MEETING NOTES

Science and Design

- **Alignment** – Unite and align the professional community to put nature on equal footing with humans within Chicago’s river system
- **Systems** – Formalize review processes to include science and design to create a systems approach for ecosystem and human health
- **Principles** – Develop design principles based on the science and informed by the community, trail and stewardship goals
- **Relevance** – Create a common language for scientists, designers, volunteers, neighborhood communities and the general public around the issues, vision and goals
- **Knowledge** – Establish a repository for scientific research and design techniques to support ecosystem and human health

Community Connections

- **Engagement** – Provide a forum for communities adjacent to the rivers to propose and review concepts and plans for public access and engagement with the water
- **All** – Inclusiveness - Invite those communities with current river activities/access and identify and engage those communities without direct access through other water related issues (wetlands; storm water; fresh water access as a key to healthy communities in the face of climate change)
- **Integration** – Incorporate the river visions and projects of adjacent communities into a river system that benefits all communities, people and nature

River Trails

- **Networks** – Articulate the river trail networks that exist and the short-and long term gaps for use by the public
- **Experiences** – Create trail environments for both pedestrians and non-pedestrians without detracting from either experience and which enhance the ecosystem and the communities
- **Choices** – Identify and provide options for long-term gaps (in water paths; alternative routes through wetlands, parks and preserves; street routes)

Stewardship & Volunteers

- **Everyone** – Increase the number and diversity of people engaged as volunteers and stewards to improve the health of the river, its wildlife, and of adjacent lands and communities
- **Opportunity** – Develop a diverse range of opportunities for individuals, groups and communities to connect to the river system (trash pickup; stormwater infiltration; water activities in libraries)
- **Blueprints** – Use science as the basis to identify priority geographies for ecological stewardship activities