This again will start next year.

1 Tinley Park North Street permeable paver
2 project. Construction was completed in 2019 of
3 pavers along North Street east of Oak Park Avenue in
4 Tinley Park.

5 Another initiative is that we are
6 producing two different guides. They're called
7 green guides, and these guides, the first one will
8 give homeowners a step-by-step way of using green
9 infrastructure and green practices, like rain
10 gardens, putting in rain barrels in your backyard,
11 cisterns, et cetera. And the second guide will be
12 one where you're going to have it for our
13 municipalities and also our engineering
14 professionals to just have another supplement to
15 identify ways of the best practices in green.

16 Now I'll talk about our flood-prone
17 property acquisition project where we have the local
18 sponsorship assistance program, our
19 District-initiated program, and the local government
20 application program.

21 With the local sponsors, the idea is just
22 to assist the local communities and get them
23 familiar with the FEMA program. Our District
24 program, we go ahead and lead with property

1 acquisition in support of other capital improvement
2 projects. And our local government application
3 program, we assist local governments in acquiring
4 properties in flood-prone areas, but it's based on
5 benefit-cost ratio of structures.

6 Applications will be soon sent out to
7 municipalities and other public stakeholders at the
8 end of 2019.

9 The FEMA pre-disaster mitigation program.
10 This program allows for \$300,000 per applicant for
11 the advance assistance. It also requires 25 percent
12 matching funds of the participant, and our reward is
13 looked at for June 2020. Please see grants.gov for
14 more information about this funding opportunity.

15 We have the Stormwater Master Plan
16 initiative which is a new program that Rich Fisher,
17 our head of our Phase II program, is initiating.
18 And the purpose is to at this point gather as much
19 information as possible throughout the District
20 boundaries so that we can have a better program and
21 understand the future best practices or best places
22 that we can put in projects in the whole Cook County
23 area, find out the local flood problems.

24 And it involved a questionnaire, two

1 different parts. The first part was an online
2 application SurveyMonkey, and the second part was an
3 online GIS tool to show locations of flooding on the
4 map. And our request is just that everyone, all
5 municipalities, as much as possible just respond so
6 that we can just have a better idea of the flooding
7 issues in Cook County.

8 Here's the website. It's
9 www.surveymonkey.com/r/MWRD-part1.

10 Now I'll talk about the Small Streams
11 Maintenance Program. Our Small Streams Maintenance
12 Program was started in 2006, and we try to alleviate
13 flooding in urban areas in waterways and drainage,
14 small drainage areas such as streams and rivers.

15 Here's an example of some of the equipment
16 that we use, Skidsteer, compact utility loader,
17 Gradall, and other resources, small items that can
18 be used to quickly remove debris in local streams.

19 From 2007 to 2018 332,404 cubic yards of
20 total debris have been removed from the entire Cook
21 County, and in 2018 alone 26,229 cubic yards have
22 been removed in the entire Cook County, and that
23 includes 9,791 cubic yards in Cal-Sag watershed.

24 There are three ways to report waterway

1 issues: Our District website, www.mwrd.org; we have
2 an iPhone app called MWRD CIR; or you can contact
3 our head of our small streams program, Mr. Brian
4 Levy, at (705)533-3171. His e-mail address,
5 brian.levy@mwrd.org.

6 We also have our rain barrels program that
7 continues. It's available to Cook County residents
8 at the cost of \$45.78, just at cost; and it's a good
9 way to store water, as said before, on private
10 property, holds 55 gallons, and it comes with
11 instructions.

12 Through December of last year,
13 approximately 132,201 MWRD rain barrels have been
14 distributed in communities across Cook County.
15 Please see our website to find out more information
16 about how to purchase a rain barrel or contact our
17 Public Affairs Office as (312)751-6633.

18 Restore the Canopy program. Here we just
19 try to add restoring our tree canopy throughout the
20 Cook County area. There are four different types of
21 oak trees that are available that the District gives
22 away for free at certain times. More information is
23 on the website. But trees are just a really good
24 way of providing natural green infrastructure help

1 in urban environments especially.

2 Community groups, schools, and
3 municipalities can also participate in programs
4 offered by this program, and the best way to find
5 out about that is to call our Public Affairs Office
6 at (312)751-6633. They can also arrange for
7 individuals to tour our plants as well as pick up
8 trees there.

9 And the information is as shown. The six
10 plants that we have the tree pickups available is
11 Calumet, Egan, Hanover Park, Kirie, O'Brien, or
12 Stickney every Wednesday from 9:00 A.M. to noon.

13 This is the contact information for
14 Mr. Brian Levy and also my contact information,
15 Andre Haynes. I'm at (312)751-5477.

16 And thank you for your time. Does anyone
17 have any questions?

18 MR. BENNETT: Any questions of Andre?

19 MS. BURY: Is there any discussion of
20 making the rain barrel program free again?

21 MR. HAYNES: I'll find out.

22 MR. BENNETT: We ask that every month.

23 MS. BURY: Thought I'd ask. It was very
24 popular.

1 MR. BENNETT: You had a question over
2 here?

3 MR. STALKER: Yeah. You mentioned that --

4 MR. BENNETT: Name. For the record, name.

5 MS. SMITH: You need to identify yourself.

6 MR. STALKER: Bud Stalker, a trustee in
7 Oak Lawn.

8 You mentioned that Stony Creek was going
9 to be dredged. Does that include Wolfe Wildlife
10 near Central at 105th?

11 MR. HAYNES: I'll find that out. I'm
12 sorry --

13 MR. STALKER: Right behind Richards High
14 School. Needs it badly.

15 MR. HAYNES: Okay. I'll definitely pass
16 that on to the engineer.

17 There's a question.

18 MR. DEETJEN: Andre, Larry Deetjen from
19 Oak Lawn.

20 Follow-up on Trustee Stalker's question.
21 But this is the RFP, response to the RFP that MWRD
22 did. Can you tell us how many engineering firms
23 responded to that? You indicated you were reviewing
24 them. Wasn't the deadline in the spring? And where

1 do you stand in the review of those submittals?

2 MR. FISHER: I can answer that question.

3 My name is Richard Fisher. I'm with MWRD. I'm a
4 principal engineer with the MWRD.

5 Actually to clarify that, that Oak Lawn
6 project has been awarded to Michael Baker
7 Engineering.

8 MR. DEETJEN: I'm sorry, to who?

9 MR. FISHER: To Michael Baker Engineering.

10 MR. DEETJEN: No consultation with the
11 municipality about the selection?

12 MR. FISHER: It was actually going through
13 our procurement process. We were the ones that had
14 to go through the procurement process on that. We
15 have been --

16 MR. DEETJEN: So -- excuse me. To answer
17 my question, no local input; right?

18 MR. FISHER: We have had local input on
19 that, yes. We met with the village staff several
20 times to discuss the project and the needs for it;
21 and yes, we have met with the village staff several
22 times on this.

23 MR. DEETJEN: In reference to the
24 engineering firms that you selected, no.

1 MR. FISHER: No. That's correct.

2 MR. DEETJEN: That's okay. Thank you.

3 MR. BENNETT: Yeah, to answer that
4 general, the District has come from the start when
5 we worked with them on getting these capital
6 programs going that they had the authority to select
7 the consulting engineer for the final say-so on
8 whether it's phasing one, two, or and the
9 construction aspect of it.

10 The capital programs, when we created
11 this, had an opportunity of millions and millions of
12 dollars for our area, and you can see a lot of it
13 has been spent. We are pretty happy. As always,
14 we'd like to see the project move a little bit
15 quicker than what they do, but obviously we are on
16 the District's timetable, not ours.

17 But if you have a town, if there's a town
18 out here who has not thought about or considered a
19 capital project, and honestly with the rains that
20 we've had over the last couple years, and these have
21 been pretty epic and historic in a lot of areas, so
22 I'd certainly -- you're on top of it, we certainly
23 would hope your engineer is on top it, that this
24 program is there for you to possibly remedy some of

1 those local flooding issues, and I think the
2 District again is going to call for projects in
3 general. And as I said, over the last couple years
4 I think we are starting to find areas that we
5 thought never would flood are doing so. We are in
6 changing times; so I'm glad this program is around
7 and we have an opportunity to submit the capital
8 programs for your benefit obviously.

9 And the, again, the nice thing about it is
10 that these programs are being picked up a hundred
11 percent by the District. They are in Small Streams
12 Maintenance, for example, asking for some
13 cooperation, maybe hauling some debris; but these
14 are a hundred percent paid for by the District
15 projects, which was the intent when this thing was
16 created in the beginning why we did it the way we
17 did. So we thank you for that.

18 And finally, I think especially in the
19 buyout, I'm trying to get in that program this year.
20 November, December is the deadline to submit
21 possible properties to buy out. Think about that
22 too. If you constantly get a call from certain
23 areas of your town, even if one, two, or three,
24 smaller homes or small residence, it's an

1 opportunity to get involved in this program. It's a
2 hundred percent buyout; however, there's cost
3 involved that the city or village would have to pick
4 up, preliminary study, which is done by our local
5 consulting engineer, and then some costs involved in
6 the demolition of the home. But the buyout is a
7 hundred percent MWRD. So it's another thing you may
8 want to go back to your cities or villages and
9 consult with the powers to be about those who are
10 calling us every time it rains that their house
11 flooded out. If they qualify, they can be part of
12 that program.

13 But there is a process to do that, and
14 it's done once a year; and the District because it's
15 been so popular, took the most severe based upon the
16 scale of severity which was predicated on your
17 engineer's report back to the city as to whether or
18 not they qualify. So but it's another program to
19 think about if you're having problems locally with
20 some areas that could be in the floodway or
21 floodplain depending on where it's located and has a
22 history of flooding. So that's another great
23 program that's available.

24 Any other questions of Andre?

(No response.)

MR. BENNETT: All right. We'll move on to the WMO. Steve.

MR. KASZONYI: I'm Steve Kaszonyi. I'm with the MWRD WMO group.

Permit determination questions, Justine Skawski. We have a new website mwrd.org/wmo. It used to be wmo.mwrd. We changed it.

Previously issued permits, we have e-mail here, mwrdpi@mwrd.org.

We got new forms. Also on our new website. You may need to clear the browser cache to get them up.

The WMO was amended in May 16th.

There's -- it was changes proposed and a study before.

There's going to be training for the new WMO changes Wednesday, this Wednesday, 10:00 A.M., downtown at the District, and Tuesday, October 15th. Please save the dates.

Recent updates. We have revised earthwork foundation limited permit form, the single-family home flow chart, utility work flow chart.

We are also updating the TGM.

1 We have new specific release rates, but
2 for Cal-Sag it's still 3 cfs per acre. That hasn't
3 changed.

4 MR. BENNETT: By the way, we fought that.
5 They were going to restrict it even more, which
6 would have limited the ability for you to develop
7 locally in your community on smaller lots. So we
8 forced the issue with the District, and so we'll be
9 maintaining that same release rate, which has a huge
10 economic impact to your community.

11 MR. KASZONYI: But we have updated
12 Bulletin 70 rainfall data that is more stringent.

13 MR. BENNETT: Correct.

14 MR. KASZONYI: There's new redevelopment
15 allowances methodology, green infrastructure,
16 changing how that's classified.

17 And we are exempting single-family homes
18 outside of a flood-protected area or work in Lake
19 Michigan. It's probably not around here.

20 For stormwater trading, we used to have a
21 10 acre upper acreage limit. Got rid of that.

22 These are watershed specific release
23 rates. Cal-Sag is still .3.

24 We are working on a future WMO amendment

1 for the future expanding the volume control and
2 detention trading.

3 MR. BENNETT: If I can explain that a bit.
4 There's a great concept. If you can't develop on a
5 site and provide sufficient detention for that site,
6 you can trade off another vacant piece of property
7 in town, the trade-off is that as a condition of
8 building on that area.

9 So it's a great opportunity to work with
10 other developers or other vacant properties in town
11 on that trade-off ability so you're not stuck or
12 limited with not being able to develop a piece of
13 property. Have your engineers take a look at that
14 program. It's a great opportunity to create storage
15 down the road for projects that may not fit in an
16 area that's critical to you, whether it's a business
17 property or some other development that could not be
18 accomplished without having, again, this ability to
19 trade off in a detention at an off site away from
20 the property. It's a great program.

21 MR. KASZONYI: Also with volume control.
22 Important service.

23 We are updating our TGM. We're halfway
24 through it.

3 We have a GIS GPS assistance program. We
4 are lending out GPS equipment. Interested, contact
5 Ann Gray. E-mail is up there, graya@mwrd.org.

6 Any questions?

7 MR. BENNETT: Any questions on WMO or the
8 ICAP program?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. BENNETT: Steve, thank you.

11 Do we have representatives from Cook
12 County here?

13 | MR. RYAN: Cook County Homeland Security.

14 MR. BENNETT: Yes, come on up. I'm sorry.
15 Is it Gene?

16 MR. RYAN: Yes.

17 MR. BENNETT: I think we cut you short a
18 little bit last time, didn't we?

19 MR. RYAN: That's okay. Do the best I can
20 here.

MR. BENNETT: You have plenty of time.

22 MR. RYAN: Thanks. Hi, everybody. How
23 are you?

So what I'm going to do is just kind a

1 give you highlights of it. So my name is Gene Ryan,
2 as you heard. I'm with Cook County Homeland
3 Security Emergency Management; and I thank everybody
4 for the opportunity being here tonight on behalf of
5 Director Barnes as well, who is in charge of our
6 organization, to give you an update where we are at.

7 We are heavily involved with Water
8 Reclamation and all the municipalities across the
9 county working on one of the first tools you need to
10 have in your toolbox working to get you some of that
11 grant money that was identified earlier. We are
12 talking about the pre-disaster mitigation act grant,
13 flood mitigation act grant, which is millions of
14 dollars that are involved, and in fact, that 35
15 counties in the state of Illinois have finally
16 received that declaration, federal government. That
17 opens up a cache of money for the rest of us to do
18 pre-disaster type of work, become more resilient
19 against flooding.

20 So a lot of programs. Sounds like you've
21 got quite a few that are already going on, which is
22 tremendous. We are offering just one more tool to
23 put in your toolbox to help you accomplish that.

24 No. 1. Representatives from the Water

1 Reclamation, who are great partners for all of us,
2 have helped a lot of these buyouts and projects.
3 For example, Rich is on their steering committee
4 moving forward. That's a pass-through. If you have
5 questions or challenges, you can reach out to your
6 point of contact from Oak Lawn; and when we hold our
7 meetings, they're able to ask these questions to
8 bring more information back to you and your
9 organization to keep you up to speed on what's
10 happening, what's going on with the plan.

11 So the good news is in order to get access
12 to this funding source I'm talking about, the very
13 first question they ask is: Are you part of your
14 county's hazard mitigation plan? If you say no,
15 FEMA has to immediately disqualify you. These
16 grants are very competitive. You're competing
17 against everybody across the country. First thing
18 they look for is to find out who they can move on
19 with to move on to the next group.

20 Well, the good news for us, because of
21 your municipalities and many others and your
22 representatives and Water Reclamation, many other
23 partners, we are the largest fund that's been
24 approved in the country. As of August 26th, Cook

1 County as well as FEMA and IEMA have signed off, did
2 a resolution, a proclamation that has been adopted;
3 so we are now official. Homelandsecurity.gov, you
4 can go to our website in the next few days,
5 Volume 1, which is about 570 pages -- I was going to
6 bring the whole document -- will be posted on there
7 for you to take a look at.

8 Your particular annex from wherever you
9 come from, if you're part of the HMP, you have a
10 point of contact. Volume 2 will follow as your
11 municipalities, and I'm asking for your help because
12 now it's been official, we're reaching out to
13 everybody as of today. We are going to do webinars.
14 We are going to talk to all your points of contact
15 who we work with on a regular basis.

16 So out of 135, 122 are working with us.
17 We're going to do webinars. We're going to put
18 together tool kits, put together a template
19 resolution if they want to use it. We're going to
20 put together a PowerPoint to bring to elected
21 officials and share with them or a one-page overview
22 to give them some guidance and direction of how to
23 successfully complete this in a timely manner.

24 Now again, you have one year to do this;

1 but as that time ticks by, you're not qualified to
2 take part until you do that resolution. So the plan
3 is there. Now you have to come up with this
4 resolution by FEMA guidelines because we're
5 multi-jurisdictional.

6 The key is and the most important thing
7 about that is we are also the biggest dog in the
8 fight. Remember, they're looking for the most bang
9 for the buck they can possibly get. There's X
10 amount of dollars that are freed up from Congress in
11 different acts that are taking place, and that money
12 is released. And so everybody competes for it, and
13 they look at all the different jobs and who is
14 trying to do that.

15 Well, they're saying, okay, this community
16 has got -- like L.A. has got like maybe 75
17 municipalities versus -- which is bigger than us.
18 Cook County has 122. The more we combine together,
19 the more we do it regional, the stronger we are, the
20 more likely we are going to have in getting that
21 benefit.

22 But again, I'm going to keep repeating: I
23 need you to go back to your elected officials and
24 others and ask them to start moving forward now.

1 Your points of contact are being brought up to speed
2 as I'm speaking, as of today, and moving that
3 forward to get this resolution done and get it
4 adopted. When it's adopted, your section will go in
5 Volume 2. You'll be eligible to all the different
6 kinds of benefits. We have no control over it. You
7 can pick whatever you like.

8 The only thing we ask you to do is please
9 make sure you try to talk to your neighbors so
10 there's no adverse impacts. Or maybe as Water Rec.
11 has done several times, we've also been involved in
12 several buyouts in an unincorporated area; and some
13 of those communities were hit so bad they had
14 nothing at all, they couldn't afford the 25 percent
15 buyout. But Water Reclamation through some of their
16 funding is maybe able to help that out.

17 Or the other county agencies that work
18 together, such as the Department of Economic
19 Development, has access to more federal money. We
20 are able to take some of that money and share it.
21 So if you were the person who was impacted and you
22 couldn't afford 25 percent, we are able to come up
23 with other grant maybe to match that to make that
24 work for you. It doesn't always work like that, but

1 there are chances of it.

2 What we're going to do with the plan this
3 time instead of just having a plan that sits up on a
4 shelf and collects dust because every five years we
5 have to update and we have to do this, we are going
6 to turn it into a program. We are going to be
7 holding north, central, and south regional meetings
8 as best we can with your points of contact that
9 represent you. We are going to try to keep this
10 thing alive and keep it moving, work with Water
11 Reclamation and many other communities to figure out
12 how it's going to help.

13 So as we're being notified about grant
14 opportunities or green-type projects or other kinds
15 of infrastructure working out, or as they were just
16 sharing with us, mayor was sharing several success
17 stories, we're going to post all that stuff and make
18 it available to everybody so you can take those
19 lessons learned and move forward.

20 So the best part of the news is as of 2016
21 it's official, we are good to go. All 122 will be
22 covered now, but the challenge is in order for you
23 to be able to activate it, you have to get the
24 resolution and have it adopted. Let me know. I

1 pass it on to IEMA, IEMA passes it on to FEMA, then
2 we get a letter coming back to you saying it's been
3 confirmed, and you're ready to go at that point in
4 time. They are already announcing millions of
5 dollars getting released. Because again, remember,
6 35 counties across this state have already been
7 involved in a federal disaster. So that money is
8 going to come up fairly soon. So sooner the better.

9 So I'm going to keep it short for you,
10 sir. Any questions?

18 MR. RYAN: Sure.

19 MR. BENNETT: Any questions.

20 (No response.)

21 MR. FISHER: I got a question.

Do you know with the pre-disaster

mitigation application that's out now, I'm assuming
that they -- this hazard mitigation plan we got now,

1 they have to use that one.

2 MR. RYAN: Yes, the 2014.

3 MR. FISHER: 2014. Just to kind of
4 reiterate what Mr. Ryan said is that if a community
5 does get FEMA grant, MWRD is very interested in
6 providing assistance for that 25 percent. So just
7 to kind of reiterate that.

8 MR. RYAN: And just again, I don't know,
9 like I mentioned, there's a number of different
10 county agencies that are impacted one way or another
11 during this process, either highways, economic
12 development, ourself, and the water commission. We
13 all came together as a biweekly meeting, there's
14 about six of us now at different agencies that work
15 together looking regionally across the county whose
16 got a project going on, how can we help one another
17 out. So the more we hear from you guys, the better
18 off we're going to be.

19 And I will get that information to you
20 soon. Thank you for your time and patience.

21 MR. BENNETT: I want to thank you on
22 behalf of the mayors because I know you're talking
23 about programs; but actually when events happen, you
24 guys have always offered your help and assistance to

1 us locally.

2 If you haven't had contact with Gene,
3 please make one because these guys have been great
4 in assisting on local flooding disasters. And as I
5 said, these events seem to keep happening more and
6 more.

7 MR. RYAN: Yes, they are.

8 MR. BENNETT: Thank you.

9 MR. RYAN: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.

10 MR. BENNETT: All right. Any other Old
11 Business or New Business?

12 (No response.)

13 MR. BENNETT: We are going to take a
14 break. I see some mayors and some other people that
15 come in in between, and our next meeting is starting
16 at 7:00. If I see everybody is here, we may start a
17 little bit earlier, but if there no other business,
18 Vick, our next meeting isn't until.

19 MS. SMITH: 29th of October.

20 MR. BENNETT: Of October.

21 MS. SMITH: If you haven't signed in,
22 there's a sign-in sheet up here for the watershed
23 meeting. So please sign in.

24 MR. BENNETT: With that in mind, I'll

1 entertain a motion to adjourn.

2 MR. WASOWICZ: So moved.

3 MR. EGOF SK: Second.

4 MR. BENNETT: And the mayor recognizes
5 from the Village of Lemont Mayor Egofske, and he
6 seconded the motion.

7 All in favor, signify in the usual manner.

8 (Chorus of ayes.)

9 MR. BENNETT: Motion carried. We'll see
10 you in about 20 minutes.

11 (WHEREUPON, at 6:44 o'clock P.M.
12 the proceedings were concluded.)

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2 OF
3 CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER
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6 I, RHONDA K. WEILAND, a Certified
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8 License No. 084-004438, do hereby certify that I
9 stenographically reported the proceedings had at the
10 meeting, as aforesaid, and that the foregoing
11 transcript is a true and accurate record of the
12 proceedings had therein.

13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do set my hand at
14 Chicago, Illinois, this 14th day of October, 2019.

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