



Working Group Meeting #3
Meeting Summary
August 26, 2015
Prepared by Julia Lazar

Meeting began at 7:03PM.
Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

Task Force Members Attendance

Ynes Arocho
Connie Bielawski
Glenn Coyne
John Ehrnfelt
Babette Gowda
Jerry Gubanich
Jim Hostacky
Ron Hudak
John Kilgore
Zuzanna Kurowska
Katelyn Milius
Michelle Nochta
Jim Rambasek
Jeralyn Saleet
Stuart Saylor
Mike Stewart
Allison Urbanek
Cindy Marx-Council Representative

Resource Colleagues Attendance

Joe Beno, City of Lakewood
Bob Greytak, CT Consultants, Inc.
Kristin Hopkins, CT Consultants, Inc.
Joyce Bond, CT Consultants, Inc.
Julia Lazar, CT Consultants, Inc.
Jennifer Brown, CT Consultants

Task Force Members Not in Attendance

Byron Crampton
Terrence Dziak
Bill Fraunfelder
James Gagen *
Cole Mellino
Dana Paul
Jan C. Snow*
Patrick Wadden*

* indicates that these individuals informed us of scheduling conflicts

Julia Lazar started the meeting by introducing Jennifer Greiser, who is a Senior Natural Resource Manager, focusing on Urban Watersheds, for the Cleveland Metroparks.

Jenn shared slides showing results from a Parma neighborhood study. The goal of the study was to determine if installing bioretention and rain barrels helped to reduce the volume of runoff going into the storm sewer. The results showed varying results depending on the street, type of rain event, and how the bioretention cells were installed. Neighborhood participation rate in the study ranged from 13-30%. Homeowners who had green infrastructure on their property were happy with it. Some members of the community felt that the water quality and quantity problems that Parma is facing was the city's problem and that homeowners should not be responsible. The Metroparks partnered with West Creek Conservancy, who led the neighborhood outreach; and Kent State, who lead the research analyses. The powerpoint given was Kimm Jarden's Master's thesis from Kent State.

Questions from the audience:

- 1) Who is maintaining these gardens/barrels after project is over? Cleveland Metroparks is continuing to maintain these rain gardens through utilizing volunteers as well as their own staff. The biggest maintenance is weeding and keeping the fine sediments out of the garden so that they don't get flooded too quickly.
- 2) Are mosquitos laying eggs in the rain barrels or rain gardens? No, the rain barrels are covered, and the bioretentions are only ponded for about 1 day, so mosquitoes don't lay eggs there.
- 3) What do you fill the rain gardens with to ensure good drainage? The only thing they have had problems with is using basswood trees. The seed type has a lot of lining that falls off and floats down into bioretention. They had a case where it created a 4-5 inch dam, blocking the water from entering the practice.

After the research presentation, we toured the outdoor facilities surrounding the Center and saw the following green infrastructure examples: green roof, small pond, cistern, wetlands, a variety of permeable pavers, bioretention areas in parking lots, and larger step pool sequence of wetlands, leading to even larger wetland complexes.

Lessons learned from green infrastructure include:

- 1) The zone between impervious and pervious pavement is the area that gets clogged the easiest. For this reason it is best to have a wide area of pervious pavement as narrow areas will get clogged very quickly and not serve much purpose.
- 2) The type of soils used in green infrastructure practices is very important—sandy soil mixed with high organic content is the general bio soil used for bioretention purposes.
- 3) When excavating an area for green infrastructure use a toothed blade, not a smooth bade. The smooth blade forms an impervious layer of sorts when excavating clay soil. The tooth blade adds in air pockets for water to seep through.