

Protecting Our Water Environment



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2009

COOK COUNTY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE (WMO) DRAFT RELEASED – PUBLIC COMMENT OPEN AND WELCOME

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (District) began the development of the Cook County Watershed Management Ordinance (WMO) in 2007. The draft WMO is now available for review and public comment.

WMO PURPOSE - TO INSTILL PROTECTIVE MEASURES

The WMO is intended to protect Cook County citizens from increases in flooding, protect the county's natural resources, and to preserve and enhance water quality by fostering responsible development addressing stormwater management.

WHAT IS WMO?

After approval by the District's Board of Commissioners, WMO will be the stormwater management regulatory ordinance applicable to development and redevelopment projects in Cook County. It will establish reasonable, uniform, minimum, countywide regulations for drainage and detention, floodplain management, wetland protection, riparian environment protection, soil erosion and sediment control, and water quality.

TECHNICAL GUIDANCE MANUAL DRAFT ALSO AVAILABLE

A draft Technical Guidance Manual (TGM) has also been developed to serve as a companion document to the WMO; the TGM provides detailed information, methodologies and examples to assist individuals, organizations, corporate entities, and municipalities with WMO rules and regulations compliance.

PUBLIC MEETINGS BEING HELD THROUGHOUT COUNTY

The District has scheduled the first three of five public meetings in the watershed planning areas of Cook County; meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Watershed</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| November 4, 2009 | North Branch Chicago River | Glenbrook North High School 2300 Shermer Road Northbrook, IL 60062 |
| November 18, 2009 | Lower Des Plaines River | Maine West High School 1755 South Wolf Road Des Plaines, IL 60018 |
| December 2, 2009 | Little Calumet River | Thornton Fractional North High School 755 Pulaski Road Calumet City, IL 60409 |
| December 9, 2009 <i>(tentative)</i> | Upper Salt Creek & Poplar Creek | TBD |
| December 16, 2009 <i>(tentative)</i> | Calumet-Sag Channel | TBD |

SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP COLLABORATION

To facilitate stakeholder involvement in the development of the WMO, the District formed:

- a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC); and a
- Public and Private Organization Advisory Committee (PPOAC).

TAC membership consisted of municipalities and various agencies with stormwater management regulatory authority and/or enforcement responsibilities. The six Watershed Planning Councils (WPCs) of Cook County were each requested to designate two municipal engineers and/or public works directors to represent the concerns of their overall WPC membership to the District. Eleven TAC meetings were held between its inception in 2007 and the release of this document.

The PPOAC met six times in the same time frame and included environmental groups and private industry representatives.

The District is grateful for the assistance provided by the advisory committee members and now welcomes and encourages the general public to participate in the review of this ordinance.

12/31/2009 -- REVIEW PERIOD AND PUBLIC COMMENTS CLOSE

The Draft WMO and TGM are posted on the District's website (www.mwrd.org) for public review.

The public review period concludes on December 31, 2009. Written comments should be submitted to:

Mr. Joseph Sobanski, Director of Engineering
Attention: Stormwater Management Section
100 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611