

Millennium Reserve State Agency Task Force
Meeting Minutes for October 27, 2016, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

LOCATION

James R. Thompson Center, 100 W Randolph Street, Room 2029, Chicago, IL

PRESENT

SATF Representatives

Governor’s Office: Jason Heffley

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR): Diane Tecic, Suellen Burns, Annie Turek

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT): Lisa Laws

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA): Ryan McCreery, Emily Clamp

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA): Ryan Prehn

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO): *representative did not attend*

Additional Attendees

Arcelor Mittal: Bill Steers, in his role as Millennium Reserve Steering Committee Chair

Millennium Reserve: Sarah Coulter

DISCUSSION

The Millennium Reserve partnership has prioritized its work in the Calumet region around eight focal areas with far-reaching, regional impact. These areas are summarized in the box below. Each agency of the Millennium Reserve State Agency Task Force (SATF) shared its key interests, activities, and projects in the region, as they reflect these priorities of regional significance.

Millennium Reserve priorities of regional significance

- Expanded outdoor recreation
- Ecological restoration
- Stormwater management
- Brownfield redevelopment
- Industrial jobs
- National park and heritage designations
- Environmental education
- Rebranding the region
- Other*

*For each agency carrying out additional work that aligns with Millennium Reserve goals, we characterized this as “Other.”

Summary of each agency’s key interests and activities that align with Millennium Reserve

IEPA’s efforts in the region focus on several Millennium Reserve priorities of regional significance: 1) brownfield redevelopment, 2) stormwater management, 3) outdoor recreation,

and 4) national park and heritage designations. IEPA is undertaking remediation at the Pullman National Monument and a site inspection at the Schroud property adjacent to Wolf Lake and William Powers State Recreation Area, which also joins the Grand Illinois Trail and the Ford Industrial Park feeder trail. The agency is updating sewer and water supply infrastructure in the region to address stormwater and improve public health. IEPA also has a contract with the Metropolitan Planning Council to update four watershed plans in the Calumet, and is working with Blue Island, Bronzeville, and Midlothian on stormwater best management practices.

IDNR's work in the region focuses on the Millennium Reserve priorities of: 1) outdoor recreation, 2) ecological restoration, 3) stormwater management, 4) environmental education, and 5) rebranding the region. IDNR also facilitates efforts to build and enhance partnerships. Some key initiatives and projects of the agency include: bike and pedestrian trail projects that create an interconnected 100-mile trail system; on-the-ground restoration projects and collaboration with four partner organizations under the "Conservation Compact"; the development of a non-point source pollution program in our state's established coastal area; the promotion of green infrastructure; and communications and place-making that support branding of the Calumet and southeast Chicago lakefront region.

IHPA's efforts in the region focus on the Millennium Reserve priorities of: 1) national park and heritage designations, 2) outdoor recreation, 3) ecological restoration, and 4) rebranding the region. IHPA key initiatives concentrate on Pullman National Monument and historic district and Douglas Tomb state historic site, particularly how historic restoration of and planning for these sites can better connect them to surrounding communities, encourage ecological resource conservation, and create a brand for the region that reflects its unique history and ties thematically into other neighboring sites. The agency is also involved in landmark rehabilitation and archeological reviews, and conducts outreach with communities on tax benefits available for preservation activities.

IDOT's work in the region aligns primarily with these Millennium Reserve priorities: 1) outdoor recreation and 2) rebranding the region. IDOT is focusing on multi-modal transportation, spanning planes, trains, automobiles, and bikes. In particular, the agency is concentrating on phase 2 of the I-55 managed lanes project in the region and ways to improve access to the Pullman National Monument.

Suellen Burns from IDNR spoke to DCEO's efforts in the region based on a meeting between the two agencies on Millennium Reserve earlier this year. These efforts most intersect with the Millennium Reserve priorities of: 1) industrial jobs, 2) national park and heritage designations, 3) outdoor recreation, and 4) rebranding the region. The agency is particularly interested in how its tourism office can support improved wayfinding and connectivity among nearby attractions. DCEO also provides tax incentives to small businesses and job training that could support regional goals.

Master List of projects and activities

By identifying each agency's key interests, activities, and projects in the Calumet region, we are developing a strong foundation to identify actionable areas for collaboration. IDNR will compile each agency's written profile into a Master List. This Master List can also serve as an important communications tool with other stakeholders.

We could also tie this exercise to the Governor's Day of Service or to ongoing community relations and volunteer efforts at our agencies.

As Millennium Reserve transitions into a new, independent non-profit organization, it will be essential to demonstrate how SATF efforts are complementary to opportunities identified by the non-profit. Each SATF member should track its agency's investments (both funding and capacity) within Millennium Reserve geography. This is something SATF is required to report on annually to the Governor. It is also a good measure for assessing how each agency is contributing to this effort.

Task Force members commented on how we will need to balance long-term opportunities with short-term, measurable actions.

Update on the new independent organization

Suellen Burns (IDNR) shared the finalized mission and vision statements for the new independent non-profit organization that Millennium Reserve is evolving into as a part of bi-state efforts between Illinois and Indiana. Millennium Reserve is actively engaging with Indiana partners to determine how to do business in a manner that supports both states. Millennium Reserve partners are in the process of changing the organization's name to be inclusive of Indiana. By the first quarter of 2017, the partnership will also affirm or modify its priorities of regional significance (please see the text box on page 1).

Millennium Reserve has recently concluded the first phase of its wayfinding work. Wayfinding not only helps guide visitors, but also connects neighborhoods and histories to create a unified sense of place. The phase one resulted in a set of recommendations including: 1) rebranding the organization (e.g., new name); 2) adopting a unified narrative for the region (recently created); 3) developing "opt-in," adaptable visual standards and templates that provide individual sites, municipalities, and others with a cohesive identity (through signage and other less traditional wayfinding tools); and 4) choosing five demonstration sites to put the wayfinding recommendations into action. Funding and staff involvement from IDNR for this project illustrates how state support can help leverage private funding for Millennium Reserve work.

If you would like a copy of the executive summary or full report, please contact Suellen Burns (Suellen.Burns@Illinois.gov).

Potential Pullman demonstration project

SATF members have expressed their support for Pullman National Monument serving as a potential demonstration project for SATF collaboration. Since the IDNR Millennium Reserve

briefings with SATF members in August and September, Suellen Burns from IDNR met with key Pullman stakeholders to explore next steps for this effort. As there are already many organizations involved and activities underway in Pullman, SATF seeks to connect with potential partners and identify ways that we can add value and advance identified needs.

In April 2015, the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the National Parks Conservation Association conducted a community design workshop that resulted in [*Positioning Pullman*](#), an “ideas book” that lays out community-supported opportunity areas for developing the national monument site and its surrounding community. The Pullman stakeholders with whom Suellen met expressed strong enthusiasm for SATF members to advance one or two key projects outlined as opportunity areas.

From these meetings, four central themes of needs and opportunities emerged:

- Physical and conceptual connectivity within the historic district and to neighboring communities and beyond
- Attractions that will take visitors to places beyond the National Monument itself, such as restaurants, lodging, and natural areas in the region
- Increased opportunities for tourism
- Immediate to near-term tangible outcomes that build momentum and demonstrate concrete results

Pullman National Monument has a working group of key partners who have been meeting to focus and coordinate efforts. Updates from this group include: 1) a new visitors’ center is underway in the north wing of the factory site, with an anticipated opening of 2018; 2) broader site planning for the National Park Service property will be the next step; 3) remediation and the archeological survey is in process, and moving along well; and 4) as a part of this effort, a transportation initiative is underway with some federal funding, but more coordination and funding is needed for its success.

SATF members discussed having city and county representatives join SATF meetings on an interim basis as we focus more on Pullman initiatives. Members were open to this idea.

What SATF can advance collectively

What does IHPA need that other SATF members might be able to help with?

Ryan Prehn from IHPA noted that the greatest challenge to efforts in Pullman is funding. Overall, about \$2 to 3 million in additional funding is needed for restoring the clock tower building and having it open to the public. The site development plan also needs funding, which would need to be directed toward a non-profit organization because of spending limitations to IHPA’s authority.

Utilities and other infrastructure are also needed on site. This first requires an easement from the state to the National Park Service, which is in the works.

SATF members brainstormed some other additional potential resources including: the Land and Water Conservation Grant (Illinois is eligible because it has a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)); Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding for green infrastructure and stormwater; Metropolitan Water Reclamation District stormwater funding; and the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund. IHPA does not have dedicated staff for fundraising, so capacity in this arena from other SATF members with expertise would help support Pullman efforts.

The Task Force discussed letting the Millennium Reserve Steering Committee know about the \$2 million funding gap for the archeological survey. This could be a great opportunity for the philanthropic community to engage. Members also shared more detail about the Pullman transportation initiative. Lisa Laws from IDOT will look into the agency's present role in this initiative.

Public comments

There were no public comments.

Next steps

Before our next meeting, SATF members should think about two central questions:

1. What is your agency's sweet spot in terms of IHPA needs in Pullman as well as key priorities identified in the *Positioning Pullman* action plan?
2. What unique contributions can your agency make to Pullman?

Suellen Burns from IDNR will provide SATF members with a definition of what she means by "sweet spot" to help guide everyone's thinking. When considering agency contributions to Pullman, she urged SATF members to color outside the lines and to think big where possible.

The next SATF meeting will be scheduled for January. In the meantime, Suellen Burns will follow up with members on the questions above. Annie Turek from IDNR will develop a contact list for the group, share a revised agency profile template and example for priorities and projects that align with Millennium Reserve, and schedule the group's 2017 quarterly meetings. IDNR will also coordinate IHPA on next steps with Pullman opportunities for SATF. SATF members will send Annie a revised agency profile. Once those are in, Annie will compile the profiles into a Master List of SATF activities and projects in Millennium Reserve.

The agenda for the January meeting will focus on Pullman and other ways to collaborate and cut red tape. The meeting could also explore projects that SATF might take on as a team, such as something related to the Port of Illinois or brownfields. Wisconsin's Menominee Valley provides an interesting model for economic development. Diane Tecic from IDNR can send a recent article about Menominee Valley efforts.