March 25, 2021
Zoom
Membership Meeting
Agenda

- Approval of January 14, 2021 meeting minutes
- Approve TCF staffing contract
- Authorize staff to finalize contracts for 2021 bioassessment
- Presentation: Chlorides in Northeastern Illinois
- NPDES Permit Update
- Chloride Variance & Committee update
- Seasonal Outreach Campaign Materials
- Pet Waste Campaign
Current Members

- Village of Burr Ridge
- Village of Channahon
- City of Crest Hill
- Deuchler Environmental Inc.
- Village of Elwood
- Exxon Mobil
- Village of Frankfort
- Village of Hinsdale
- Illinois American Water
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- City of Joliet

- Village of Lockport
- MWRDGC
- Village of Manhattan
- Village of Mokena
- Village of New Lenox
- New Lenox Township
- **Village of Riverside**
- Village of Romeoville
- Village of Western Springs
- Village of Westmont
- Village of Westmont
- Will County
Approve Meeting Minutes
The Conservation Foundation provides 1.425 FTE of professional and support staffing.

Contract is updated to reflect approved budget for staffing of $114,706

Other minor change is a clarification of what is covered under the billing rate including computers, software, cell phone, office supplies, postage, and copies. These changes provide approximately $1500 in savings for the group.
Bioassessment 2021

Requesting authorization for staff to negotiate contract with MBI for up to the budgeted amount of $165,000.

- Midwest Biodiversity Institute
  - Responsible for biological and habitat data collection and then compiling and analyzing all data, including chemistry, to produce reports for each year’s sampling.
  - Will include analysis using the IPS model
  - ~50-60 sites that staff is field verifying prior to contract
Requesting authorization for staff to finalize agreements with Microbac and ETP Laboratories for up to the combined budgeted amount of $55,000.

- **Microbac**
  - Responsible for collecting water chemistry samples and analyzing both water and sediment samples.

- **ETP Laboratories**
  - Analyzes Fecal Coliform samples – local lab needed for short hold time
NPDES Permits

• Special Conditions Language
  • As NPDES wastewater permits are renewed, they should include special conditions language that identifies participation in the LDWG and development of the NARP
  • Please share early drafts with staff

• Annual report listed under SC for monitoring program will be submitted to Illinois EPA on behalf of workgroup dischargers. A copy will be provided for your records.
Chloride Variance Committee

Chloride Committee will start meeting this April

- Suggesting 3rd Tuesday morning every other month (off months from membership meeting)
- Teams or Zoom meeting format
- Open to all members, particularly petitioners
- Public Works/Roads staff person is ideal
- First meeting will outline tasks and timelines to meet first round of deadlines
Chloride Time-Limited Water Quality Standard

Approximately 50 Petitioners in CAWS and Lower DesPlaines

Current Members
• Village of Channahon
• City of Crest Hill
• Village of Elwood
• Village of Frankfort
• City of Joliet
• City of Lockport
• Village of Mokena
• Village of New Lenox
• Village of Romeoville
• MDRD
• Exxon Mobil
• Illinois DOT
• Village of Riverside

Potential Members
• City of Country Club Hills
• Village of LaGrange
• Village of Orland Park
• Village of Tinley Park
• Village of Richton Park
• City of Chicago

• Citgo Holding, Inc.
• Flint Hill Resources
• IMTT Illinois LLC
• Ingredion Inc.
• Midwest Marine Terminals
• Ozinga Ready Mix
• Stepan Co
• Cook County DOT
2021 Spring & Summer Outreach

Using the same state-approved data collection and analyses as other major watershed groups in the region, we will incorporate our data into a tool that will identify and rank restorative projects at the stream reach level.

The Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group

Improving surface waters in Illinois
To make it easy for municipalities to conduct outreach with residents about important stormwater management topics, the Coalition has worked to develop four seasonal outreach campaigns. Municipalities can customize and incorporate these messages into their existing communications strategies.

Check this page for routine updates throughout each season! Members can contact Lea Rodbarry at lrodbarry@theconservationfoundation.org or (630)428-4500 x109 with any questions or requests to customize material to your agency.
New Blogs to Share with Residents

Spring & Summer 2021 Outreach

**Topics**
- Create a Rain Garden
- Garden Refresh (native plants, rain barrels)
- Pet Waste
- Responsible River Recreation
- Past topics: stormwater runoff, detention basins, more materials on rain gardens, rain barrels, and native plants

**Spring**
- How to create a rain garden
- Freshwater mussels
- Introducing Garden Refresh
- Planning a native plant garden (Garden Refresh)

**Summer**
- Be River Responsible
- Collect rainwater at home with rain barrels (Garden Refresh)
- To Pick-Up or Let Lie (Pet waste)
Social Media Posts

**DO YOU NEED A RAIN GARDEN?**

If your property has water drainage issues or you want to reduce stormwater runoff, consider adding a rain garden to your yard!

**NATIVE GARDEN DESIGN TIPS**

- Arrange taller and bushier plants in the back of your garden, and smaller and shorter plants in front.
- Select native flowers with a variety of bloom times so you’ll have color throughout the spring, summer, and fall.
- It’s OK to trim native plants to keep them contained and maintain a traditional look.

**FRESHWATER MUSSELS ARE IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF THE AQUATIC COMMUNITY.**

Mussels are like mini water filtration plants! They filter things like bacteria and detritus, before returning clean water back to the river.
Past Materials

Blog topics:
• Native plants and trees
• Rain barrels
• Rain gardens
• Travels of a raindrop (stormwater runoff)
Garden Refresh - 2021 Outreach

- **Creating a native plant garden from start to finish**
  - Choosing native plants
  - Design
  - Expanding and preparing garden beds
  - Planting
  - Maintenance

- **Resources to guide homeowners through the process**
  - Blogs
  - Social media posts
  - Webinars – first webinar is March 31st at 1 pm
  - Videos

- **Available blogs**
  - Introducing Garden Refresh
  - It Starts With a Plan (planning a native plant garden)
  - Collect Rainwater at Home (rain barrels)
Summer 2021 Outreach

Be River Responsible!

Planning a Day on the River?

Be River Responsible!

Float In, Float Out
Whatever you take into the river must come back to shore with you.

Let Nature Be
Be safe and give wildlife their space.

Play It Safe
Bring water, protect yourself from the sun, wear a life preserver and wear shoes that will protect you from sharp objects on the stream bed.

Know Before You Go
Check flow conditions before you head out. High flows can create strong currents and reduce head space under bridges.

Be Respectful
Be mindful of landowners as you travel down the river. Stay off private property and keep noise to a reasonable level.

Just Because It Floats...
...doesn’t mean it’s river worthy. Only use floating devices designed for use in rivers and streams.

No!

Be River Responsible!

Be Respectful

Float In, Float Out
Whatever you take into the river must come back to shore with you.

Know Before You Go
Check flow conditions before you head out. High flows can create strong currents and reduce head space under bridges.

Be Respectful

Play It Safe
Bring water, protect yourself from the sun, wear a life preserver and wear shoes that will protect you from sharp objects on the stream bed.

Know Before You Go
Check flow conditions before you head out. High flows can create strong currents and reduce head space under bridges.
Pet Waste Campaign – **Join us in May!**

- A coordinated effort to encourage residents to *pick up the poop every time, everywhere!*
  - Share social media posts once a week in May

- **Get two free signs, a dog waste bag dispenser, and extra bags**
  - Install the sign, send us a picture, and join our May social media campaign
  - Contact Lea or Jennifer to participate
Rain gardens help water soak into the ground instead of pooling on top of your lawn—perfect for properties with water drainage issues. Learn how to make a rain garden in this webinar!
Conservation@Home Webinars - Wednesdays

The Conservation Foundation YouTube – Playlists - Webinars
For questions or to customize materials:

Lea Rodbarry,
Watershed Communications Specialist
lrodbarry@theconservationfoundation.org
Upcoming Meetings

Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group 2021 Meetings
May 27th
July 22th
September 23th
November TBD
Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group Contacts:

• Allison Swisher, City of Joliet
  aswishers@Joliet.gov
  815-724-4222

• Jennifer Hammer & Lea Rodbarry, The Conservation Foundation
  jhammer@theconservationfoundation.org
  630-428-4500 x114
  lrodbarry@theconservationfoundation.org
  630-428-4500 x114, x123
  www.lowerdesplaineswatershed.org