

**Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative  
ILLINOIS STATE AGENCY TASK FORCE**

**Progress Report for July 2016 – March 2017**



Cover photo: ArcelorMittal Riverdale plant · Dan Wendt, MWRD



Task Force meeting

Illinois Department of Commerce and  
Economic Opportunity  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency  
Office of the Governor

Submitted June 16, 2017

## Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

### **ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS**

Within the Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative geography in Illinois, DCEO administered nine Illinois Enterprise Zones. This program offered state tax incentives, regulatory relief, and improved governmental services designed to stimulate economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in economically depressed areas. DCEO also provided local incentives to enhance business development projects. DCEO's local Illinois Enterprise Zone administrators monitored compliance and are available to answer questions.

Our agency's Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program helped low-income residents save fuel and money. Through our Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, DCEO also helped low-income households pay for winter energy services.

DCEO continued the Advancing the Development of Minority Entrepreneurship, a pilot program to: A. nurture opportunities for minority-led companies by facilitating education, mentorship, and funding for its participants of the program; and B. provide additional resources to create long-lasting success for each company by opening doors to the business ecosystem typically unavailable for underserved minorities.

Our agency is committed to supporting the initiatives outlined above. But during the Task Force reporting period of July 2016 – March 2017, funding for grants and loans associated with these programs slowed significantly due to the status of Illinois' state budget.

In the meantime, DCEO initiated internal dialogue about how the agency's Office of Tourism might contribute to Calumet Collaborative efforts to rebrand the region. The Office of Tourism suggestions included closer collaboration with Choose Chicago and the Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau. Continued partnership between the Reserve / Collaborative and Chicago Southland Convention & Visitors Bureau would build on past successful efforts such the Millennium Reserve guidebook.

### **MEASURABLES and RESULTS**

#### **Information**

Not applicable during this report period.

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

Not applicable during this report period. However, DCEO programs highlighted above are in place to support future results in this area, dependent on the state budget.

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

Not applicable during this report period.

### **Funding**

Not applicable during this report period. However, DCEO programs highlighted above are in place to support future results in this area, dependent on the state budget.

### **Policy**

Not applicable during this report period.

## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

### **ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS**

IDNR played numerous leadership and supporting roles in the evolution of Millennium Reserve from a State of Illinois-driven initiative to an independent, bi-state entity with Indiana now strongly represented in the partnership. We kicked off this work by producing an event at ArcelorMittal's Riverdale, Illinois steel plant featuring Governor Rauner and a number of other notable civic and environmental leaders. The event: A) celebrated the accomplishments of Millennium Reserve from 2012-2016; B) announced the new entity; and C) affirmed continued support from the State of Illinois. More than 65 Reserve partners and other key stakeholders attended.

IDNR represented the State on the new nonprofit's board of directors, strategic communications work group, and ad hoc evolution strategy committee. These three groups developed, vetted, and finalized several foundational components of the organization. Among the most noteworthy were a new mission statement, vision statement, focus areas, organizational structure, and name: Calumet Collaborative. IDNR also developed a diverse and otherwise strategic slate of Illinois-based representatives for the Calumet Collaborative Advisory Council, which will serve in a capacity similar to the Reserve's Steering Committee.

We worked in partnership with Governor Rauner's office to develop the new Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative State Agency Task Force. IDNR laid essential groundwork for the Task Force's first initiatives: 1) a master list of agency activities that align with the Reserve / Collaborative; and 2) Pullman National Monument and historical district connectivity projects.

IDNR staff continued to manage content for the Reserve Facebook page. We also served on the Reserve / Collaborative e-news and website feature story editorial team. In addition, we supported numerous partner cultivation and communications strategies and revised all Reserve website and printed materials to reflect the evolution into a bi-state, independent entity.

Our agency awarded several environmental education and coastal planning grants and one land acquisition grant for projects in the Reserve geography. We continued our role as advisor and technical expert for the Chi Cal Rivers Fund, a public-private funder collaborative, as well.

IDNR initiated a dialogue with the Illinois International Port District about including public access and outdoor recreation in a broader port revitalization plan. Our staff also encouraged other key members of the Calumet Collaborative leadership and the US Senator whose district includes the Port to frame their interests similarly.

At William W. Powers State Recreation Area on Chicago's far south side, IDNR maintained park facilities and natural areas, hosted events, and planned site improvements. We partnered with several agencies to manage lakes and ponds in south Cook County and enhance fishing opportunities. Our staff collaborated with Morgan Park Civic League on a placemaking project to introduce the Major Taylor Trail, named after the celebrated African American cyclist, and other points of interest in the primarily black and Latino neighborhoods that the trail traverses. We also served as advisors for Chicago Park District's South East Chicago Area-Wide Plan. In addition, we developed a project narrative and map for the proposed bi-state Wolf Lake Trail and initiated research for possible project funding sources.

## **MEASURABLES and RESULTS**

### **Information**

- IDNR staff published more than 125 posts on the Reserve Facebook page, served on the editorial team for seven issues of the Reserve e-news (19 feature stories total), and updated content for six Reserve webpages and five printed pieces.
- We met individually with 17 Reserve / Collaborative partners to discuss the organizational evolution and opportunities for participation.

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

- Our staff participated in three Reserve / Collaborative leadership transition meetings, eight board of directors meetings, and three evolution strategy committee meetings. We were also active on seven work groups and ad hoc teams: strategic communications, naming, urban agriculture, Conservation Compact, stormwater, wayfinding, and recreational trails.
- IDNR facilitated two days of break out groups for Metropolitan Planning Council's Great Rivers Chicago: Ideas into Action workshop. IDNR presented "Policy Implementation in a Bureaucratic Context: Millennium Reserve case study" for the School of Public Service at DePaul University. IDNR also spoke on a policy panel at the Wolf Lake Research Summit.
- We designed and produced a 10-foot by 10-foot Mayor Taylor Trail placemaking banner.
- We participated in six work group meetings, three executive committee meetings, and a public open house for Chicago Park District's South East Chicago Area-Wide Plan project.
- IDNR reviewed and scored 28 Chi Cal Rivers Fund grant applications.

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

Not applicable during this report period

### **Funding**

AWARDED

- Biodiversity Field Trip grants: three -- \$770

- School Yard Habitat grants: one -- \$1,000
- Land and Water Conservation grants: one -- \$375,000
- Coastal Management Program grants: 11 -- \$232,833

## RECOGNITION

IDNR was lead funder for phase I of Millennium Reserve wayfinding concept development. This project earned a top honor in 2017 from the Illinois Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects in the communications category.

## Policy

- IDNR staff did five briefings for senior leadership from each Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative Task Force agency and their staff assigned to participate.
- We organized, facilitated, and participated in the two Task Force meeting.

## Other

- IDNR stocked more than 65,000 fish at sites in Millennium Reserve.
- IDNR managed a grant for the Millennium Reserve Conservation Compact, with which partners were able to restore over 225 acres of wetland habitat in the Calumet region.
- We completed a Park Enhancement Recommendations project for William Powers state park. More than 1,100 community members participated in public input surveys and meetings. The project report provides a preliminary framework to guide site improvement planning, capital budget appropriation requests, recreational programming, and operations.
- Approximately 200 young people attended urban fishing clinics at William Powers.

## Illinois Department of Transportation

### **ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS**

IDOT advanced several highway and bridge improvement projects within the Millennium Reserve / 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. These projects incorporate Reserve priorities of outdoor recreation, broader connectivity of the region, and stormwater management through consideration of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and localized flooding concerns.

In addition, IDOT actively participated in the Reserve / Collaborative State Agency Task Force and agreed to act as a point of contact for state transportation concerns in the area surrounding the Pullman National Monument.

### **MEASURABLES and RESULTS**

#### **Information**

- Not applicable during this reporting period.

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

- Participated in the two State Agency Task Force meetings within the reporting period.
- Senior staff met with the National Park Conservation Association about Pullman, and agreed to serve as a point of contact if Pullman-related transportation issues need special attention within IDOT.
- Prepared necessary contract plans, bid documents, and environmental approvals for bridge rehabilitation on Western Avenue over the Calumet-Saganashkee Channel.
- Prepared contract plans and land acquisition for additional lanes and reconstruction on Wood Street from Little Calumet River to US 6 on 159<sup>th</sup> Street. Plans include consideration of localized flooding and bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
- Carried out construction on Interstate Route 55 at US 41 (Lake Shore Drive). This rehabilitation will eliminate yearly lane closures.
- Replaced the bridge at Torrence Avenue and Grand Calumet River, which includes enhanced bicycle and pedestrian lanes.

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

- Not applicable during this reporting period.

### **Funding**

- Not applicable during this reporting period.

### **Policy**

- Adhered closely to the Complete Streets Policy, where street design and operation provides access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of transportation mode.
- Implemented an American Disabilities Act transition plan that re-evaluates agency policies, programs, and facilities to ensure accessibility. IDOT scheduled 57 resurfacing projects with ADA improvements in the Millennium Reserve region.

## Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

### **ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS**

Illinois EPA worked in partnership with the Millennium Reserve State Agency Task Force and cooperated with multiple agencies to align opportunities and priorities. For the Task Force's first initiative, Illinois EPA developed a list of priority projects and agency activities that support Reserve goals and priorities. We identified 24 projects that spanned across six key Reserve priority areas and maintained commitment and focus on these projects. In addition, IEPA identified and committed a "connectivity" project that conceptually connects people from outside Pullman to the community: a social media campaign targeted at the Pullman region.

Our Agency continued to promote brownfield redevelopment and projects of regional significance, including (1) Pullman National Monument and (2) the Schroud property. We are collaborating with the United States National Park Service (NPS), Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), and others to ensure that the 12-acre Pullman factory property is fully and safely available for future public use and enjoyment. The site is located at 610 East 111th and 1057 South Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago and includes the former clock tower administrative building now designated as a national monument.

Beginning in 2013, Illinois EPA has used its federal brownfields grant (CERCLA 128a) to collect samples at the Pullman National Monument factory site and delineate the extent of contamination from past industrial use. In August 2016, Illinois EPA's Site Remediation Program completed a draft Remediation Objectives Report and Remedial Action Plan. The plan proposed active remediation through limited excavation and off-site disposal of total petroleum hydrocarbon soils, soils from the potential underground storage tank area, arsenic contaminated soils, and chromium contaminated soils in combination with engineered barriers and institutional controls to prevent human exposure to contamination managed in place.

Illinois EPA provided expertise and technical support to the Schroud 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 4-wheeling, and the property adjoins the Grand Illinois Trail and the Ford Industrial Park feeder trail, making it potentially significant to Millennium Reserve under both brownfield redevelopment and expanded outdoor recreation. In 2016, Illinois EPA Office of Site Evaluations performed a Site Inspection and collected 27 samples from the property. This investigation was conducted under the Federal Superfund Site Assessment Cooperative Agreement. Based upon the sample results and the current site conditions, it was recommended that access to the property be ceased immediately. Illinois EPA maintained open communication about this property with IDNR throughout the process.

Our Bureau of Water 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. We entered into a grant agreement with the Metropolitan Planning Council to implement a Watershed-Based Plan Development project via the Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Financial Assistance Program. This project includes the creation of two watershed-based plans: (1) Little Calumet River South watershed; and (2) the Cal Sag Channel watershed, which are both located in Millennium Reserve. Our Bureau of Water also awarded, drafted, and amended grant agreements for multiple projects within the Reserve's boundary through the Illinois Green Infrastructure Grant Program for Stormwater Management (IGIG). These projects aim to construct and install best management practices to reduce stormwater volume and nonpoint source pollution.

## **MEASURABLES and RESULTS**

### **Information**

- Illinois EPA established accounts for and launched Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn pages; developed an official Agency policy for social media use; and has been tweeting regularly (2x/day since February 2, 2017).

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

- In August 2016, Illinois EPA's Site Remediation Program completed a draft Remediation Objectives Report and Remedial Action Plan for Pullman National Monument.
- In December 2016, NPS requested that Illinois EPA evaluate potential ecological receptors at the Pullman National Monument and collect additional sampling data. In January 2017, Illinois EPA and NPS discussed the scope of the ecological risk assessment and specific sampling needs.
- Our Bureau of Land staff was active in the Pullman working group and participated in four working group meetings.
- Illinois EPA participated in ten meetings between IHPA, NPS, Chicago Park District, and other stakeholders about Pullman testing results, remediation standards, and the remediation process timeline.
- In May 2016, the Illinois EPA Office of Site Evaluation performed a Site Inspection at the Schroud property; collected 11 soil samples, four soil samples from residential properties, and 12 sediment samples from adjacent drainage areas.
- Our Office of Site Evaluation produced a CERCLA Site Inspection Report for the Schroud property (this is a public document) in a cooperative effort with U.S. EPA Region 5 using a federal grant to conduct the investigation.
- Illinois EPA maintained open dialogue with IDNR about the Schroud property and potential future site reuse, while IDNR began working with Audubon Great Lakes on the potential scope of work for an engineering study, legal review, and communications project.
- We provided updates and remained in contact with the City of Chicago's Department of Public Health throughout the investigation of the Schroud property.

- Illinois EPA provided sample results of the Schroud property from nearby residential samples to Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) – IDPH sent letters to the residents.

### 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
- Blue Island, Blue Water Project grant; funded under IGIG -- \$1,132,558
- Midlothian Village Greenway Project grant; funded under IGIG -- \$68,000
  - Project period is 04/01/2017 through 07/15/2018

### Policy

- Illinois EPA staff assigned to the new Millennium Reserve State Agency Task Force and participated in all quarterly Task Force meetings.

### Other

- IEPA created and posted a new Community Relations Coordinator position; included job duty description that supports the creation of social media posts for Pullman Twitter campaign “connectivity” project.

## Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

### **ACTIVITIES and PROJECTS**

IHPA brought three senior staff members (including the Director) to the Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative State Agency Task Force kickoff event at ArcelorMittal in 2016 and actively participated in the Task Force from its re-instatement. Largely in a supporting role (following IDNR's lead) IHPA looked internally to ongoing projects in the region that also fell under the purview of what the Task Force was emphasizing as goals to spur economic revitalization as well as engaging the community to make the most of the natural and cultural resources germane to the area.

The Pullman State Historic Site is an integral component to the revitalization of the greater Chicagoland area. Following the Presidential designation as a National Monument in 2015, IHPA worked very closely with the National Park Service, City of Chicago, Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives, and many other nonprofit partners to pool resources and form a management plan for the site. The goal is to get the Pullman National Monument Visitor's Center open to the public in 2018-2019, and from there to continue to rebuild the 12-acre site to showcase the multi-faceted historical significance to the city, state, and country as a whole.

During this reporting period IHPA and the National Park Service drafted an Environmental Assessment and presented it to the City of Chicago Landmarks Commission. We also held multiple public scoping meetings in the community to present four alternatives for site build out for public review and comment. All parties arrived at a unanimous choice for which route to pursue, and subsequent Requests for Qualifications went out to architectural and engineering teams with regional ties to submit proposals that build upon this vision.

The Preservation Services division of IHPA monitored federal tax credit projects in the area that encourage not only the preservation of historic buildings, but entice private investment into this region for work on the buildings that ultimately will better serve those citizens living in the community. Preservation Services also worked with numerous Certified Local Governments to train and prepare these local agencies to administer grants in the area, and was available to help aspiring communities attain Certified Local Government status.

### **MEASURABLES and RESULTS**

#### **Information**

- Preservation Services reviewed eligible listings to the National Register of Historic Places and advised accordingly.

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

- Went from zero active staff for three sites in the area to having two full-time staff members for these sites.
- Participated in the interview and selection of an architecture and engineering team for Pullman, which involved reviewing 16 bids for the Pullman Administrative Clock Tower design and nine bids for Pullman overall site design and layout.
- IHPA's sites historian participated in a two-day round table panel discussion with seven site interpretation experts that served as the first step in determining which stories will be told at the Pullman site once it opens.
- In-person participation in the two quarterly Task Force meetings during the reporting period.
- Engaged a 501(c)(3) support group to become the Pullman site designated partner for fundraising and support.
- Played a key role in two public scoping meetings regarding the site Environmental Assessment. These meetings included about 80-90 attendees.

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

- Partnered with Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives as the construction management firm to expedite procedures with the rehabilitation of the Pullman site, while remaining adherent to our regulatory responsibilities.

### **Funding**

- IHPA's partner 501(c)(3) pursued grants for \$30,000 in support of a structural study of the Pullman Rear Erecting Shop. This area will be a focus within the grounds after the Visitor's Center opens to the public.

### **Policy**

- IHPA prepared to be absorbed into IDNR pursuant to the Executive Order 17-01