RIVER ECOLOGY & GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS WORKING GROUP

FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 2019
8:30 – 10 AM

10TH FLOOR, ROOM 1003-A
CHICAGO CITY HALL
121 N. LA SALLE STREET

MEETING NOTES

Meeting: 2 meetings since our last Task Force meeting

Accomplishments:
Established mission, role, community engagement model, collaborations
Mission: 3-fold
The mission of the Community Connections working group is to:
i. Define active communities along the river,
ii. Identify opportunities for future engagement, and
iii. Seek ways to connect communities along the river to the work of the River Ecology & Governance Task Force

Role:
The role of the Community Connections working group is to engage communities in planning, vetting, and eventually implementing the projects and policies of other River Ecology & Governance Task Force working groups

Community engagement model:
- Community visioning (river connection, access and river/park use)
- Defining community (multiple neighborhoods, park and river users, neighbors and languages)
- Identifying leadership (community and political)
- Articulating successes
- Examining lessons learned

Collaborations:
MWRD Commissioner Josina Morita has made us aware of 2 audits she and her colleagues have commissioned that have synergy with our work:
- Full audit of MWRD non-leaseable lands on the river (due end of summer)
  o These properties can be handed over to a government agency who can work with CBOs to create and steward native plant gardens, community gardens, art installations, etc.
  o Full audit of public lands that could be used for urban agriculture
    ▪ Cost productive landscape (audit due September)
  o The Commissioner has agreed to speak at our June 26 meeting

Tasks:
Recruitment (getting other communities on board)
Roles and responsibilities (mapping)
Work plan (mayoral fellows collecting and distinguishing data)