

# RIVER ECOLOGY & GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

## SECOND MEETING OF THE FULL TASK FORCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019

8 – 9:30 AM

11TH FLOOR, ROOM 1103

CHICAGO CITY HALL

121 N. LA SALLE STREET

### MEETING NOTES

#### Science and Design

- *Alignment* – Unite and align the professional community to put nature on equal footing with humans within Chicago's river system
- *Systems* – Formalize review processes to include science and design to create a systems approach for ecosystem and human health
- *Principles* – Develop design principles based on the science and informed by the community, trail and stewardship goals
- *Relevance* – Create a common language for scientists, designers, volunteers, neighborhood communities and the general public around the issues, vision and goals
- *Knowledge* – Establish a repository for scientific research and design techniques to support ecosystem and human health

#### Community Connections

- *Engagement* – Provide a forum for communities adjacent to the rivers to propose and review concepts and plans for public access and engagement with the water
- *All* – Inclusiveness - Invite those communities with current river activities/access and identify and engage those communities without direct access through other water related issues (wetlands; storm water; fresh water access as a key to healthy communities in the face of climate change)
- *Integration* – Incorporate the river visions and projects of adjacent communities into a river system that benefits all communities, people and nature

#### River Trails

- *Networks* – Articulate the river trail networks that exist and the short-and long term gaps for use by the public
- *Experiences* – Create trail environments for both pedestrians and non-pedestrians without detracting from either experience and which enhance the ecosystem and the communities
- *Choices* – Identify and provide options for long-term gaps (in water paths; alternative routes through wetlands, parks and preserves; street routes)

#### Stewardship & Volunteers

- *Everyone* – Increase the number and diversity of people engaged as volunteers and stewards to improve the health of the river, its wildlife, and of adjacent lands and communities
- *Opportunity* – Develop a diverse range of opportunities for individuals, groups and communities to connect to the river system (trash pickup; stormwater infiltration; water activities in libraries)
- *Blueprints* – Use science as the basis to identify priority geographies for ecological stewardship activities