

## Urban Waters Updates

Jen Birchfield provided Northwest Indiana Urban Waters updates, including a summary of the January meeting, the 2018-19 work plan, and meeting dates for the rest of 2018. The next Urban Waters meeting is scheduled for July 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. She congratulated Nicole Messacar on winning the Learning Network Expert Award for Environmental Education and announced the US Steel consent decree public comment period. Jen listed current grant opportunities, including EPA Environmental Education grants, Legacy Foundation Neighborhood Improvement grants, National Urban and Community Forestry grants, Groundwork USA Funding and Technical Assistance, Forest Service GLRI grants, Quick Impact Placebased grants, and NPS Challenge Cost-share grants.

Jen invited partners to share updates or needs for their Urban Waters related projects. The following updates were provided by partners:

- Sarah Nimetz provided an update on the public input process for 2019 funding priorities, including an April 18<sup>th</sup> public meeting.
- Maggie Byrne provided an update on the Conservation Action Planning partnership underway in partnership with Calumet Collaborative.
- Joe Exl provided an update on the CommuniTree Spring 2018 tree distribution and workshop. Joe also provided an update on the Deep River dam engineering feasibility study. The project is wrapping up and will likely enter the engineering phase.
- Drew Hart announced an opportunity to establish an Urban Forestry Apprenticeship Program in Northwest Indiana.
- Michael Kuss provided updates on the restoration of the Karwick former dump site and the Cheney Run wetland project.
- Carolyn Saxton announced the Great Lakes Initiative, a partnership of community foundations throughout the Great Lakes.
- Tim Kingsland announced that Hobart is installing outdoor learning centers and is looking for ideas and support.
- Cherie Fisher announced that the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund RFP will be released soon. New this year applicants will submit pre-proposals before full proposals. Preproposals are due May 15<sup>th</sup> and a webinar will be held April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Geof Benson announced that EAB mitigation is underway at DLC's campus.
- Susan Mihalo announced that CWMA got USFS GLRI funds to map invasive species.