

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

LOCATION

James R. Thompson Center, 100 W Randolph Street, Room 2027, Chicago, IL

PRESENT

SATF Representatives

Governor's Office: *representative was not able to attend*

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

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT): Lisa Laws

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA): Emily Clamp

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA): Ryan Prehn

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

Additional Attendees

Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative: Sarah Coulter

Welcome and (re)introductions

Suellen Burns (IDNR) welcomed everyone to the meeting. A new representative from DCEO – Michael Dropka – joined the State Agency Task Force. Task Force meeting participants introduced themselves to Michael.

In the October 2016 Task Force meeting, each agency summarized its key interests, activities, and projects that align with Millennium Reserve. Michael shared DCEO's efforts in the region, since DCEO did not have a representative present in October.

DCEO's interests, activities, and projects focus on two Millennium Reserve priorities of regional significance: 1) Industrial Jobs and 2) Rebranding the Region. DCEO reviews Enterprise Zone applications, which reduce the cost to businesses located within these approved areas. There are currently four Enterprise Zones that fall within Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative boundary. There can only be 92 zones collectively in the state, but applicants can request to expand or change a zone. DCEO also supports workforce development in the region through grants for training and certification and tax credits to increase local jobs. The DCEO Office of Tourism coordinates the Local Tourism & Convention Bureau Grant, which seeks to increase hotel and motel occupancy and travel throughout the state. The Office of Tourism also administers the International Grant Program, which promotes attractions and events in Illinois to international travelers. DCEO is focusing on minority business development – through initiatives such as the Advancing the Development of Minority Entrepreneurship (ADME) program – as well as low interest loans to foster greater entrepreneurship and small business start-ups.

Meeting minutes approval

The Task Force reviewed draft minutes from the October 2016 meeting, and members requested several edits. The minutes were then approved pending those edits. Annie Turek (IDNR) or Suellen will post the finalized minutes at <http://www.millenniumreserve.org/participate/public-meetings/>.

Updates

As discussed at our meeting in October 2016, Millennium Reserve is evolving into a new entity in collaboration with Indiana partners. Since our last Task Force meeting, more than 100 people involved in the Millennium Reserve partnership voted on a name for this new independent non-profit. The name the majority chose is Calumet Collaborative. The partnership is working on key messages and other communications tools for the new organization in the coming months. There will be an update in the Millennium Reserve e-news on the new name coming out shortly.

At the suggestion of Lisa Laws (IDOT), Suellen contacted City of Chicago Chief Resilience Officer Aaron Koch about the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities initiative and potential funding opportunities for Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative activities. While his program does not have funding to direct toward Reserve / Collaborative projects, Aaron sees strong alignment with the partnership's work, particularly at the intersection between neighborhood development and resilience (e.g., job training and economic development). The City is focusing on Pullman, Bronzeville, Chatham, Austin and West Lawndale in particular; three of these five areas are within the Millennium Reserve geography. Collaborating with the City of Chicago on resilience is a good conduit to the Mayor's office, which has been following the Reserve but to-date has not been actively involved.

Suellen asked each agency to report on one thing it has accomplished since October or has in the works that helps advance Millennium Reserve. (This will be a regular agenda item for future Task Force meetings as well.)

Lisa met with the National Park Conservation Association about Pullman, and she has agreed to serve as a point of contact if Pullman-related transportation issues need special attention within IDOT.

Ryan Prehn (IHPA) reached out to IDNR about making its Douglas Tomb site more bike-friendly. The new pedestrian and bike bridge at 35th St connecting Bronzeville to the lakefront opened recently, and IDNR may have funds to support bike parking at or just outside Douglas Tomb.

DCEO changed its Task Force representative to Michael, who can make Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative more of a priority than the previous DCEO representative was able to.

IEPA completed its site inspection at the Schroud property (adjacent to IDNR's William Powers state park) and is finishing up a Site Inspection Report. To inform report recommendations, IEPA reached out to IDNR to learn more about how people are using the land and what challenges exist. IEPA also followed up on an inquiry from the Illinois International Port District.

IEPA helped to facilitate a meeting between IHPA, the National Park Service, Chicago Park District, and stakeholders about Pullman testing results and remediation standards. Heather Nifong was promoted to Associate Director of IEPA, and she is invested in Pullman.

In addition to meeting with the city of Chicago's Chief Resilience Officer, Aaron Koch, IDNR initiated the process for changing the Coastal Management Program boundaries to include Pullman and IHPA's Douglas Tomb site. This change will give IDNR more flexibility to direct funding to specific site projects.

Reporting progress and results to Governor Rauner

The Task Force is required to report its progress annually to the Governor's office. To fulfill this requirement, agency members should track measurable, tangible results that are time-bound, where possible. The progress report can include ongoing commitments and work that align with Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative as well as special efforts that are the result of Task Force's work. Suellen proposed five general categories to track agency actions: 1) information, 2) technical assistance, 3) streamlining and cutting red tape, 4) funding, and 5) policy changes. This progress report will help demonstrate investment by the State in Reserve / Collaborative priorities in terms of time, money, and prioritization. It will also show how state agencies work together and call on one another. For example, DCEO reached out to IDNR about the Illinois International Port District, and IDNR provided background and an introduction to the appropriate contacts.

IDNR will create a template by February or March to guide information that Task Force members provide for the report. Based on its own Reserve / Collaborative efforts, IDNR will also provide an example of how to complete the template.

Lisa commented that, for IDOT, the agency profile it contributed to the Master List (detailed below) will provide a foundation for tangible work to highlight; however, some of the projects included in its agency profile do not have dedicated funding yet. Suellen also commented that more process- or meeting-focused activities could also be included in the progress report.

The progress report is due to the Governor in June 2017. The Task Force will need to have a draft compiled by May 2017. The first report will cover the timeframe of July 1, 2016 – April 1, 2017. Subsequent reports will cover 12 month periods.

Initiative I: Master List of Task Force members' activities and projects

When IDNR first launched this new iteration of the State Agency Task Force, Suellen and Annie asked each agency to pull together a profile that summarized its priorities, activities, and interests that align with Millennium Reserve priorities of regional significance. Through what is now a Master List of projects and activities, we sought to identify areas of mutual interest for enhanced collaboration.

The Master List has helped IDNR understand the depth and breadth of each agency's activities in the region. Annie asked whether there is anything that Task Force members might change about the Master List to enhance its usefulness to them.

Overall, Task Force members said they found the Master List useful for similar reasons. Sarah Coulter (Millennium Reserve / Calumet Collaborative) thought that, although the Master List is useful to improve understanding, the progress report to the Governor will be more helpful to the new non-profit because it will demonstrate what has been accomplished. Sarah added that the Master List will be helpful to the Collaborative in engaging more Indiana entities, including state agencies on that side of the border.

Initiative II: Pullman project(s)

In Suellen's conversations with key Pullman stakeholders last fall, four needs and opportunity themes emerged:

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

Ryan spoke in broad strokes about Pullman funding needs at the Task Force's October 2016 meeting. He shared that the state has owned the Pullman factory complex and Hotel Florence since 1991 and has invested \$28 million in the property to date. Pullman needs additional investment now to create a track record of results.

Ryan provided a handout to Task Force members summarizing that the National Park Conservation Association has raised \$1 million in government funding to-date and has applied for another \$2 million. This funding will go to efforts to 111th Street transportation improvements. The National Park Service Foundation is focused on raising money for improvements to the factory site. The foundation's initial goal was to raise \$10 million. Thus far, it has raised about \$8 million. An additional \$3-4 million is the foundation's new fundraising goal. Ryan highlighted that Task Force agencies could provide funding for the Worker's Gate Entrance restoration, project in need of support. That project budget is about \$50,000.

Diane Tecic (IDNR) requested granular budget numbers to determine other projects and more manageable pieces that Task Force agencies might be able to support. Ryan said that until remediation specifics are determined, it is hard to get specifics, and right now there are many unknown needs. Emily Clamp (IEPA) shared that IEPA has committed what it feels is necessary for remediation. IEPA is honoring the \$2 million that it committed during the Quinn administration. If the National Park Service wants a higher standard for site remediation, that additional money would need to come from fundraising. Phasing also needs to be settled (i.e.,

order of activities) before site-specific planning can occur. After a public meeting in February about site conceptual design options, the remediation standard will be determined.

Task Force agencies agreed that, beyond what each is doing now, none of us are not in a position to consider to funding particular components of the Pullman efforts until there is a clearer overall budget and more specific line items to respond to. Instead Suellen asked Task Force members to consider one to two new (i.e., not already committed) actions under the theme of connectivity where their respective agencies could contribute. By connectivity, Suellen referred to activities that go beyond the physical National Monument site. For example, IDNR is exploring a policy change to extend its Coastal Management Program boundaries to include the Pullman National Monument and historic district as well as Douglas Tomb. This would allow IDNR Coastal to support on-the-ground work at these locations, something it not able to do at present. Another example is that IDNR hopes to provide a grant to the Pullman Porter Museum for outreach and education to improve the conceptual connection between outdoor recreation and African American history.

Suellen asked that, over the next two to three months, each Task Force agency consider how it can contribute to Pullman efforts beyond its already committed support. These contributions can be modest and can span any of the categories that the State Agency Task Force is responsible for -- information, technical assistance, streamlining and cutting red tape, funding, and policy changes. DCEO mentioned that its tourism efforts align well here. Other Task Force members suggested actions tied to Route 66. Other ideas were jobs, the Whole Foods distribution center, brownfields remediation, and support specifically for the neighboring Roseland community. IDNR emphasized that actions can expand beyond the Pullman historic district and provide better connectivity between Pullman and surrounding communities.

Before the next Task Force meeting in April 2017, IDNR or IHPA will check in with the other agency representatives and, if needed, help them strategize further. All Task Force members will commit to at least one defined, time-bound project or activity by the April meeting.

Proposed – Initiative III: Illinois International Port District

IDNR would like to explore other opportunities – in addition to Pullman – where the Task Force could collaborate. One of these opportunities is the Illinois International Port District. The Port is located at Lake Calumet, directly east of Pullman, and Iroquois Landing at Lake Michigan and the mouth of the Calumet River. The Port has a good deal of untapped economic potential, and some aspects of its operations need rebooting. Lake Calumet has many ecological and outdoor recreation assets as well, but the public has been cut off from access to the site for several decades. The Port has new leadership, however, and is seeking to transform itself into an economic engine on the south side. IDNR would like Task Force agencies to consider how they can support the Port in becoming more viable, creating jobs, and more. There are some legacy environmental issues associated with the Port which should involve IEPA. Job development would be significant for DCEO. Broader transportation considerations align with potential roles for IDOT. IDNR could play a role with coastal economy and outdoor recreation opportunities.

IHPA indicated that it would think about potential connections to its work, particularly in the context of the region as a whole. Job creation and development in the Calumet region (more detail below) are priorities for Governor Rauner.

The Task Force decided that its first step is to find out more about the Port. IDNR will request introductory information from the Illinois International Port District and share this with the group. One Task Force member suggested including a map of leased and non-leased areas surrounding the Port. The information could help spark ideas from Task Force members for how their agencies might support Port revitalization opportunities. IDNR suggested that Port's Executive Director be invited to the next Task Force meeting. The Task Force agreed that we should be mindful of the political sensitivities and consult the Governor's Office. Diane has talked with Jason Heffley (Governor's office) generally about this topic.

Proposed – Initiative IV: Job creation, job training, and economic development

Another initiative that the Task Force could consider working on together in the Calumet region is job creation, job training, and economic development more broadly. This is a top priority for the Governor. It might make sense for DCEO to take the lead on a collective initiative centered around this.

State Agency Task Force efforts should align with and support needs identified by the Calumet Collaborative Advisory Council. Suellen asked Sarah if/what Calumet Collaborative activities are already in the works in terms of job creation and training activities and what unmet needs are being talked about. Sarah provided the examples of Purdue Northwest and OAI's Calumet Green Manufacturing Partnership. Sarah said there are a number of other initiatives that also exist, including university feeder programs that find potential students to recruit for specific job skills. Sarah also noted some considerable barriers, such as those identified by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning in its assessment of built environment and ability for growth. Other specific examples that Sarah offered were brownfields remediation on historical building sites and aging infrastructure.

Ryan mentioned the legislative initiative currently underway for the statewide historic tax credit program. This initiative proposes expanding state match to 20 to 30 percent to incentivize improvements of historic buildings. A 30 percent match would be higher than other states, making Illinois more competitive. If this initiative had the backing of the Task Force, legislative advocacy by all five agencies would carry more weight. Ryan will send more information on this to Task Force members. DCEO noted that it is already a River Edge Redevelopment Zone (RERZ) tax incentive partner.

Public comments

A written public comment was submitted by Joan Harsh, who has not been connected with Millennium Reserve but was visiting the Thompson Center earlier in the day and saw the Task Force meeting announcement posting. Please see attached.

Next steps and related recap

- Task Force members should start tracking their progress and results with activities in the Calumet region that align with Millennium Reserve goals and priorities. Actions tracked should be measurable, tangible results that are time-bound, where possible. IDNR proposed tracking agency outcomes as they fall within five categories: 1) information, 2) technical assistance, 3) streamlining and cutting red tape, 4) funding, and 5) policy changes. An annual progress report is due to the Governor in June. The Task Force will need a draft from each agency involved by the beginning of May. July 2016 – April 2017 is the timeframe to report on. IDNR will create a template to report progress and will provide an example using its activities.
- Over the next three months Task Force members will think about, vet, and commit to one to two projects or activities their respective agencies will take under the theme of increasing “connectivity” at and to Pullman. IDNR and IHPA will help the other agencies strategize if necessary.
- IDNR will request and distribute introductory information about the Illinois International Port District.
- IHPA will share information with Task Force members on the legislative initiative to expand the historic tax credit statewide.
- Sarah will do a scan of job creation efforts aligned with the Calumet Collaborative.
- IDNR will finalize 2017 meeting dates and venues.

1/19/17

To: Task Force / Agency
Millennium Reserve

I left a complaint with the
9th flr. agency - "Professional
and Regulatory" regarding
Heartland Health Care at Lawrence
and Sheridan Rd. (1015 W. Lawrence)
in Uptown. I doubt if some of
their staff is certified in Health
Care, and the neighborhood circulates
an underground plot!!

I am a victim because I live
in Uptown, and I am not a
volunteer in this!! This has
gone on for years! Why don't
they go straight, and let
people go to Weiss Hospital, nearby
Other cities, and states, do not
continue an underground deal!

I am often followed when I am outside, and I have been prevented from finding a doctor or medical assistance. I need to find someone knowledgeable enough to recognize a few vitamin/mineral supplements that I used for about 20 yrs in the 70's-80's. My dentist retired in the 1990's. I wore 1,000's of dollars of gold & alloy dental work. It loosened & I have saved this for evidence.

I want to shorten this letter (too long!) My Dad was with the I. B. E. W. for 35+ yrs. I am named ~~with~~ as the beneficiary on his life ins. (I have copies of this!) Ill. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers He worked at GTE-Gen'l Telephone & Electronics.

I am followed too much (over-?)

To find a med. Clinic or
doctor. Or to find employmt.
There should be an investigation.
This is something so that
Chicago runs an underground deal
and Uptown is cut-out or
held down! I have complained
to Ald. Jos. Moore, but I suspect
he has taken bribes or
pay-offs from people to get
them hired for jobs. I approached
I wrote to him over 8 yrs.
from 2005;

My phone is: 312/961-5939

Sincerely,

Jean Harsh

I suspect that
they keep (or open) my mail
where I stay