

# Calumet Collaborative Illinois State Agency Task Force

**Final Progress Report for April 2017 – June 2018**



## Acknowledgements

With the submission of this final report, the Calumet Collaborative Illinois State Agency Task Force will complete its work under Executive Order 2016-09. We would like to sincerely thank Governor Bruce Rauner and his staff for their strategic recommitment to this initiative and their strong interest in improving the Calumet region. In particular, Jason Heffley, former Policy Advisor for Energy and the Environment in the Office of the Governor, was a fundamental force in helping to transform a State-led initiative into an independent and self-directing organization. We thank him for his incisive understanding, clear-eyed strategy, and effective work with the Governor's office on the Executive Order and announcement event. The Task Force greatly appreciates Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director, Wayne Rosenthal, for his agency leadership and commitment to supporting the DNR leadership role. We would also like to thank current and former partner agency leadership for their critical role in this effort: Randy Blankenhorn, Heidi Brown-McCreery, Sean McCarthy, and Ryan McCreery.

We would like to thank Brent Krebs, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Chief of Staff, for his strong support, guidance, and coordination essential to Task Force success. Great thanks and praise go to IDNR's former senior advisor for Urban Communities and Partnerships, Suellen Burns. Her leadership, creativity, and organization led to innovative thinking on strategic needs through effective facilitation. We deeply appreciate her Task Force leadership and unwavering support to revitalize the Calumet.

To all the Task Force participants, Ania Bayers, Brian Carlson, Emily Clamp, Michael Dropka, Rachel Leibowitz, BJ Murray, Ryan Prehn, Clayton Stambaugh, Diane Tecic, Annie Turek, and Eric Wagner, your collaborative approach to leveraging agency resources has created a measurable economic and environmental impact in the region. And a special thank you to Calumet Collaborative leadership, executive director Sarah Coulter and chair and co-chair Bill Steers and Mark Bouman, for their engagement and support of this effort. We look forward to continuing this work under the vision of the Calumet Collaborative.



Task Force Meeting

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Submitted June 27, 2018

# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

## **ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS**

IDNR played leadership and supporting roles as the new nonprofit – Calumet Collaborative – evolved from a State of Illinois-driven initiative to an independent, bi-state organization with Illinois and Indiana partners. IDNR’s Coastal Program Director, Diane Tecic, serves on the Calumet Collaborative’s board of directors and advisory council. IDNR’s Coastal Program continues strong support of Calumet Collaborative by informing and participating in the organization’s four priority areas: brownfield redevelopment, conservation, a Calumet National Heritage Area, and wayfinding. Coastal staff are also playing a prominent role in a specific initiative to assist the Illinois International Port District (IIPD). Our staff are involved in the work groups for all Collaborative priority areas; participate on the Collaborative’s communications work group; and helped develop a social media strategy for the new nonprofit.

With IDNR’s leadership, a revived Calumet Collaborative Illinois State Agency Task Force (formerly the Millennium Reserve State Agency Task Force) leveraged our collective agency resources to advance two initiatives: 1) projects that support Pullman National Monument and historical district visitorship and connectivity to the Calumet region and 2) projects that foster the economic revitalization of IIPD. As a part of these initiatives, IDNR’s Coastal Program: 1) funded a \$40,000 grant to the Pullman Porter Museum that connects outdoor recreation with the history of the Great Migration, 2) funded a \$75,000 grant for an all-encompassing market analysis of proposed port activities, and 3) partnered with Chicago Community Trust to provide a joint \$100,000 grant to Delta Institute to provide capacity support to IIPD for grant management, revenue and site planning, and stakeholder engagement. IDNR also spearheaded a partnership with our agency, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and Illinois Sustainable Technology Center focused on environmentally-sustainable port development and operations. This included the development of a detailed Request for Proposals to bring green energy through solar panels to IIPD.

Through the State Agency Task Force, IDNR also cultivated a new partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity’s Office of Tourism. As a part of this partnership, our staff creates quarterly content on outdoor recreation and coastal and heritage destinations for EnjoyIllinois.com, the official tourism website for the state.

As of July 2017, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency became a new division within IDNR. Preservation and Historic Sites staff collaborated with National Parks Service and IEPA to establish review procedures for environmental abatement at the Pullman Factory site, the

future home of the Pullman National Monument Visitors' Center. Staff archaeologists, architects, and historians reviewed design proposals for the Clock Tower Building rehabilitation project and drafted reports for the site's cultural landscape inventory. Preservation and Historic Sites staff participated in site visits and meetings at Pullman. State Historic Preservation Office staff continued to participate in the Section 106 review for the Artspace Lofts – the first private development and new construction to be planned in the Pullman historic district in decades. This project would provide live-work space for artists of low income, and would utilize both the federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits and the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.

At William W. Powers State Recreation Area on Chicago's far south side, IDNR Land Management maintained park facilities and natural areas, hosted events, and planned site improvements. IDNR Coastal staff worked with The Nature Conservancy and Clarke Environmental to arrange aerial invasive phragmites treatment at the park, a part of the Calumet Conservation Compact's (formerly Millennium Reserve Conservation Compact) cooperative agreement to restore and protect ecologically important areas in the Calumet. Coastal staff also worked with the Illinois Conservation Foundation on a Chi Cal River grant for \$166,000 at William Powers that will be matched by \$149,000 in IDNR Coastal funds. The project builds on community recommendations for park enhancement and focuses on priority public use improvements including an ADA-compliant fishing pier and canoe and kayak launch; bike racks and a bike fix-it station; wayfinding and site interpretation; and park entrance beautification.

## **MEASURABLES and RESULTS**

### **Information**

- IDNR Coastal staff developed over 25 story ideas for Calumet Collaborative e-news and social media.
- In partnership with the Office of Tourism, Coastal staff drafted two blog posts for EnjoyIllinois.com providing itineraries for visiting the region. We also provided an asset database of 28 coastal and Calumet sites that could be added to the Enjoy Illinois website.

### **Expertise, Technical Assistance, and Staff Support**

- Coastal Program Director participated in eight Calumet Collaborative board of directors meetings and three advisory council meetings. Coastal staff were active on seven work groups and ad hoc teams: strategic communications, bi-state conservation strategies, Calumet National Heritage Area/wayfinding, brownfields, Illinois International Port District, Conservation Compact, and stormwater.

- Coastal presented at and attended a Metropolitan Planning Council-sponsored boat tour of IIPD. We also organized two IIPD site visits and led several partnerships mobilizing state agency, university, nonprofit, and private foundation support for port revitalization.
- In partnership with Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning staff and as a part of the Calumet Stormwater Collaborative, Coastal staff created a “repository” of resources to help communities plan, pay for, and implement stormwater management.

### **Streamlining and Cutting Red Tape**

Not applicable during this reporting period.

### **Funding**

#### **AWARDED**

- Biodiversity Field Trip grants: four -- \$1,730
- School Yard Habitat grants: two -- \$1,989.94
- Coastal Management Program grants: \$143,035 (and secured an additional \$50,000 from a private foundation)

### **Policy**

- Coastal staff organized, facilitated, and participated in the four Task Force meetings.

### **Other**

- Coastal staff managed a grant for the Calumet Conservation Compact, with which partners restored and protected 123 acres of wetland habitat in the Calumet region.
- Approximately 150 high school students participated in invasive species programming and approximately 45 girl scouts participated in a clean-up event at William Powers.
- Approximately 450 people attended the Wolf Lake Fall Festival at William Powers, where our staff provided hands-on support.

## Illinois Department of Transportation

### **ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS**

IDOT continues to ready several highway and bridge improvement projects within the Calumet Collaborative geography. The agency achieved progress in improving the safety and connectivity of major roads and bridges and maintaining key infrastructure. Within the reporting period, agency activities included: contract plan and bid document preparation, ensuring appropriate environmental permitting, plan preparation and land acquisition, and on-the-ground construction. In spring 2018, our Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program also awarded a \$2 million grant to the City of Chicago for pedestrian and bicycle bridge improvement on 43<sup>rd</sup> street, connecting to the lakefront path over Lake Shore Drive. These projects incorporate Collaborative priorities of livable communities and conservation through consideration of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and localized flooding concerns.

In addition, IDOT actively participated in the Calumet Collaborative State Agency Task Force. We plan to carry out projects in support of two key Task Force initiatives: Pullman historic district connectivity and Illinois International Port District (IIPD) revitalization. In spring 2017, our agency committed to two resurfacing and American Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant improvement projects that will benefit the Pullman community. The first project is on US-12/20 on 95th Street from Western Avenue to Ashland Avenue and from LaFayette Avenue to Stony Island Avenue. The second project is on 111th Street from Cottage Grove to east of Interstate 94. The 95th Street project was completed during the department's FY 2019 annual program. The 111th Street project is included in the current FY 2019-2025 and planning efforts target the project to advance to construction in the middle portion of this multi-year program timeframe.

In early 2018, IDOT shared plans to also undertake a bridge project at 111<sup>th</sup> street over Interstate 94 (Bishop Ford Expressway). We will work with all parties to ensure plans include non-motorized connectivity in support of IIPD economic development and community livability. We can connect IIPD to IDOT resources to enhance accessibility and wayfinding at Harborside International Golf Center, an IIPD property.

The IDOT District One Program Development Section Chief serves as the primary representative on the Task Force. We have also ensured Task Force activities are coordinated with IDOT's program and planning team, particularly for IIPD. In 2017, IDOT awarded a \$2 million grant to IIPD focused on multimodal transportation opportunities on Butler Drive, IIPD's main road. The grant leveraged \$300,000 of Cook County funding also awarded to IIPD through the Invest in Cook program. In 2018, our agency awarded Cook County Department of Transportation, on

behalf of IIPD, a \$10,937, 853 Illinois Competitive Freight Program grant for additional Butler Drive multimodal improvements. IDOT program and planning staff also participate on a Calumet Collaborative IIPD work group that coordinates funders and interested organizations. As a result of the Collaborative work group, IDOT is coordinating with IIPD and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) on a proposal to our agency's State Planning & Research program for an IIPD master plan.

## **MEASURABLES and RESULTS**

### **Information**

- Not applicable during this reporting period.

### **Expertise, Technical Assistance, and Staff Support**

- Our staff participated in two Calumet Collaborative IIPD work group meetings and met with IDNR once on port-related initiatives.
- IDOT staff worked with IIPD Executive Director on a grant application to the Illinois Competitive Freight Program.
- Senior staff met with the National Park Conservation Association (NPCA) about Pullman National Monument and historic district, and serve as a point of contact for transportation issues.
- IDOT participates in NPCA quarterly meetings that focus on Pullman Transportation Plan implementation, convened by CMAP.

### **Streamlining and Cutting Red Tape**

- Not applicable during this reporting period.

### **Funding**

- \$14,937,853 in two grants to IIPD for enhanced multimodal transportation and an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grant for pedestrian and bicycle bridge improvement.

## Policy

- IDOT staff participated in four State Agency Task Force meetings within the reporting period and an IDNR-organized IIPD site visit.
- IDOT adhered to the Complete Streets Policy, where street design and operation provides access for users of all ages and abilities.
- We implemented an ADA transition plan that re-evaluates agency policies, programs, and facilities to ensure accessibility. IDOT is scheduling 57 resurfacing projects with ADA improvements in the Calumet region during its multi-year highway program timeframe.

## Other

- IDOT prepared the contract plan and bid documentation for Western Avenue over the Calumet-Saganashkee Channel. Negotiations with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRDGC) for the required easements to construct the project have been lengthier than expected. We anticipate that the project will begin construction in 2019. The project replaces a structurally deficient bridge and roadway lighting, and provides enhanced pedestrian accommodations and ADA-compliant upgrades.
- IDOT prepared the contract plan and bid documentation for reconstruction and additional lanes along Wood Street from north of the Little Calumet River to south of US Route 6 (159<sup>th</sup> Street). Land acquisition is nearly complete. Project construction is delayed due to challenges for some of the municipalities to meet financial participation obligations. IDOT continues negotiations with municipalities to assist with local financial responsibilities. The project provides capacity, operational, localized flooding, and bicycle and pedestrian benefits; it will also stimulate economic redevelopment in an underserved area.
- IDOT is initiating preliminary engineering and environmental studies (Phase I Engineering) for 111<sup>th</sup> Street bridge improvements over Interstate Route 94 (Bishop Ford Expressway). The project would rehabilitate the bridge and enhance bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to improve connectivity between Pullman historic district and Big Marsh Park.
- IDOT completed construction to rehabilitate bridges at the interchange of Interstate Route 55 and US Route 41 (Lake Shore Drive).

## Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

### **ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS**

IEPA continued to work in partnership with the Calumet Collaborative State Agency Task Force and provide support. Our agency has maintained commitment and focus on the priority projects identified in 2017, including Pullman National Monument and historic district connectivity. Our agency committed to leveraging the Site Remediation Program to remediate a former automobile auction site where there are plans to create a Pullman community center. The project has slowed, but IEPA continues to provide support and technical assistance to the project manager. We also committed to developing a targeted Pullman Twitter campaign to increase virtual connections to Pullman and raise the profile of the area. Our agency posted a social media job position, and is considering candidates. In addition, there has been a new focus on opportunities to support the revitalization of the Illinois International Port District (IIPD). IEPA staff visited IIPD in June 2017 with members of the Task Force to learn first-hand about the site's operation, needs, and challenges. We offered technical assistance for brownfield remediation work and connected IIPD Director Clayton Harris III to federal funding resources, as well as contacts for green port initiatives.

As a result of Executive Order 2017-03, the State Energy Office transferred from Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to the IEPA on July 1, 2017. This enabled additional opportunities for synergy between our agency and IIPD. IEPA participated in discussions with IIPD, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, and IDNR about joint interests. We identified five IIPD priorities. Chad Kruse the Office of Energy Manager continued discussions with Clayton about a potential partnership on energy-related projects at IIPD. In addition, Chad participates in the Calumet Collaborative IIPD work group that coordinates funders and interested organizations.

IEPA continued to promote brownfield redevelopment and projects of regional significance, including (1) Pullman National Monument and (2) the Schroud property. In April 2017, IEPA's Bureau of Land completed supplemental sampling at more than 20 Pullman site locations to gain a better understanding of the nature and extent of contamination. The agency continued to provide expertise and technical assistance to the Pullman site, as well as other brownfield sites in the Calumet region, including the Shroud property, a 67-acre vacant contaminated site adjacent to Wolf Lake and the William W. Powers State Recreation Area. The site is used by area residents for dirt bikes and four-wheeling. The property adjoins the Grand Illinois Trail and the Ford Industrial Park feeder trail, making it significant to Calumet Collaborative's brownfield redevelopment and conservation initiatives. In 2017, IEPA coordinated with IDNR on an

assessment report of Schroud property contamination and continues to maintain open communication with IDNR. IEPA and City of Chicago's Department of Public Health also worked together to develop fact sheets and determine an appropriate enforcement strategy. City of Chicago 10<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski Garza held a public meeting in July 2017 with the Chicago Department of Public Health where IEPA staff provided updates and answered questions from the public.

Our Bureau of Water has also managed multiple water infrastructure projects in the region, both for the public water supply and sewer and sanitary flow. In addition, we were active with numerous stormwater management initiatives.

## **MEASURABLES and RESULTS**

### **Information**

- Not applicable during this report period.

### **Expertise, Technical Assistance, and Staff Support**

- In April 2017, we performed additional soil investigation activities at 20 Pullman National Monument site locations to gain a better understanding of the nature and extent of contamination.
- IEPA staff provided updates and answered questions from the public at a Schroud property meeting hosted by City of Chicago 10<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman Susan Sadlowski Garza and City of Chicago's Department of Public Health.
- Our Bureau of Land staff remained active in the Pullman working group and participated in working group meetings.
- IEPA staff met with IIPD, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, and IDNR to brainstorm potential opportunities and priorities at the port.
- We provided updates and remained in contact with the City of Chicago's Department of Public Health, as well as other agencies such as IDNR regarding the Schroud property.
- Chad Kruse, Office of Energy Manager, participates in the Calumet Collaborative IIPD work group.

### **Streamlining and Cutting Red Tape**

- Not applicable during this report period.

## Funding

- MWRD Watershed-Based Plan Development Project grant; funded under Section 319(h) – Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Financial Assistance Program -- \$165,000
  - Project period is 11/01/2016 through 10/31/2018
- Midlothian Village Greenway Project grant; funded under IGIG -- \$68,000
  - Project period is 04/01/2017 through 07/15/2018

## Policy

- IEPA staff participated in four quarterly State Agency Task Force meetings within the reporting period and an IDNR-organized IIPD site visit.
- As a result of Executive Order 2017-03, effective July 1, 2017, the State Energy Office transferred from DCEO to IEPA.

## Other

- The IEPA Community Relations Coordinator position remains posted. Job duties of this posting include the creation of social media posts that will support the Pullman Twitter campaign “connectivity” project.