

# RIVER ECOLOGY & GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE SCIENCE & DESIGN WORKING GROUP

FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 2019

9 – 10:30 AM

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

## MEETING NOTES

### Vision Concepts

#### Nature

- A community coming together to put nature on equal footing with humans in a city
- Intersections between humans and wildlife

#### Social and health goals

- Water quality impacts in communities
- Key to healthy communities in the face of climate change is water

Communication - Create a common language for scientists, designers, volunteers, neighborhood communities and the general public around the issues, vision and goals

### Repository Issues

- Consider a search engine and private network, not a website, so existing organizations can use as part of on-going processes and work
- What is the best example of how all of this information should be categorized and archive
- Do not focus on raw data from reports

### Immediate/Short Term Ideas

- Develop a species list for the rivers
- Identify locations for turtles, ospreys and bats for projects
- USEPA noted that funds were appropriated in the 2018 budget for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to focus on historic river systems.

### Long Term System Approach

DPD has officially requested the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) assistance as part of their Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program to develop a framework plan for a larger feasibility study to evaluate opportunities to restore the ecosystem of the Chicago area river system. USACE and DPD discussed that the framework plan will be informed by the group. USACE noted that ecosystem restoration of the river system could be a large initiative to be implemented over 20 or more years.

## **Tasks for members to undertake by April 19**

### **Repository – Members are encouraged to identify and send to DPD the below:**

1. Articles and reports – preferably full article as PDF and separate executive summary or abstract noting geographic location and key words (i.e. Chicago, Dolton, Fish, Mammals, Birds, Vegetation, Water Quality, Turtles, human health, canoeing)
  - a. Peer peer-reviewed articles published in journals
  - b. Government publications
2. General public data - Organizational, citizen-science papers, documents, reports, journals, notes, other data by author (i.e. wildlife sightings by boat captains, informal lists maintained by recreationists, bird counts)
3. Conservation targets Chicago and the region with rationale for target (i.e. adopted by government or organization, established in scientific study which was peer reviewed and published)
4. Infrastructure initiatives that have been implemented: by whom, who was the client, why was it chosen, cost and results

### **Mission and Goals – Members are encouraged to send DPD by April 19 the below:**

In bullet format list:

1. Top 3 challenges/issues
2. Top 3 guiding principles to direct decision making
3. Top 3 Community outreach/ communication strategies

### **DPD to dos**

- Collect lists of documents for the repository to post for the interim on a DPD River Ecology & Governance Task Force page
- Review in detail data in FOGR, TNC and DPD (LIDAR, river edge) data bases and related GIS maps