



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

11:15 AM

**Cook County Building, Board Room,
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

Issued on: 5/07/2026

NOTICE AND AGENDA

There will be a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County at the date, time and location listed above to consider the following:

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have registered to speak, with the Secretary, 24 hours in advance of the meeting. To register as a public speaker, go to the meeting details page for this meeting at <https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to find a registration link. Duly authorized public speakers may speak live from the County Board Room at 118 N. Clark Street, 5th Floor, Chicago, IL or be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each virtual speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings> or in a viewing area at 69 W. Washington Street, 22nd Floor Collaborative Room 2, Chicago, IL. Persons authorized to provide public testimony are encouraged to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting and shall not use vulgar, abusive, discriminatory, profane, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

26-1425

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 01/14/2026.

[26-1239](#)

Sponsored by: JOSINA MORITA, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BILL LOWRY, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION TO ADVANCE CHICAGO AREA WATERWAY SYSTEM ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

WHEREAS, The Chicago Waterway System (CAWS) comprises approximately 76.1 miles of canals and modified natural rivers, which encompasses a diverse landscape of prairies, woodlands, savannas, and wetlands as well as industrial, residential, and commercial developments; and

WHEREAS, the CAWS is home to a variety of wildlife, including larger animals such as coyotes and deer, as well as small aquatic plants like duckweed, which is considered one the smallest flowering plants in the world; and

WHEREAS, the CAWS is one of the most closely monitored urban river systems in the United States, with a special thanks to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD); and

WHEREAS, since 1974, monitored fish populations in the CAWS have shown substantial increases in species diversity, from 10 species in 1974 to 77 species in 2026, reflecting significant improvements in water quality and aquatic habitat; and

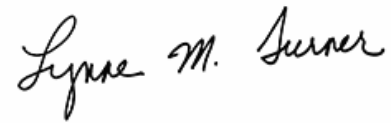
WHEREAS, despite the collaborative research efforts with partner organizations and an increase in native fish abundance and species diversity, the historic contamination from Chicago's industrialization has affected sediment in certain areas of the CAWS, in locations such as south fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River, commonly known as Bubbly Creek; and

WHEREAS, sediment provides essential habitat and nutrients for benthic organisms, which serve as a foundational food source for fish: these fish, in turn, support wildlife and human populations throughout Cook County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the residents of Cook County, affirm our support for federal, state, and municipal initiatives aimed at addressing legacy pollution, including the remediation of contaminated sediments within the CAWS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution be spread upon the permanent Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners of the Cook County Government.

Legislative History : 4/16/26 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Environment and Sustainability



Secretary

Chair: Degnen

Vice-Chair: Morita

Members: Britton, Miller, K. Morrison, Trevor, Vásquez