

Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative State Agency Task Force
Meeting Minutes for April 19, 2017, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

LOCATION

Michael A. Bilandic Building, 160 N. LaSalle Street, Room N-505, Chicago, IL

PRESENT

SATF Representatives

Governor's Office: *representative did not attend*

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

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT): *representative did not attend*

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA): Emily Clamp

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA): David Schultz

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO): Michael Dropka

Additional Attendees

Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative: Sarah Coulter

DISCUSSION

Welcome and (re)introductions

Suellen Burns (IDNR) welcomed everyone to the meeting. An alternate representative from IHPA – David Schultz – attended the meeting on behalf of Ryan Prehn. David is site manager for the Pullman and Douglas Tomb state historic sites. Task Force participants introduced themselves to David. Suellen briefly gave David some background on the transition of Millennium Reserve into the Calumet Collaborative. (Please see the minutes from the October 2016 and January 2017 Task Force meetings for more details.)

January meeting minute approval

The Task Force reviewed the draft minutes from the January 2017 meeting. Members requested one edit. Diane Tecic (IDNR) proposed a motion to approve the minutes with the requested changes. Emily Clamp (IEPA) seconded. All Task Force members were in favor, and the minutes were approved pending the edit. Annie Turek (IDNR) will post the finalized minutes at <http://www.millenniumreserve.org/participate/public-meetings/>.

Agency updates

Each agency shared an action that it has taken since the January 2017 meeting to advance Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative.

IEPA focused on sampling at the Pullman site. In mid-February, the National Park Service submitted a request to IEPA for a supplemental sampling plan. IEPA reviewed this request and undertook site reconnaissance in the end of February. In the beginning of April, the agency conducted supplemented sampling at more than 20 Pullman site locations.

Mike Dropka (DCEO) reached out to the agency's Office of Tourism Director – Cory Jobe – about potential Pullman initiatives. Tourism is developing some options for DCEO Pullman activities.

Suellen suggested that Tourism's participation on the Pullman partner executive committee/work group as one option. She also noted that in a September 2016 Millennium Reserve briefing by IDNR for DCEO, both agencies talked about the potential for Tourism as to be a key resource for this work. Mike will follow up with Cory.

IHPA is developing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Pullman state historic site. The agency plans to work with the Friends of Pullman to pursue grant funding for an assessment of the rear erecting shop of the Pullman factory complex (east of Pullman administration building). This area was severely damaged in a 1998 fire. The assessment will allow IHPA to identify activities for building stabilization and interior enhancements.

IDNR is coordinating with IEPA on an assessment report of Shroud property contamination. This property is adjacent to IDNR's William Powers State Recreation Area and includes a section of Indian Creek. Trespassers are using ATVs on the Shroud site, stirring up toxic sediment that leaches into the creek. IDNR is exploring how it might support community-initiated action led by Audubon Great Lakes to better coordinate with public agencies on health, safety, and stormwater management issues at the site.

IDNR also developed a diverse and strategic slate of Illinois-based representatives for the new Calumet Collaborative Advisory Council. The Advisory Council will serve a similar role to the Millennium Reserve Steering Committee. IDNR led efforts to identify and secure representatives from Forest Preserves of Cook County, Chicago Park District, OAI, the Illinois International Port District of Chicago, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Commission, Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives.

Annual progress report to Governor Rauner

The Task Force is required to report its progress annually to the Governor's office. To fulfill this requirement, agency members need to track and communicate measurable, tangible results. (Please see the January 2017 meeting minutes for more details.)

The first progress report is due to the Governor in June 2017. The Task Force will need to have a solid draft compiled by May 2017. This first report will cover the timeframe of July 2016 – March 2017. Subsequent reports will cover 12 month periods. Suellen sent Task Force members a reporting template and an IDNR example last month. The report should reflect the activities of each agency that advance Millennium Reserve priorities, rather than all activities in the Calumet geography. The priorities include: 1) outdoor recreation, 2) ecological restoration, 3) stormwater management, 4) brownfield redevelopment, 5) industrial jobs, 6) national park and national heritage area designations, 7) environmental education, and 8) rebranding the region. Agency work will most likely fall within only a few of these categories.

Agencies should provide a narrative of their activities and bulleted points for measurable outcomes. Content should not exceed three pages for each agency and should focus on what the agency has accomplished rather than activities that do not yet have an outcome or tangible,

measurable progress. While IDNR has been very active in Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative efforts in the past year, some other Task Force agencies have been less so. As such, those agencies' content for the report may end up being much shorter than the length of IDNR's content.

Suellen suggested that Task Force members reach out to relevant colleagues within their agencies about what to include in the report. For example, DCEO Calumet activities could include: 1) Tourism's involvement in the Pullman partners executive committee / work group, 2) DCEO workforce development or small business initiatives, 3) work with South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association on keeping Ardagh Group (glass bottle manufacturer) in the region, and 4) the rail spur extension. Suellen will share the email she created to request information for the report from various divisions/offices within IDNR.

Task Force members need to send draft content to Suellen by May 1. Suellen will review the drafts and follow up, if needed, in early May. In the second half of May, she will edit content and send back to each agency for approval. She will finalize and submit the report in June.

Each agency shared its progress on the report. All Task Force members had started conversations with relevant colleagues, and many had started writing their drafts. Everyone was on track to meet the deadline. Suellen will be on work travel the week of April 24th, but Annie is available to answer any questions.

Initiative II: Pullman projects

(Please note, Initiative I was the Master List of activities. The Task Force finalized this project in January 2017. For more details, please see the October 2016 and January 2017 meeting minutes.)

At the last meeting, each agency agreed to commit by April 2017 to at least one defined, time-bound project or activity under the theme of Pullman connectivity.

Lisa Laws contacted Suellen ahead of the meeting today about IDOT's commitments. Suellen read the information to the group on behalf of IDOT. As part of a broader agency five-year proposed highway improvement program, IDOT will carry out 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 will be completed in the years 1-2 of the highway improvement program, and the 111th Street project will occur in later years of the five-year program. Suellen will check with Lisa about whether these projects will add sidewalks and bike lanes.

IHPA assisted the National Park Service (NPS) in developing two Requests for Qualifications (RFQs), one for the Pullman administration building and another for Pullman site design. In the first week of May, the agencies will conduct interviews to hire a contractor. On May 15-16, IHPA will also host a scholar roundtable at Hotel Florence to start crafting the interpretive

message for the national historic site. Sarah Coulter (Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative) recommended Mark Bouman from the Field Museum, if IHPA is still looking for scholars to participate. Diane suggested IHPA connect with the team working on the Calumet National Heritage Area and the Pullman Porter Museum, if it has not yet. IHPA appreciated these insights and will explore ways to engage additional stakeholders.

Mike will follow up with Cory from the IL Office of Tourism to determine DCEO's concrete commitment(s) to Pullman. He will share this information with the Task Force.

IEPA will leverage its Site Remediation Program (SRP) to support remediation of a former automobile auction site where there are plans to create a Pullman community center. The project has slowed. IEPA is providing support and technical assistance to the project manager. IEPA's second Pullman project will be a part of the agency's broader social media efforts. In February 2017, IEPA created its first-ever Twitter account. The agency commits to developing a targeted Pullman Twitter campaign. IEPA has posted a communications job position for social media work, and it hopes to fill this role within the next few months. This project will increase virtual connections to Pullman and raise the profile of the site. Emily will let Task Force members know if and how they might be able to help spread the word about the open position.

IDNR committed to two Pullman-related projects. Most of the work that IDNR undertakes for Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative is through the Coastal Management Program (CMP). Presently, CMP has limitations funding on-the-ground work beyond the coastal boundary, which ends just east of the Pullman neighborhood. On-the-ground work might include projects like interpretive signage or ecological restoration. The first IDNR project is to work with the federal National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (which oversees state coastal programs) to formally expand the Illinois coastal boundary to include Pullman. The Pullman designation as a National Monument and its proximity to CMP's current boundary create a strong case for this. The proposed boundary change would give CMP more flexibility to support Pullman initiatives in the future. IDNR's second Pullman connectivity commitment is a \$40,000 grant to the Pullman Porter Museum for its RE:Cycling History program. The project connects outdoor recreation and the history of the Great Migration, introducing residents primarily from south side African American communities to Chicago's south lakefront. It will include four workshops at the museum, six bicycle rides, and four mobile workshops in a van so that participants with limited mobility can also join. CMP plans to finalize the grant agreement for a July 1, 2017 project start date. The grant period will be 15 months, concluding September 31, 2018.

There were no questions about Pullman commitments. Suellen noted that these tangible activities are helpful to include in future reports to Governor Rauner. (However, these specific activities fall outside the first reporting period of July 2016 – March 2017.)

Initiative III: Illinois International Port District

At the January meeting, the Task Force discussed exploring other initiatives – in addition to Pullman – where we could collaborate. One of these opportunities is the Illinois International Port District (IIPD).

Suellen shared a two-page IIPD overview with the Task Force in advance of the meeting. She also provided the following summary:

The IIPD is an independent municipal corporation created through state legislation and is the entity tasked with maintaining the Port of Chicago. The Port's operations include the management of industrial maritime zones, as well as jurisdiction over conservation and recreational areas. The IIPD is divided into two areas of operation commonly referred to as: 1) Lake Calumet and 2) Iroquois Landing.

Lake Calumet covers 1,500 acres. The north end of Lake Calumet is used for recreation and the south and east sides are industrial. Harborside, a links golf course managed by Kemper (an outside contractor), is on the north side of the lake. This area is located near Big Marsh, a property now owned by the Chicago Park District where environmental restoration is well underway and at which a new world-class bike park opened in 2016. Iroquois Landing is 190 acres and used entirely for industrial operations. IIPD also oversees numerous lease agreements and operating licenses and administers Foreign Trade Zone #22.

From IDNR's perspective, the Port was undermanaged, underutilized, and isolated from community interests for quite some time. However, IIPD has a new executive director who started about a year ago, as well as a more engaged board of directors. Both are critical changes. The Port has notable assets and great potential that had been untapped for much of the last few decades. The Governor's Office is supportive of Port revitalization opportunities. Revitalization could provide visitors to the region with another site of interest near Pullman and would offer additional job opportunities for the region (which the Governor is very interested in). Opportunities could benefit neighboring communities, including the Pullman historic district. Diane noted that CMP is invested in working waterfronts and supporting neighboring coastal communities, and a Task Force-related IIPD initiative would be a wonderful opportunity to meld economic development and recreation.

IDNR is working with IIPD on a Coastal Management Program grant for a port re-visioning plan. Suellen shared the following excerpt from the draft scope of work for that grant:

"As a multimodal port encompassing 1,600 acres of land, the Port of Chicago has a diverse operator base that moves more seaborne tonnage on the Great Lakes than any other Great Lakes port. However, as industries change, competition with other ports and modes increases, and demand for certain land uses fluctuates, the Port faces many challenges in its efforts to remain financially solvent while acting as a good neighborhood and environmental steward."

CMP and IIPD have also discussed partnering with the Chicago Community Trust on funding the port re-visioning plan.

Clayton Harris, the Port District Executive Director, would like to take potential actions like:

1. A hotel at the Port that will help attract visitors to Pullman. IIPD has the land for this project, and right now there is nowhere to stay near the Pullman site.
2. Open up the north end of Lake Calumet for hiking, bird watching, and paddling. Other than the golf course, currently the area is cut off with razor wire. Clayton is open to providing public access. The community has wanted this for decades. There will be restoration and environmental considerations, though.
3. Ecological restoration more broadly on certain parts of IIPD property.
4. A maritime job training program for young people from neighboring communities. A small project in this area has already started, and this would align well with DCEO's work.
5. Develop a niche market like other ports in the U.S. and abroad.

Clayton has other ideas as well, and is enthusiastic about engaging the Task Force and working in partnership on aspects of the revitalization plan. Task Force involvement might include contributing to public engagement and visioning exercises, or each agency may want to take on individual pieces once the plan is complete. The Task Force agencies also have knowledge of partners and other activities, and will seek opportunities to connect Clayton.

Suellen proposed the Task Force meet with Clayton in June at the Port to discuss needs and opportunities. This would inform the July quarterly meeting, where the Task Force can have a discussion about possible agency commitments. The Task Force agreed to this next step. Suellen also noted that the group is welcome to invite additional staff from their agencies undertaking relevant work. Annie will follow up with Clayton and the Task Force members to determine a June meeting date.

Proposed Initiative IV: Job Creation, Training, and Economic Development

Another initiative that the Task Force explored at the January 2017 meeting was job creation, job training, and economic development. (Please see January meeting minutes for more detail.) This is a top priority for the Governor. We discussed the need to work in close cooperation with and in response to the Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative Advisory Council.

The Collaborative is still determining its needs in this area. The Task Force agreed that a deep dive would be premature right now. However, the Task Force's potential involvement with IIPD is a good first step in exploring job creation opportunities. This initiative may also be how the Task Force addresses economic development in the region overall. Sarah commented that job creation also has a connection to the Pullman site. The group plans to revisit the topic later this year.

Evolution of Calumet Collaborative

Diane and Sarah shared strategic developments and proposed work for the Calumet Collaborative:

Updates

Shortly after the July 2016 Executive Order from Governor Rauner that endorsed the

Millennium Reserve partnership's evolution into an independent bi-state nonprofit, the new organization hosted a series of stakeholder meetings with Illinois and Indiana partners. These meetings enabled the organization to identify opportunities and areas of collaboration. In December 2016, the nonprofit formally chose a new name for the initiative – Calumet Collaborative. The Collaborative is in the process of creating an Advisory Council and a work plan.

Diane represents the State of Illinois on the Calumet Collaborative board of directors and its Advisory Council. The board decided to slow down organizational development in early 2017 to take more time to answer some foundational questions. A recent Board retreat was an important step.

Sarah just hired a communications manager, so now the Collaborative has two full-time staff. The Collaborative's communications work group helped create a new logo, website, and social media strategy, all of which will launch shortly. Next steps for the Collaborative are developing strategies to gain additional partners and funding.

Sarah shared a draft fact sheet that outlines the mission, vision, and role of the Collaborative, as well as proposed strategic initiatives.

Strategic Initiatives

The Calumet Collaborative is focusing on five strategic initiatives, although not all will be fully accomplished in 2017. The organization considered its role for each initiative -- lead, support, coordinate, or amplify. The Collaborative will add more work as it grows. The draft initiatives are:

1. Wayfinding and interpretive messaging for the region. This would be a great area for Task Force members to weigh in on in the future (for example, with Pullman efforts).
2. Advancing the proposed Calumet National Heritage Area. This initiative is closely aligned with #1 above. The National Heritage Area (NHA) designation is for a swath of land with a story of importance, and it is often for a geographic larger than a national park. NHAs contain a collection of historic sites and buildings and, often, notable ecological features. Some examples are the I&M Canal NHA and the proposed Black Metropolis NHA. The Calumet NHA initiative is led by the Calumet Heritage Partnership. Beginning this year, Calumet Collaborative will act as its administrative arm, coordinating functions such as fundraising. Calumet Heritage Partners conducted a feasibility study that was submitted to the National Park Service earlier this year. The earliest that Congress could make a decision on officially establishing the proposed Calumet NHA will be summer 2018. The Calumet NHA will also seek state recognition and funding, as heritage areas are also important economic drivers for states. State recognition builds a stronger case for an NHA, and the Task Force could play an important role here. The proposed Calumet NHA has national parks as bookends – Indiana Dunes and Pullman – and the Bronzeville/Black Metropolis historic area just to the north. Suellen noted that this could be a good opportunity for DCEO's IL Office of Tourism as well.
3. Strategies for brownfield redevelopment. The Collaborative plans to build on existing

inventories to identify opportunities for action and positive examples of brownfield reuse for economic development. It will also highlight remediated areas that could be beneficial to companies. The Collaborative is focusing on a tangible piece of this issue where it can make an impact. An important role for the Task Force in this work would be to share expertise and best practices, or to potentially join a brownfield work group.

4. Advance bi-state, comprehensive conservation strategies. This could involve jointly applying to grants, creating a bi-state greenway of natural areas, or addressing invasive species. It is also an opportunity for each state to share lessons learned. An example of a similar project in Illinois is the Conservation Compact, which was initiated by the Millennium Reserve partnership.
5. Continue to grow the non-profit. Sarah is waiting for approval from the Secretary of State to formally change the organizational name to Calumet Collaborative. Once that is received, the Collaborative will seek IRS 501(c)(3) status.

Questions and Discussion

Suellen asked the Task Force to share how the Calumet Collaborative initiatives might align with their specific agency work.

IEPA is very interested in the brownfield redevelopment efforts. As this work evolves, Sarah will let Emily know how IEPA can support it.

DCEO said that the IL Office of Tourism probably cannot really support the Calumet NHA until it is officially designated as such by Congress and the National Park Service. Sarah provided an example of the Rivers of Steel NHA in Pittsburgh, where the region generated a lot of tourism and funding from film companies. As an example of a way Illinois could be involved without an official designation, she proposed that the state could take similar steps with old smoke stacks or bridges later incorporated into a Calumet NHA.

Suellen noted that DCEO's Office of Tourism provided funding to the Black Metropolis National Heritage Area Commission a few years ago to develop a new website. Perhaps DCEO could support branding even before the Calumet initiative is an official NHA. A NHA could also provide content for DCEO and IEPA websites and social media platforms. Diane noted that the IL Office of Tourism has contacted IDNR in the past to highlight state parks, and this could be relevant for state historic sites and other Calumet NHA assets as well. Other DCEO ideas could be a Tourism-sponsored guidebook, which would carry forward the existing [Millennium Reserve Guidebook](#), or involvement in a Calumet NHA work group.

Suellen suggested to Sarah that the Collaborative continue to keep the Task Force apprised of NHA opportunities and needs.

IHPA was excited about the wayfinding and Calumet National Heritage Area initiatives.

Suellen noted that the Task Force will have more to respond to from the Collaborative over the next six months. She also re-iterated that it would be great to have staff from DCEO's Office of Tourism involved in the Task Force.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

- IDNR will send out an immediate to-do email this week.
- IDNR will send out draft April meeting minutes in the next few weeks.
- Task Force members will send Suellen a solid, complete draft of content for the report to Governor Rauner by May 1.
- IDNR suggested Task Force members provide letters of support for the Calumet NHA. Letters in support of the feasibility study and Congressional designation are due by May 8. Suellen or Annie will email Task Force members more information. The letter provides an opportunity to highlight how each agency's work aligns with the heritage area. The letter should be on agency letterhead and, if possible, signed by the director. It could also be signed by the Task Force representative. IDNR hopes to submit a letter of support and will share a draft of that with the group.
- IDNR will schedule a meeting in June for the Task Force with the Director of the Illinois International Port District.
- DCEO will follow up with Tourism to determine a firm commitment for Pullman.
- IEPA will share the job posting for the communications position, if appropriate.
- The next Task Force meeting will be in Springfield (either at IHPA or a new location) on July 20, 2017.