

**Appendix A-2:
Newsletters**

Basin Quarterly Activity Reports (BQAR) by Basin

Chartiers Creek Basin



Basin Quarterly Activity Report

Chartiers Creek
Basin

Quarterly Key Points

When it rains or when snow melts, the amount of flow in the sewer system increases. In the sanitary system, this is as a result of defects and imperfections in the pipes or as a result of plumbing systems that do not meet current standards. Combined sewer systems were designed to carry sewage and stormwater collected during rainfall. In either case, when the capacity of the system is exceeded, the water, mixed with sewage, can overflow into Chartiers Creek and its tributaries. These overflows are called either Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) or Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), depending on the system from which they are discharged. These overflows can include many items found in sewage such as debris, bacteria, and human and animal waste. This results in a discharge of measurable pollutants into our local streams and rivers.

While sewer systems that overflow into rivers and streams are not acceptable in 2009, at the time they were constructed, it was common practice to design sewer systems to convey only the dry weather flows that were generated. Overflow locations were part of the design, and were intended to act as “relief valves” to release the flows that could not be transported in the pipe. Many of our sewer systems are very old. At the time of their design and installation, it was a great advance to water quality to make sure that the dry weather flows were being treated. However, these overflows violate current legal and environmental standards for sewer systems. According to the Clean Water Act, SSOs are illegal and CSOs must be controlled so that the water quality is protected.

In response to our region’s sewage problems, the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN), which services 83 communities in Allegheny County, has entered into a Consent Decree. The Consent Decree is an agreement between ALCOSAN and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), and the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD). It requires ALCOSAN to develop and implement a plan to eliminate and control overflows and conform to the Clean Water Act during periods of wet weather. The Consent Decree is a binding, legal document that is certified by a federal judge and recognized by the court. In addition, the municipalities in the ALCOSAN service area are under a series of agreements with either PADEP or ACHD to improve their sewage collection systems and control their overflows.



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The Solutions

To comply with the Consent Decree, ALCOSAN has agreed to a number of steps toward a solution to CSO and SSO problems. ALCOSAN has divided the 83 municipalities in their service area into seven basins or geographic areas, which include Chartiers Creek, Saw Mill Run, Upper Monongahela, Thompson/Turtle Creek, Upper Allegheny, Lower Ohio and Girtys Run, and Main Rivers. Each basin has a team of engineers working together to try to find the most cost effective solutions to the wet weather problems. The team for the Chartiers Creek Basin is led by Tetra Tech. Team contact information can be found at the end of this report.

In the Chartiers Creek Basin, all or a portion of 23 municipalities' sewage flows toward Chartiers Creek. The sewer line along Chartiers Creek that collects these flows is the Chartiers Creek interceptor. This sewer line collects all of the sewage from the Chartiers Creek Basin and conveys it to ALCOSAN's waste water treatment plant for treatment. During a wet weather event, there are 109 SSOs and CSOs that can potentially discharge directly to Chartiers Creek and the Ohio River. Some of these overflows are from the ALCOSAN collection system; others are from the municipal collection systems.

As part of addressing the wet weather issues, various groups of people have been brought together to ask for their input. The Chartiers Creek Basin Planning Committee (BPC) is a group that meets quarterly to discuss wet weather planning issues. The first meeting was held in July 2008. This group is made up of municipal engineers, managers, and elected officials, stakeholders, regulatory agencies, and ALCOSAN. The BPC meetings discuss ALCOSAN's progress in addressing the basin-specific and regional wet weather issues, seek input and define items needed from others to support the planning process. This Quarterly Report will provide an update on the progress of the Chartiers Creek Basin Planning Committee.

On The Horizon...Your Participation

Participation from the community – from local elected officials to residents – in the Chartiers Creek Basin is critical to the success of the Chartiers Creek Basin planning process to address CSO issues. Why should you participate?



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If you are a local elected official -- Chartiers Creek Basin representatives from your municipality are weighing in on critical decisions regarding the siting of future wet weather infrastructure facilities. They are providing technical information that will help craft locally-beneficial wet weather strategies to improve water quality and achieve other important local goals. These decisions have the potential to affect your community's financial resources, public health and safety considerations related to wet weather issues, and residents' quality of life. In addition to addressing your municipality's wet weather issues, the information generated through each of the seven basin planning efforts will support the development of ALCOSAN's Overall Comprehensive Wet Weather Plan and help your municipality fulfill its specific municipal orders.

If you are a community resident -- The decisions about the type and location of facilities to address wet weather issues will affect your community in a number of ways. Facilities have the potential to change the look and feel of a specific location, so it is important for you to share your opinions on where you might like these facilities to be placed and what characteristics they should possess so that they blend with the surrounding area. The overall strategy to address overflows and wet weather issues will eventually affect you as an ALCOSAN rate payer. It is important that you support the final strategy to address overflows and wet weather in your community since you will help to finance this strategy when paying your sewage bill.

Both local officials and community residents will have a variety of opportunities to participate in the Chartiers Creek Basin planning process. The primary way to get involved is to attend regular Basin Planning Committee meetings. Other venues for participation will include web-based presentations and community public outreach meetings.

Public Information & Outreach

ALCOSAN and the Chartiers Creek Basin Planning Team are committed to providing opportunities for public participation and educating communities on the solution to wet weather problems with up-to-date information. The Chartiers Creek Basin Planning Team, in conjunction with ALCOSAN, developed a detailed Public Participation Plan that describes approaches for involving and informing the public throughout the planning process. You can research up-to-date information on what's happening in the Chartiers Creek Basin at www.alcosan.org. In addition, this quarterly report will provide schedules of upcoming public participation events and opportunities.



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ALCOSAN recently convened the Customer Municipality Advisory Committee (CMAC) and the Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG). The CMAC meets quarterly to provide guidance and solicit feedback for ALCOSAN's Long Term Wet Weather Control Plan. The fourteen members of the CMAC were appointed by the County Executive and ALCOSAN to represent the seven planning basins and to act as the steering committee for the Regional Stakeholder Group. The Regional Stakeholder Group is comprised of approximately thirty-five members representing academia, municipal government, regional government, environmental groups, land use entities, and special interest groups. This group will meet quarterly at a minimum to assist with public participation, education, and outreach.

The Chartiers Creek Basin Planning Team welcomes your ideas, questions, and concerns at any time. If you have feedback that you would like to share, or if you would like to request more information, please contact the project managers listed at the end of this report.

To better understand the wet weather problems and solutions, the public is invited to attend ALCOSAN's Annual Open House. It will be held on Saturday, September 19th from 9:00 to 4:00. Please call 412.734.8733 for more information.

Program Updates

ALCOSAN has been working toward a plan of action for controlling overflows for many years. Early actions have focused on developing a plan for expansion of the wastewater treatment plant. Tetra Tech began efforts on the Chartiers Creek Basin in early 2008. Activities to date include:

- Internal televising and cleaning of the Chartiers Creek Interceptor. Televising involves a camera traveling the length of the pipe to observe defects, debris and all connections to the pipe. The televising enabled the planning team to identify the condition of the existing interceptor pipe and whether any repair and special cleaning was required.
- Evaluation of flow conditions. Flow metering equipment was installed at 151 locations in the sewer system from March 2008 – February 2009. This equipment allowed ALCOSAN to directly measure the response to rainfall in the sewer system.



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- An Existing Information and Conditions Report was developed. This report is a compilation of all of the data collected under previous studies in the Chartiers Creek Basin. As a part of the data collection, Tetra Tech conducted one-on-one meetings with each of the municipalities and sanitary authorities in the Chartiers Creek Basin. These meetings helped introduce the Chartiers Creek Basin Planning program to each of the municipalities. In addition, they ensured that the Planning Team had accurate municipal data in the Existing Information and Conditions Report. The Planning Team asked municipalities to review and comment on the draft version of the Existing Information and Conditions Report. ALCOSAN is currently reviewing the preliminary draft version of this report.
- As part of the sanitary sewer system evaluation, Tetra Tech is currently developing a Hydraulic Model of the major sewers in the Chartiers Creek Basin. The result of this study is a computer model that will be developed to simulate the flows and conditions in the sewers during different rainfall and snow melt events. Tetra Tech expects to complete this model and the associated report in the fall of 2009.
- Preliminary evaluation of routes, sites and alternatives. Tetra Tech is also currently preparing a Preliminary Alternatives and Site Report. Through this report, Tetra Tech is evaluating alternatives to address the sewage overflows. Under a separate order with either the PADEP or ACHD, the municipality where you live is also preparing a Feasibility Study for the municipal or municipal authority owned sewers. These activities are being coordinated to ensure that they are consistent and to streamline efforts.

Basin Planning Committee Updates

To date, four Basin Planning Committee (BPC) meetings have been held. A brief summary of each meeting is described below.

- BPC Meeting No. 1. This meeting was held on July 31, 2008. Municipal managers and municipal engineers were invited to this meeting. This was the introductory meeting where the background of the wet weather problems was discussed and an overview of the planning process was presented. The meeting was presented in an open forum with many opportunities for discussion.

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- BPC Meeting No. 2. This meeting was held on October 29, 2008. This meeting started the discussions on the investigations conducted in the Chartiers Creek Basin. Tetra Tech provided a preliminary discussion of the Chartiers Creek's sanitary sewer system capacity (i.e., How much flow can go through the pipes?). The flow monitoring program, conducted by ALCOSAN, measuring how much water and sewage was flowing through the pipes over a period of time was also discussed at this meeting. The final discussion topic of this meeting was the responsibilities of ALCOSAN and the municipalities in the basin planning process.
- BPC Meeting No. 3. This meeting was held on March 5, 2009. Municipal financial data collection was the primary discussion topic for the first half of this meeting. The remainder of the meeting presented an update of the basin planning activities and preliminary site selection activities for facilities to help solve the CSO issues.
- BPC Meeting No. 4. This meeting was held on June 17, 2009. This meeting discussed the updated ALCOSAN website; public outreach activities; flow monitoring and modeling; and the technology, site location, and interceptor route selection process.

Future Actions

- Basin Planning Meeting No. 5, September 17, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Upper St. Clair Township Community Recreation Center.
- Finalization of Existing Information and Conditions Report (preliminary draft currently under review).
- Finalization of Preliminary Alternatives and Site Report (due the fall of 2009).
- Completion of Hydraulic Model and Calibration Report (due the fall of 2009).

Contact Information

Any questions or requests for additional information may be directed to:

Mr. Dan Lockard, ALCOSAN Project Manager at 412.734.8370,

Daniel.Lockard@alcosan.org

or

Mr. Herb Higginbotham, P.E., Vice President, Tetra Tech, 412.921.8750,

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Basin Quarterly Activity Report # 2

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Quarterly Key Points

This is the second Basin Quarterly Activity Report for the Chartiers Creek Planning Basin. The purpose of this report is to familiarize the reader with the problems of sewage overflows and what ALCOSAN and the region are doing to correct the problems. If sewage overflows and their related problems are new to you, please reference Basin Quarterly Report #1 for the Chartiers Creek Basin (released August 2009) for background information on this problem. If you not have access to the first report, please contact one of the individuals indicated at the conclusion of this report.

To date, the Chartiers Basin Planning Team has been working with ALCOSAN and the municipalities that contribute sewage flows to the Chartiers Basin Interceptor to understand the sewage problems in the basin. The first step in this process was to develop an Existing Information and Conditions Report. This report compiled and summarized previous studies conducted for the basin and updated and confirmed specific information from the 23 municipalities that contribute to the Chartiers Basin. The next step in the basin planning process is to develop a computerized Hydrograph and Hydraulic (H&H) model that replicates and predicts how the sanitary and combined sewer systems work during dry and wet weather. The Basin Planning Team is currently finalizing the draft Hydraulic Model and Calibration Report. Concurrently, the Basin Planning Team has been reviewing potential alternatives for control of overflows, and locations for new sewers and facilities. The Basin Planning Team is also conducting a preliminary review of potential sites to locate additional storage and treatment facilities. This Preliminary Alternatives and Site Screening Report will be submitted to ALCOSAN by October 30th, 2009.

As part of ALCOSAN's public outreach, the Customer Municipality Advisory Committee (CMAC) and the Regional Stakeholders Groups (RSG) were formed. As advocates for ALCOSAN's customer municipalities, the CMAC members have addressed several key topics which include: municipal feasibility studies, multi-municipal funding and collaboration, coordination of ALCOSAN's planning process and its impacts on its customer municipalities, effective methods to educate elected officials, and possible Early Action Projects. The CMAC meeting # 4 was held on Wednesday, October 14, 2009. The RSG members continue to examine and prioritize important topics that the public needs to know regarding the wet weather pollution control program facing our region. The RSG is actively engaged in defining effective avenues of communication and identifying critical topics and issues. The RSG meeting # 4 was held on Thursday, October 15, 2009.



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Regional Integration through Technical Standards

An important aspect of ALCOSAN's wet weather planning is development of technical standards and protocols to ensure a seamlessly integrated wet weather plan that considers the local priorities identified in each of the seven basins. These documents define the "rules of the road" with which the wet weather planning team must comply to ensure consistency, resulting in a cohesive regional Wet Weather Plan. ALCOSAN's Program Management team is responsible for such coordination.

The effectiveness of this approach was demonstrated during the implementation of the flow monitoring program and expected again when the models from each of the seven basins are integrated into a unified system-wide model. The flow monitoring carried out by four separate firms produced consistent, quality information that can be used by the Basin Planning teams or customer municipalities. Basin Planning teams are extending the H&H models to include critical portions of the municipal collections systems utilizing data provided by the flow monitoring program. These models will be used to review existing baseline conditions and to assess a range of alternatives to control wet weather flow and improve water quality. Through documents, workshops and periodic status meetings, the standardization established for the models will once again maximize the value of the investment made by the ratepayers.

Over the coming months, guidance will be provided to the Basin Planning teams and customer municipalities for the collaborative development of an integrated Wet Weather Plan that addresses local and regional challenges.

On The Horizon...Your Participation

Public participation in the Chartiers Creek Basin is vital to the success of the overall solutions to wet weather problems in our region. ALCOSAN has been working with the municipal managers, elected officials, and engineers to develop the information that is necessary to make informed decisions in the wet weather sewage planning process. As this process continues, ALCOSAN would like to reach out to you - the general public, for your involvement in this process. ALCOSAN is providing many opportunities for public involvement. ALCOSAN has developed a "Public Comment Card". These cards are available at any public forum held by ALCOSAN and are a way for you to ask specific questions directly to ALCOSAN. In the near future, the Chartiers Creek Basin Planning Team will be providing your municipality with articles, updates, and information to include in newsletters and websites.

The Chartiers Creek Basin Planning Team and ALCOSAN value your input and questions.



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Public Information & Outreach

The Chartiers Creek Basin Planning Team will be holding a series of Public Meetings in November 2009 to update the general public about the planning process. These meetings will be held in different areas throughout the basin. The Public Meetings will be a mix of short presentations and informational kiosks that will provide attendees with general information about our aging sewer systems, the problems with the sewer system, the regulatory requirements to fix the sewer system, and the beginning of the solutions to the problem. Persons attending the Public Meetings will have the opportunity to ask specific questions to individual members of the Chartiers Creek Basin Planning Team and ALCOSAN representatives.

The dates and locations are as follows.

- November 5th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Father Ryan Arts Center; 420 Chartiers Avenue, McKees Rocks, PA 15136
- November 16th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center; 900 Cedar Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15228
- November 17th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Oakdale Community Room; 104 Seminary Avenue, Oakdale, PA 15071

We will be announcing the public meetings in local and regional newspapers and on municipal web sites. We look forward to seeing you there!

Program Updates

The Tetra Tech Basin Planning Team for Chartiers Creek Basin has been busy on many fronts. A brief update of these activities is provided in the following paragraphs.

Flow Monitoring

- The flow monitoring data is available on the 3 Rivers Wet Weather municipal data site.



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Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) Modeling and Model Report

- The report will be available by the end of 2009.
- The report will contain a description of the sewer system, flow monitoring data (actual measurements of flow quantity in the sewer system), overflow activity, a model calibration/validation summary based on the flow measurements, information on design storms used to assess system behavior, typical year flow rates, and typical year flow volumes.

Design Storms and Typical Year Rainfall

Planning activities consider the behavior of the sewer system under a variety of “typical” conditions and extreme conditions. This variety of conditions helps to define what controls are needed.

- The “typical year” is based on actual rainfall conditions in calendar year 2003.
- A range of design storm conditions will be evaluated, including storms that would be representative of the largest storm in a one, two, five or ten year period.

ALCOSAN Secure Municipal Website

- Newly produced documents and other information items are regularly placed on the secure website that can be accessed by municipal representatives.

Financial Update

- The Alternative Costing Tool (ACT) is available to help municipalities determine costs for repair and maintenance of their systems. The ACT is a spreadsheet type of program that contains unit costs and other information to assist in developing costs associated with the various types of sewer system improvements.

In July and August of this year the Chartiers Basin Planning Team held workshop meetings with the municipalities that are adjacent to Chartiers Creek. The workshops were divided into the Upper Chartiers Group (including Bridgeville, Collier, Heidelberg, Scott and South Fayette) and the Lower Chartiers Group (Carnegie, Crafton, Kennedy, McKees Rocks, Pittsburgh, Rosslyn Farms, Scott, Thornburg, and Robinson). These workshop meetings were held as smaller groups to allow municipal representatives to have open discussions about the sites and the site selection process. At these workshop meetings, the Basin Planning Team discussed the criteria to be used for the facility site screening process and control technologies screening process and reviewed the process of facility site selection and available control technologies.



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Basin Planning Committee Updates

Five Basin Planning Committee (BPC) meetings have been held over the last year. A brief summary of each meeting is described below.

- BPC Meeting No. 1, July 31, 2008. This was the introductory meeting where the background of the wet weather problems was discussed and an overview of the planning process was presented. The meeting was presented in an open forum with many opportunities for discussion.
- BPC Meeting No. 2, October 29, 2008. This meeting discussed the investigations conducted in the Chartiers Creek Basin interceptor sewer system. Discussions of the Chartiers Creek's sanitary sewer system capacity were held. The flow monitoring program, conducted by ALCOSAN, measuring how much water and sewage was flowing through the pipes over a period of time was also discussed at this meeting. The final discussion topic of this meeting was the responsibilities of ALCOSAN and the municipalities in the basin planning process.
- BPC Meeting No. 3, March 5, 2009. Municipal financial data collection was the primary discussion topic for the first half of this meeting. The remainder of the meeting presented an update of the basin planning activities and preliminary site selection activities for facilities to help solve the CSO issues.
- BPC Meeting No. 4, June 17, 2009. This meeting discussed the updated ALCOSAN website; public outreach activities; flow monitoring and modeling; and the control technology, site location, and interceptor route selection process.
- BPC Meeting No. 5, September 17, 2009. This meeting detailed the progress of the modeling study currently being conducted. This meeting also discussed the results of the preliminary site and technology screening that had been conducted for the basin. Meeting No. 5 summarized the results of the workshop meetings that were conducted in August and September 2009.



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Future Actions

- Regional Public Meetings
 - ➔ November 5th – McKees Rocks, Fr. Ryan Arts Center, 420 Chartiers Avenue
 - ➔ November 16th – Mt. Lebanon, Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center, 900 Cedar Blvd.
 - ➔ November 17th - Oakdale, Oakdale Community Room, 104 Seminary Avenue
- Basin Planning Committee Meeting No. 6 – January 2010
- Screening of Controls and Sites Report
- Hydrology & Hydraulic (H&H) Model and Calibration Report

Contact Information

Any questions or requests for additional information may be directed to:

Mr. Dan Lockard, ALCOSAN Project Manager at 412.734.8370,
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or

Mr. Herb Higginbotham, P.E., Vice President, Tetra Tech, 412.921.8750,
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ALCOSAN. Allegheny County Sanitary Authority.

Basin Quarterly Activity Report # 3

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Quarterly Key Points

This is the third Basin Quarterly Activity Report (BQAR) for the Chartiers Creek Planning Basin. The purpose of this report is to familiarize the reader with the problems of sewage overflows and what ALCOSAN and the region are doing to correct the problems. If sewage overflows and their related problems are new to you, please reference Basin Quarterly Report #1 for the Chartiers Creek Basin (released August 2009) for background information on this problem. If you do not have access to the first report, please contact one of the individuals listed at the conclusion of this report.

Since publishing the last BQAR in the fall of 2009, the Chartiers Basin Planning Team has been working on a number of important sewage facility planning activities. Specifically, the Chartiers Basin Planning Team has completed the following items.

- Held three regional public outreach meetings (please refer to the Public Information and Outreach section of this BQAR for additional information.).
- Developed a computerized hydrologic and hydraulic model (referred to as the H&H model) that simulates the transport of sewage flow in the ALCOSAN interceptor system and major municipal trunk sewers to the existing waste water treatment plant. The draft model was submitted to ALCOSAN in October 2009. The model has been subsequently reviewed and is being revised for distribution during March 2010.
- Reviewed potential sites for ALCOSAN storage or treatment facility locations in the Chartiers Creek Basin.
- Identified and assessed potential control technologies that could be used in the Chartiers Creek Basin.
- Compiled the sites and technology information into a Screening of Controls and Sites Report that was submitted to ALCOSAN in November 2009.

These activities are discussed in detail in the following sections of this BQAR.



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On The Horizon...Your Participation

We value your input and questions. The Chartiers Basin Planning Team and ALCOSAN have been reaching out to engage and inform the citizens that live in the Chartiers Creek basin. These outreach activities include

- Public outreach meetings that were held regionally in November 2009
- Annual ALCOSAN Customer Information Meetings that were held in January and February 2010
- Quarterly Basin Planning Committee (BPC) Meetings
- The Basin Quarterly Reports
- ALCOSAN's website www.alcosan.org
- ALCOSAN's Public Comment Card that provides a method to ask specific questions to ALCOSAN

Public Information & Outreach

The Chartiers Creek Basin Planning Team held a series of Public Outreach Meetings in November 2009 to update the general public about the ongoing wet weather planning process. These meetings were held in McKees Rocks, Mt. Lebanon, and Oakdale. ALCOSAN would like to thank the municipalities that allowed us to utilize their facilities for hosting these public outreach meetings. Also, ALCOSAN greatly appreciates the continued support, participation and dedication of time and resources provided by RSG (Regional Stakeholder Group) and CMAC (Customer Municipality Advisory Committee) members relative to the development of the long-term, regional Wet Weather Control Plan.

ALCOSAN also held their Annual Customer Information Meetings in January and February 2010. These meetings were held regionally to provide customers with an update on the status of the development of the Wet Weather Plan and to discuss the Consent Decree, municipal coordination, municipal and program costs, and public awareness.

The first quarterly meeting for the CMAC (meeting #5) was held on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. Informative discussions held with CMAC members have provided ALCOSAN with valuable insight useful in coordinating with its customer municipalities. Selected 2010 goals for the CMAC include integrating feedback on sites alternative screening and evaluation criteria into the alternative development, evaluation and review process as well as actively engaging elected



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officials and managers to participate in this critically important phase of wet weather planning process.

RSG meeting #5 will be held on March 16, 2010. With a full 2010 agenda, the RSG will begin to explore implementation factors that will affect the public and discuss relevant combined and sanitary sewer overflows (CSO / SSO) control technologies. Throughout the year, RSG members also will use their organization's network to help build public consensus for the development of a most cost effective regional solution.

Program Updates

As introduced at the beginning of this BQAR, major phases of ALCOSAN's wet weather planning program include: 1) review and analysis of existing data and information (Existing Conditions and information Report); 2) flow monitoring; 3) hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) modeling (H&H Modeling / Modeling Report); 4) alternatives development and analyses (Feasibility Report and Present Worth Analysis); and 5) development of basin facilities plan. The first three phases of the effort are either complete or nearing completion, or the alternatives development and evaluation work is underway.

Each Basin Planner (BP) submitted to ALCOSAN an Existing Conditions and Information Report which provides detailed information about the existing municipal sewer systems within their basin. The BP also submitted the draft Screening of Controls and Sites Reports in which potential wet weather overflow control technologies and viable sites or routes were screened and evaluated. This report is expected to be completed in early 2010. Reports will be posted on the municipal secure web sites for use by ALCOSAN's customer municipalities as they are finalized. In addition to these reports, the BPs have developed a computer model that simulates flow conditions within the sewer systems during both the dry and wet weather periods. The BPs have drafted an accompanying report (Hydrologic & Hydraulic Model Validation and Calibration Report) which details the modeling methodology and modeling results. These models will be "rolled out" by ALCOSAN through the Feasibility Study Working Group (FSWG) facilitated by Three Rivers Wet Weather.

Throughout most of 2010, ALCOSAN's basin planning teams will be developing and evaluating alternatives to control wet weather overflows and pollution. The goal is to narrow the potential alternatives to a set of approximately four or five options that will support the regional alternatives evaluation. In order to support this activity the municipalities will provide flow estimates to the basin planning teams. These feasibility studies and subsequent facilities plans will then be integrated into an overall Wet Weather Plan (WWP) for the region.



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Basin Planning Committee Updates

Six Basin Planning Committee (BPC) meetings have been held over the last two years. A brief summary of each meeting is described below.

- BPC Meeting No. 1, July 31, 2008. This was the introductory meeting where the background of the wet weather overflow problem was discussed and an overview of the planning process was presented. The meeting was presented in an open forum with many opportunities for discussion.
- BPC Meeting No. 2, October 29, 2008. This meeting discussed the investigations conducted in the Chartiers Creek Basin interceptor sewer system. Discussions of the Chartiers Creek's sanitary sewer system capacity were held. Preparation of the Existing Conditions and Information Report along with the flow monitoring program being conducted by ALCOSAN, to measure how much clean water and sewage was flowing through the pipes for the monitoring period, were also discussed. The final discussion topic of this meeting was the individual responsibilities of ALCOSAN and the Municipalities in the basin planning process.
- BPC Meeting No. 3, March 5, 2009. Municipal financial data collection was the primary discussion topic for the first half of this meeting. The remainder of the meeting presented an update of the basin planning activities and preliminary site selection activities for facilities to help solve the wet weather issues.
- BPC Meeting No. 4, June 17, 2009. This meeting discussed the updated ALCOSAN website; public outreach activities; flow monitoring and modeling; and the control technologies, site locations, and interceptor route selection process.
- BPC Meeting No. 5, September 17, 2009. This meeting detailed the progress of the modeling study currently being conducted. This meeting also discussed the results of the preliminary sites and technology screening that had been conducted for the basin. Meeting No. 5 summarized the results of the workshop meetings that were conducted in August and September 2009.
- BPC Meeting No. 6 was held on February 17, 2010 in Mt. Lebanon. This meeting provided



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an update on the H&H model, discussed preliminary flow estimates required from the municipalities, discussed alternatives development process, and presented updates on public participation and outreach. The meeting also included an Alternatives Development Criteria Exercise. This exercise was conducted to engage the meeting participants to find out what their highest priority was during the alternatives development process. The five primary weighing criteria consisted of the following: economic factors; public factors; water quality, public health, and environmental impacts; operational & maintenance impacts; and implementation factors. Each meeting attendee was asked to “vote” for the criteria which they felt were the most important by using colored dot stickers on criteria category posters. The results of this exercise are as follows:

- Economic Factors - 30%
- Public Factors – 23%
- Water Quality, Public Health, and Environmental Impacts – 21%
- Operational Impacts – 12%
- Implementation Factors – 13%

Future Actions

- Basin Planning Committee Meeting No. 7 – June 2010
- Receipt of Municipal Input on Preliminary Flow Estimates.
- Individual Meetings with Municipalities
- Screening of Controls and Sites Report – March 2010
- Hydrology & Hydraulic (H&H) Model and Calibration Report – March 2010
- Alternatives Costing Tool (ACT) Update
- Feasibility Report and Present Worth Analysis – progress milestones throughout 2010
- Status of Municipal Feasibility Study& Interface with ALCOSAN Feasibility Study.

Contact Information

Any questions or requests for additional information may be directed to:

Mr. Dan Lockard, ALCOSAN Project Manager at 412.734.8370,
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Basin Quarterly Activity Report No. 4

Development of Wet Weather Control Alternatives

This fourth Basin Quarterly Activity Report (BQAR) summarizes the activities of the Chartiers Creek Basin Planning team since March of 2010. Currently, the planning team is focused on the development of wet weather flow control alternatives. These are solutions to address sewage overflows that occur during precipitation events.

The Chartiers Creek Basin Planning team developed a computerized hydraulic model that simulates flow into the ALCOSAN sewer system in the Chartiers Creek basin. This computer model was developed using flow data collected at 98 metering sites located throughout the basin. The computer model was finalized and sent to each municipality within the basin for their review and use. Technical details and back-up information of the computer model were summarized in a Hydrologic and Hydraulic Model Validation and Characterization Report that was posted on ALCOSAN Municipal Secure Web Site for review and use of the municipalities.

In the alternatives analysis process, the model initially assumes that municipalities will transport all wet weather flow to ALCOSAN, rather than removing or retaining it. Using the output of the computer model, volumes associated with combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) under different conditions have been identified.

The existing Chartiers Creek interceptor has little capacity for conveying wet weather flow and all alternatives will include additional transport capacity, likely through a relief interceptor. In addition, peak flows in excess of treatment plant capacity will need to be stored or treated in the Chartiers Creek basin. The Chartiers Creek Basin Planning team has also been working to identify the best locations to consolidate facilities that will manage the excess flow generated in the system. Preferred sites are a subset of previously identified sites in the vicinity of the creek and where space is available. Basin technologies that are currently being evaluated for CSOs include storage (tanks and tunnels), various treatment technologies, reduction of stormwater flows entering the collection system, and flow reduction through green infrastructure. For SSOs, storage and flow reduction are being evaluated.

Over the next several months, the Chartiers Creek Basin Planning team will refine the potential site locations and potential control and/or treatment technologies. The team will receive input from municipalities on the amount of local flows generated. In addition, the planning team will interact directly with the municipalities to collect their preliminary flow estimate numbers.



An underground wet weather storage facility in Toledo, Ohio. The three million gallon sanitary sewer overflow control facility is located beneath the grassed area in Brookford Park. Flow enters the facility during large storm events. Recreational area is provided over the storage basin.

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Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly
Activity Report No. 4

In the Chartiers Creek Communities

Basin Planning Committee Meeting No. 6 The Chartiers Creek municipalities and stakeholders met on February 17, 2010 at the Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center for the 6th Basin Planning Committee (BPC) meeting. The meeting reviewed the status of the computer model; presented the development of conveyance, storage, and treatment alternatives; and discussed the estimated flows that the municipalities anticipate sending to ALCOSAN. The meeting also included an interactive exercise that asked the meeting attendees to rank, in order of importance, the following categories when considering alternatives as discussed above: economic factors; public factors; water quality, public health, and environmental impacts; operational impacts; and implementation impacts. The results were tabulated and combined with results from the other six basins and are listed below.

- Economic 30%
- Public Factors 20%
- Water Quality, Public Health, and Environmental Impacts 25%
- Operational Impacts 15%
- Implementation Impacts 10%

Municipal Outreach

In addition to the BPC meeting, the Chartiers Creek Basin planning team has been reaching out to individual municipalities including Bridgeville, Carnegie, Ingram, Rosslyn Farms, McDonald and Bethel Park to discuss matters pertaining to specific areas of the planning basin. The next basin public forums are anticipated to be held in October.

In the Region... ALCOSAN Updates

Program Status

Now that existing conditions have been defined and the hydraulic and hydrologic model has been developed and calibrated, the Basin Planning effort has shifted to alternatives development and evaluation. Throughout most of 2010, ALCOSAN's basin planning teams will be developing and evaluating alternatives to control wet weather flows and pollution. The goal is to develop a basin specific facilities plan. Coordination during this process will allow ALCOSAN to begin its Regional Alternatives Evaluation process as the basin planning process is being completed. Regional alternatives evaluation will take the best components of each basin-wide plan and integrate them into a series of regional alternatives. Regional alternatives will then be evaluated and costed to select a system-wide Wet Weather control Plan (WWP).

ALCOSAN Outreach

Reaching elected officials and municipal managers. The Customer Municipality Advisory Committee (**CMAC**) has launched a correspondence campaign to encourage their peers to work closely with ALCOSAN. Like their fellow community and municipal leaders, CMAC members have a vested interest in the successful outcome of the regional wet weather plan. Over 1,000 municipal managers and elected officials throughout the ALCOSAN service area will receive the letter. The CMAC met on May 11 for the sixth time. Members advocated the integration of green infrastructure into the WWP and gained an understanding of the variables of the financial capability assessment.

Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly
Activity Report No. 4

In the Region... ALCOSAN Updates (continued)

Comparing WW Programs:- The Regional Stakeholder Group (**RSG**) members wanted to know how other cities are planning and implementing their wet weather plans – what is working and what is not working. At RSG meeting #6 (May 13th), a presentation was given comparing the major components of four similar wet weather programs. This included system characteristics, impact on water quality, source reduction/green infrastructure, multi-municipal regional plans and cost. RSG members heard information on the variables of the financial capability assessment which generated a dynamic dialogue on affordability and the income disparity throughout the region.

ALCOSAN's Technology Outreach Green Buildings. Green Communities. Green Actions. The word 'Green' is used to denote various means for environmental improvements that control or reduce flows (rainfall, groundwater) from entering the collection system. On May 12, ALCOSAN hosted a free workshop designed for elected officials, managers, community planners and engineers. The workshop presentation covered green infrastructure techniques and how other communities are utilizing these techniques for wet weather benefits. All attendees received complimentary reference materials.

On the Horizon - Future Actions

ALCOSAN's Technology Outreach ALCOSAN will continue to host its series of NACWA (National Association of Clean Water Agencies) Flow Series webinars. The next webinar titled "Green Infrastructure: What's Legal" reviews the potential legal and regulatory hurdles involved in using green infrastructure will be on **September 8, 2010**. The seminars are **FREE** and are held in the ALCOSAN Customer Service and Training Building, 3101 Preble Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233. Call (412) 732-8052 or (412) 732-8035 to register and for more information.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Chartiers Creek Basin Planning Committee Meeting #7 Thursday, July 1st at 9:00 am at the Carnegie Borough Municipal Building
- **ALCOSAN Annual Open House will be held on Saturday, September 18, 2010 at ALCOSAN WWTP located at 3300 Preble Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15233 Phone # 412-766-4810**
- CMAC meeting #7 is scheduled for Tuesday, **August 3, 2010**
- RSG meeting #7 is scheduled for Thursday, **August 12, 2010**

Contact Information

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or

Visit ALCOSAN's website at: www.alcosan.org



Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly Activity Report # 5

Closing in on Potential Basin Solutions

The Chartiers Basin Planning Team has been hard at work over the last year developing a computer model that would simulate flow in ALCOSAN's sewers in the Chartiers Basin. This model showed where facilities may need to be placed in the future to control or treat sewage overflows into Chartiers Creek. Our study has shown that there will most likely be a mix of conveyance, treatment and storage facilities. The goal is to optimize the mix of solutions to provide controls in the most cost effective manner. A number of major and minor decisions and variables will affect the final selection of alternatives. There are thousands of alternatives that could be considered; ranging from a control applied individually to each overflow point to larger controls that serve a larger area. The approach that is being used is to get the fewest facilities at centrally located and available sites. It is anticipated that new pipes will be required for relief and conveyance.

The Chartiers Basin Planning team has divided the Chartiers Creek Basin into two focus areas for the evaluation of alternatives. For the upstream sanitary-only portion of the basin, several factors have been considered when developing alternatives including total volume, peak rate of flow delivery, and transport versus storage. For the sanitary-only portion the primary alternative reviewed consists of a mix of relief interceptor capacity and storage. The expectation is that storage will be required at one to three locations and could include storage basins, tunnels, or both. Alternative development for the downstream combined portion of the basin is based on achieving a required level of control of combined sewer overflows. Transport, storage and treatment technologies are used to meet overflow control requirements. The primary alternative reviewed for the combined portion utilizes storage or treatment at one to three locations coupled with relief interceptor capacity.

A Chartiers Basin Alternative will be developed by examining combinations of sanitary and combined portion of site alternatives to find the most suitable option. As part of the selection of potential basin alternatives, the Chartiers Basin Planning Team is also looking at the costs of alternatives using a costing tool developed by ALCOSAN. This costing tool is allowing the Chartiers Basin Planning Team to select the alternatives that will provide the optimal solutions to the sewer overflows at the best price.



**Attend an ALCOSAN
Community Meeting**
October 18, Heidelberg
November 4, Downtown
November 9, Upper St. Clair

These community meetings in Heidelberg and Upper St. Clair will be held from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM with a presentation given at 6:30 PM. The meetings will focus on the community-based solutions for the Chartiers Creek Basin. The Downtown meeting will be from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and will provide a collective look at the community-based solutions for the entire ALCOSAN service area.

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Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly
Activity Report # 5

In the Chartiers Creek Basin Communities

Basin Planning Committee Meeting #7 was held on July 1st at the Carnegie Municipal Building. This meeting provided an update on the planning process including a discussion of the computer model of the sanitary sewer system and how the Chartiers Basin Planning Team planned to compare the results of the model to the flows estimated by the municipalities. This comparison will ensure that the municipalities and the Planning Team are using comparable data. A detailed discussion was held on the proposed treatment/storage/conveyance being considered for the Chartiers Basin. The Basin Planning Team selected portions of the basin and went through the process used to develop the alternatives that they are currently reviewing. Proposed costs for the alternatives were discussed. Costs are being developed for these alternatives using ALCOSAN's Alternatives Costing Tool (ACT). The ACT was recently updated by ALCOSAN. Updates were provided on the Customer Municipal Advisory Committee (CMAC) and the Regional Stakeholders Group (RSG).

Concurrently with the Alternatives Development conducted by the Planning Team, ALCOSAN has been collecting financial data from municipalities and developing an Affordability Analysis for the region. The ALCOSAN Program Manager (PM) provided an update on this study.

In the near future, members of the Chartiers Basin Planning Team and ALCOSAN will be scheduling meetings with individual communities that may be impacted by an alternative to discuss areas of interest and to provide an opportunity for in-depth discussions of the proposed alternatives.

In the Region... ALCOSAN Updates

Program Status

ALCOSAN's Basin Planners (BP) have been busy of late reviewing the numerous municipal Preliminary Flow Estimates (PFEs) they've been receiving from their tributary municipalities. If, for a given location, they find the municipal flow estimate differs significantly from their own modeled flow estimate, they will closely coordinate with the municipality to identify the reason or reasons for the discrepancy. In this manner, ALCOSAN hopes to ensure that their hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) model accurately reflects the most up to date municipal information. The municipalities will also have the opportunity to use this process to update and finalize their own flow estimates with the knowledge that they will be accurately integrated into the BP's planning basin H&H model.

As the seven Basin Planners approach the final stages of their model development, they are simultaneously beginning to use their models to select, size, and evaluate CSO and SSO control alternatives for their basins. ALCOSAN's Project Manager is also heavily involved in the process, combining all seven H&H models into a single Regional Balance Model (RBM). The RBM will be used during the Regional Optimization phase of the project, and will allow ALCOSAN to determine the overall best arrangement of control alternatives sizes and locations throughout ALCOSAN's entire service area.



Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly
Activity Report # 5

In the Region... ALCOSAN Updates (continued)

ALCOSAN Technology Outreach. ALCOSAN continues to promote the use of Green Technologies as a wet weather flow management strategy whenever and wherever feasible. In support of this effort, ALCOSAN recently hosted a series of Technology Outreach seminars that focused on Climate Change, Stormwater Runoff and Green Infrastructure. Future seminars will be planned; please visit ALCOSAN’s website for more information.

ALCOSAN Community Outreach. At CMAC meeting #7, held August 3rd, the discussion focused on the issue of whether ALCOSAN could and should take over portions of municipal sewer collection systems, especially the municipal interceptors. This dynamic topic was a key concern, worthy of additional discussion with ALCOSAN, and required a follow-up meeting via conference call. During the call, CMAC members provided feedback on the critical items ALCOSAN should consider in its potential response to the 3RWW Regionalization RFP. Contact your CMAC representative to share your thoughts and insight on this issue. The next meeting is scheduled for November 9th.

RSG meeting #7 was held on August 12th. RSG members discussed the updated information regarding ALCOSAN’s Affordability Analysis Process. The most notable issue was the question of which affordability factors were included in other cities’ plans, and their potential impact on the development of ALCOSAN’s regional WWP. RSG meeting #8 is scheduled for November 16th.

On the Horizon - Future Actions

Sewer overflows impact everyone, and each of us can contribute to the resolution of this critical problem. By participating in an upcoming meeting, you can learn about what is being considered in your community to address the public health, environmental and economic impacts of untreated sewer overflows into our region’s rivers and streams.

Community meetings will be held from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. A region-wide meeting will be held on Thursday, November 4th at the Senator John Heinz History Center from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. This meeting will provide a collective look at the community-based solutions for the entire ALCOSAN service area.

Plan to attend a meeting most convenient for you, bring a friend, and provide your input.

Contact Information

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Or

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ALCOSAN Community Meeting Schedule

Monday, Oct 18 - Heidelberg VFD
456 1st Street, Carnegie, PA 15106

Tuesday, Oct 19 - East Liberty Presbyterian Church
116 S. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Wednesday, Oct 20 - Bellevue Christian Church
680 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue, PA 15202

Thursday, Oct 21 - Carnegie Library of Homestead
510 E. 10th Avenue, Munhall, PA 15120

Monday, Oct 25 - Clarence Fugh Memorial Hall – Etna
437 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15223

Tuesday, Oct 26 - Wm. Anderson Library of Penn Hills
1037 Stotler Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Wednesday, Oct 27 - St. Mark’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
933 Brookline Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15226

Thursday, Nov 4 (REGION-WIDE) - Senator John Heinz History Center
1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Tuesday, Nov 9 - Upper St. Clair Community & Rec. Center
1551 Mayview Road, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241

Wednesday, Nov 10 - Boyd Community Center
1220 Powers Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Visit ALCOSAN's website at www.alcosan.org

Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly Activity Report # 6

From Feasibility Report to Basin Facilities Plan

This Basin Quarterly Activity Report (BQAR) summarizes the activities of the Chartiers Creek Basin Planning team since the fall of 2010. Currently, the planning team is refining the Feasibility Report prepared for the Chartiers Creek Planning Basin. Specifically, we are fine tuning the preferred alternatives for controlling sewer overflows and conveying municipal sewage flows to the ALCOSAN waste water treatment plant.

The Feasibility Report and Present Worth Analysis used future flow projections (based on estimates of future populations) and previously identified control technologies and facility sites in the Screening of Controls & Sites Report to evaluate various combinations of control facilities to handle the increase in required transport capacity. Alternatives for each site that used specific control technologies were developed and evaluated. The site alternatives were then combined to create basin alternatives that focused on limiting the number of proposed wet weather facilities in the basin. Alternatives are also being evaluated at the regional level to allow for the merging of multiple planning basins' alternatives. The sizing of facilities and conveyance sewers is preliminary and will undergo refinement over the next several months as municipal flows and the ability of the ALCOSAN Collection System to convey flows to the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) are better defined.

The preferred planning basin and regional level basin alternatives incorporate three storage tanks and two retention/treatment facilities or four storage tanks and one retention/treatment facility (depending on level of overflow control) and available additional transport capacity to the WWTP. These alternatives incorporated facilities close to the major sources of municipal inflow to minimize transport costs, and utilized the most cost-effective control technologies when considering size of the available site, flow rates, and level of overflow control requirements. Present worth costs will also be adjusted as the alternatives are refined. The most preferred planning basin and regional level basin alternatives will be selected and included in the Basin Facilities Plan to be submitted to ALCOSAN by the end of 2011.

Basin-level alternatives must now be integrated into a set of regional alternatives in a process called Regional Optimization. ALCOSAN will utilize the most promising basin solution(s) and sites to assemble a set of the most cost effective regional control alternatives. The resulting set of regional alternatives must then be evaluated based on the suitability of available sites and locations, the level of improvement they provide over the basin alternatives, and the relative increase in operational performance across the seven basins which comprise the ALCOSAN service area.

It is anticipated that the combining of flows and volumes from the seven planning basins will result in the need for fewer, but larger control facilities. Therefore, a regional overflow control storage tunnel will likely become an important component of many of the regional alternatives. These tunnel-based regional alternatives must then be closely evaluated using both monetary (cost) and non-monetary (construction impact, etc) criteria in an effort to determine the most beneficial and cost effective regional alternative.



The picture above shows the footprint of a retention-treatment basin (RTB) at a potential site in the Borough of Crafton. RTBs store some flow and treat the remainder. The blue area represents the below grade storage/treatment tanks, the red square is a facility pump station, and the green rectangle is an ancillary building for controls and screening. Sewers that would be in the vicinity include the existing and relief interceptors, sewers to convey municipal flows to the facility and to an outfall from the basin to the creek for large storm events and treated discharge.

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Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly
Activity Report # 6

In the Chartiers Creek Communities

Basin Planning Committee Meetings No. 7 and 8 The Chartiers Creek municipalities and stakeholders met on July 1, 2010 at the Carnegie Municipal Building for the 7th Basin Planning Committee (BPC) meeting. Municipal Preliminary Flow Estimates (PFEs) were discussed, with municipalities voicing concerns and problems. The basin alternatives development and selection process was presented, with storage and conveyance as sanitary control options, and storage, treatment and conveyance as combined control options. An affordability analysis presented showed a cost for wet weather flow management equal to 2% of median household income could support approximately \$2 billion in capital improvements in the entire ALCOSAN service area.

BPC Meeting No. 8 was held on September 30, 2010 at the Scott Township Community Room. Updates were given regarding meetings recently held with municipalities that are likely to host a primary facility site located in their jurisdiction and the status of the Feasibility Report. In addition, there was a request that all municipalities provide their final flow estimates to ALCOSAN so that this information can be used by ALCOSAN for their Feasibility Report and Present Worth Analysis. The subject of green infrastructure was also discussed since it, if applied broadly, would help reduce combined sewage flows.

In the Region... ALCOSAN Updates

Advancing Green Solutions Implementing successful pilot projects is important for promoting green solutions. Two communities, Bells Run (in the City of Pittsburgh) and West View Borough are currently pursuing funding for green pilot projects. Bells Run concept plans include using a commercial area to capture runoff, store and discharge flow at a controlled rate. Another concept considers vegetated swales in a residential community and rain gardens in an apartment complex. In West View Borough the concept plan shows how a commercial area can use porous pavement and a bio-retention basin to capture and discharge flow. Additional concept plans show porous pavement, rain gardens and a vegetated swale for a residential street. As well, approximately 78% of 2,800 West View residential properties appear to have potential for downspout disconnections. The Bells Run and West View Borough communities are interested in implementing these concept plans. When implemented, these projects will help to develop the local standards needed for widespread implementation.

Affordability United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) guidelines suggest that if the ratio of total wastewater costs, when compared to an area's median household income, exceeds 2%, the costs are considered a "high burden" to the ratepayers. This ratio is called the Residential Indicator; under the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Policy, a ratio of greater than 2% may open up some flexibility in the construction schedule that can be used to mitigate the burden on the ratepayer.

Last spring, ALCOSAN estimated additional wastewater infrastructure costs that, when added to current ALCOSAN and municipal sewer rates, could cause the Residential Indicator to exceed 2%. The estimate came to roughly \$2.0 billion (in 2010 dollars). Though it was a simple snapshot that assumed all costs would be incurred simultaneously and inflation rates were negligible, it now provides a means to identify those infrastructure components whose costs may contribute the most toward the 2% threshold. It will also serve as a benchmark to gauge the impact that various levels wastewater spending may have.

Currently, ALCOSAN is expanding its financial capability model so that it can take into account potential construction scheduling, program phasing and a wide range of potential economic and financial conditions. Examples include: inflation of construction and operating costs; changes in residential incomes, populations and households; changes to interest rates and terms; and municipal and ALCOSAN equipment renewal and replacement costs. The resultant predictions of current and future annual operation and maintenance (O&M) costs, borrowing requirements, annual available regional "affordability" and typical household costs (i.e. the Residential Indicator) can be used to evaluate and prioritize the many wet weather control strategies being considered.

Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly
Activity Report # 6

In the Region... ALCOSAN Updates (continued)

ALCOSAN Outreach The Feasibility Study Process and Regional Sewer System Management were key topics at the 8th Customer Municipal Advisory Committee (CMAC) meeting held on November 9th 2010. ALCOSAN presented their response to the 3 Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW) Regionalization request for proposal (RFP) to CMAC members. It included an outline of scope and potential regionalization options. Suggestions, such as using a steering committee to lead the study, were discussed and well received by ALCOSAN. In addition, CMAC members reviewed a memo from the 3RWW Feasibility Study Working Group (FSWG) addressing rates, planning schedule, basis of design, and planning issues. As follow-up, CMAC sent a representative to the December FSWG meeting.

Green Technologies and Stormwater Management continue to be points of emphasis for the Regional Stakeholders Group (RSG). At RSG meeting #8, held on November 16th 2010, CMAC member Michael Kenney, then Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, discussed the City of Pittsburgh's plans to issue a RFP to develop a plan for a stormwater utility. Also the plans being made to implement pilot studies of green technologies in two communities – Bells Run and West View Borough were discussed and supported by the RSG.

During October and November of 2010 community meetings were held within the ALCOSAN service area. There was one meeting in each of the seven basins, except for Chartiers Creek and Upper Allegheny that each held two meetings. A regional meeting was held in downtown Pittsburgh. The total attendance at the ten meetings was approximately 170 people. Attendees included elected officials, municipal staff, stakeholder group members, representatives from environmental and development groups and general citizens. The meetings served to meet the consent order requirements for an annual meeting as well as to present information on potential solutions in each basin.

In the Chartiers Planning Basin, meetings were held in the Heidelberg and Upper St. Clair. ALCOSAN has carefully recorded all public comments and will consider them as the planning process continues.

ALCOSAN also hosted a booth to inform the public about the Sewer Overflow Advisory Key (S.O.A.K.) program at the Pittsburgh Boat Show (Monroeville Convention Center) Thursday, January 27 through Sunday, January 30, 2011.

On the Horizon - Future Actions

This winter ALCOSAN will participate in several regional events to provide information to the public about the development of the Wet Weather Plan (WWP) and the S.O.A.K. program. We encourage you to tell your constituents and to attend. Please spread the word!

- Monroeville Home Show (Monroeville Convention Center) – Thursday, February 24 through Sunday, February 27
- Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show (Pittsburgh Convention Center) – Friday, March 4 through Sunday, March 13

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Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly Activity Report #7

Basin Facilities Plan

This Basin Quarterly Activity Report (BQAR) summarizes the activities of the Chartiers Creek Basin Planning (CCBP) team since February 2011. The CCBP team has been working on the preparation of the Draft Basin Facilities Plan (BFP). This study is part of the larger Wet Weather Plan required by the USEPA to address problems associated with combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in ALCOSAN service area. The CCBP team is working with basin municipalities to integrate the individual municipal sewer overflow control measures into the Chartiers Creek Basin-wide alternatives currently being evaluated.

As part of the BFP, the Regional System-Wide Control incorporates the most preferred basin alternative into an ALCOSAN system-wide alternative with a CSO level of control of 4-6 overflows per year for combined flows. The alternative allows no SSOs from a 2-year storm event. The Regional System-Wide Alternative is made up of the most preferred basin alternatives for each Planning Basin.

All site alternatives previously identified remain viable with the exception of the Universal Stainless site. The Universal Stainless parcel has been removed from consideration due to a business operating on the site. Options to this parcel include use of an adjacent parcel or adjacent tunnel storage.

The preferred Basin Based Strategy (BBS) alternative utilizes one or more storage basin(s) and increased relief sewer conveyance capacity for sanitary flows in the upstream half of the basin and a Retention/Treatment basin and increased relief sewer conveyance capacity for combined flows in the downstream portion of the basin. The CCBP is working on a potential reduction in the number of storage tanks by enlarging the other facilities and increasing the diameter of the relief sewer from the upstream end down to the Duncan facility. If this alternative is successful, flows would be dealt with through added conveyance capacity and increased treatment capacity at the Duncan facility. Routes have been adjusted to ease constructions, depths and diameters reduced where possible and redundant relief and consolidation sewers eliminated. This process has help lower the estimated cost of the basin alternative.

The CCBP has narrowed in on a most preferred basin alternative (described above) and will continue to optimize its performance while maintaining cost effectiveness. The alternative development and refinement process however



Milk River Combined Sewer Overflow Facility, located in St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

The influent pumping station is shown with the operations building to the right. Ventilation and access hatches are shown in the foreground. The storage facilities are below grade. This facility provides 19 MG of storage.

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Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly
Activity Report #7

remains fluid, and should not be considered final. The most preferred basin alternative will have the municipal alternatives incorporated into it, adjusted and refined accordingly, and will be included in the Basin Facility Plan. Ultimately, this basin alternative will be incorporated into a system-wide regional alternative developed for the Long Term Wet Weather Control Plan.

In the Chartiers Creek Communities

Basin Planning Committee (BPC) Meeting No. 9 was held on February 10, 2011. Discussion topics included a summary of the Basin Feasibility Report and individual reporting from the municipalities on their proposed control alternatives.

Since the BPC meeting, the CCBP team has met with select municipalities to determine the estimated municipal flow contributions to the ALCOSAN sewer system based on computer model refinements and new details concerning the municipal sewer systems. These meetings were based on revised flow estimated provided by the municipalities.

Also, the Chartiers Creek and Lower Ohio-Girty's Run Planning Basins have teamed to evaluate a joint retention-treatment basin (RTB) facility in McKees Rocks. Two separate facilities and a joint facility were evaluated. Preliminary estimates show a joint facility to be more cost effective.

In the Region... ALCOSAN Updates

CSO Flag Program. The CSO Flag Program, managed by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), provides an advisory when a combined sewer overflow (CSO) alert has been issued. Alerts are issued when significant rainfall causes sewers carrying a combination of sewage and storm water to overflow into rivers and streams. There are CSO flag locations along the Allegheny, Ohio, and Monongahela Rivers. The 2011 CSO Flag Program's public notification period is May 15 through September 30. For more information, visit www.achd.net.

In addition, ALCOSAN complements the CSO Flag Program with its SOAK Program. The Sewer Overflow Advisory Key (SOAK) provides up-to-the-minute plant operation related to CSOs. It also spells out what activities are advisable during the red-yellow-green stages. Visit www.alcosan.org and click on the SOAK program on right hand side of the home page.

ALCOSAN Community Outreach. ALCOSAN hosted a booth at the 2011 Allegheny League of Municipalities (ALOM) Spring Conference. Over 200 attendees visited ALCOSAN's booth and received information about wet weather control technologies and ALCOSAN's regional wet weather control planning efforts. In addition, an informational booklet was made available that provided a comprehensive update on the overall ALCOSAN Wet Weather Program. Over one hundred people attended a presentation by ALCOSAN Executive Director Arletta Scott Williams entitled "16 Months Left to Speak Out – Don't Miss Your Opportunity". Extra booklets are available by calling (412) 734-8733.

Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly
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In the Region... ALCOSAN Updates (continued)

Communicating and coordinating with elected officials and municipal managers was a key topic of discussion at the 9th CMAC meeting held on March 1, 2011. ALCOSAN also presented information on the progress of the Wet Weather Plan through December 2011. This update provided insight on the development of regional alternatives, as well as the status of ALCOSAN's requests for municipal planning information required by the Municipal Consent Orders. Finally, it was documented that the CMAC is supportive of ALCOSAN's proposed regionalization study to be undertaken by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

The 9th RSG meeting, held on March 17, 2011, included a presentation of Etna Borough's downspout disconnection program; a discussion on municipal wet weather controls; and the development of regional wet weather controls. Green technologies and storm water management continue to be points of emphasis for the RSG.

Meetings. Your constituents reach you at home, by phone, at council meetings, and in the supermarket. Will you be ready? Please make the effort to attend, participate in and promote any and all wet weather planning meetings. The clock is winding down until the Regional Wet Weather Plan is complete, and it is too comprehensive to digest AFTER it is completed. Take advantage of ALCOSAN's offer to meet with you or your council to discuss. If you have a particular group that will benefit from a presentation, contact ALCOSAN at (412) 734-8353.

On the Horizon - Future Actions

Save the date... ALCOSAN's annual Open House will be held on September 17, 2011. The Open House is fun, educational and includes activities for all ages.

Get ready... This fall, ALCOSAN will again host a series of informational community meetings to provide updates on basin planning activities. Meeting dates and locations will be published in the next Basin Quarterly Activity Report.

Upcoming Meetings

CMAC Meeting #11 – Tuesday, August 2, 2011
RSG Meeting #11 – Thursday, August 18, 2011

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Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly Activity Report #8

Basin Facilities Plan Development

This Basin Quarterly Activity Report (BQAR) summarizes the activities of the Chartiers Creek (CC) Basin Planning Team since Spring 2011. The CC Basin Planning Team completed the Draft Feasibility Study and Present Worth Analysis Report on the Basin planning activities and Basin alternative analysis and conclusions. The Team summarized the earlier prepared reports and identified the information within them that was used to develop the Feasibility Study and Present Worth Analysis Report. In the Report, the CC Basin Planning Team identified the most feasible alternatives for the various levels of control and developed a present worth cost analysis for those alternatives. The Report identified the municipal planning information provided and its impact on the basin alternative analysis. Finally, the Report outlined and analyzed areas of CC Basin integration with adjoining basins and regional planning efforts.

The CC Draft Feasibility Study and Present Worth Analysis Report will become the CC Basin Facility Plan (BFP). The Facility Plan will outline the facilities that could be constructed, or the actions that ALCOSAN could take, within the CC Basin to address the Consent Decree requirements.

The CC Basin Planning Team is working with the basin municipalities to integrate their individual municipal sewer overflow control measures into the Chartiers Creek Basin-wide plan. Overflow control alternatives submitted by municipalities were incorporated into the hydrologic and hydraulic (HH) model so the effects of different rain storms on the municipal and ALCOSAN sewer systems could be mimicked. Any sewer line tributary to the ALCOSAN interceptor that was not addressed by a municipal alternative was assumed by the CC Basin Planning Team to convey all flows to the ALCOSAN interceptor and any additional conveyance capacity necessary to control overflows was included in the basin alternative. Because the basin alternative must achieve a designated level of overflow control, various combinations of relief conveyance sewers' and storage facilities' sizes were partnered with the municipal alternatives and the entire system was tested using the HH model to find the most cost-effective basin alternative. This modeling process was impacted by new information regarding municipal flows and alternatives, facility site availability, and expected available conveyance capacity of the interceptor to the ALCOSAN waste water treatment plant. From this effort, a recommended basin alternative was determined. The estimated cost of the recommended basin alternative is updated as the alternative continues to be refined. The recommended alternative is the main component of the BFP.



Proposed Duncan Site

This site schematic shows an underground storage basin with associated sewer piping. The facility also contains a pump station and an odor control facility.

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In the Chartiers Creek Communities

Basin Planning Committee (BPC) Meeting No. 10 was held on June 6, 2011 at the Green Tree Fire Hall. Discussion topics included an update on the alternatives refinement process, integration of municipal alternatives, and the development of a System-Wide alternative. Municipal alternative submittals were summarized and discussed.

Since the BPC meeting, the CCPB team has continued to work with select municipalities to gain a more complete understanding of municipal alternatives and how they affect the basin's recommended RBS alternative.

In the Region... ALCOSAN Updates

Development of System-Wide Alternatives ALCOSAN has integrated the preferred basin alternatives from each of the seven Planning Basins with needed accompanying regional conveyance, storage and treatment facilities. Each of the resulting System-Wide Alternatives represents a complete plan to control all ALCOSAN and municipal combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) to a selected level of control.

Upon evaluating the overall impacts of the System-Wide Alternatives, ALCOSAN recommended modifications to various components of the basin alternatives to enhance their benefits to water quality and/or to reduce regional implementation costs. Many technical, economic and regulatory factors were also considered, including:

- Municipal flow projections and planned overflow control improvements
- Maximizing the value of existing conveyance and treatment plant infrastructure
- The cost vs. benefit of treatment plant expansion
- Opportunities to consolidate planning basin facilities
- Comingling of sanitary and combined flow
- Water quality benefits, including increased control in or near "sensitive" areas
- Balancing financial capability limitations with regulatory compliance requirements

To identify the most cost-effective mix of basin-based and regional facilities, a number of hybrid alternatives were identified and evaluated. Six different tunnel configurations with various combinations of remote CSO and SSO facilities along the rivers were analyzed. Control variables included SSO control for three different storm intensities and two increased treatment plant capacities at the Woods Run facility.

At a CSO control level of 4-6 overflows per year and an SSO control level corresponding to the 2-yr storm, one of the leading system-wide control alternatives appears to be a new regional storage / conveyance tunnel extending from the Woods Run WWTP up the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers to serve the Main Rivers, Lower Ohio Girty's Run (Allegheny portion), Upper Allegheny, Upper Monongahela, Chartiers Creek and Saw Mill Run planning basins. The Lower Ohio Girty's Run (Ohio portion) and Turtle Creek basins are to retain their preferred basin-based overflow control alternative components.

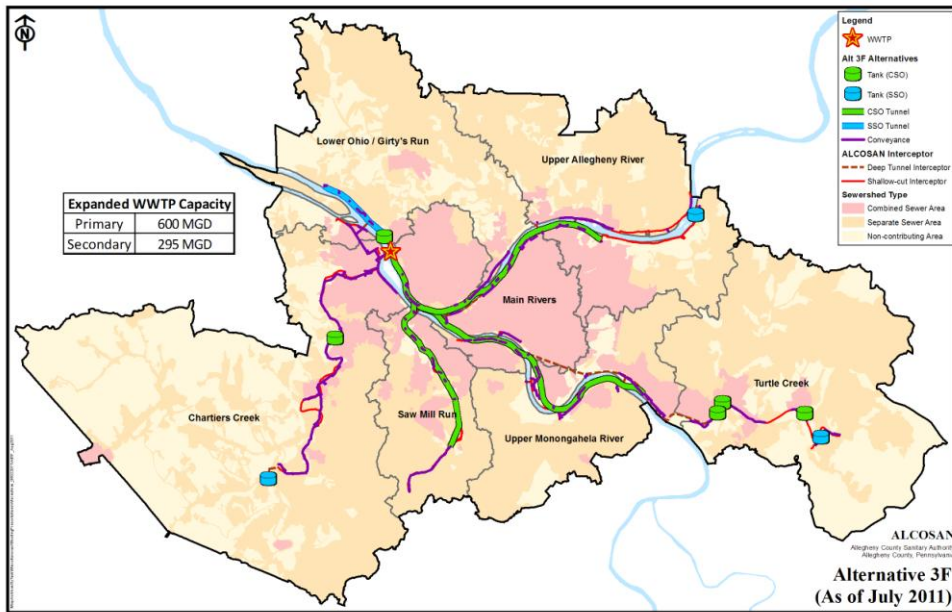


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In the Region... ALCOSAN Updates (continued)

Variations of this alternative were also analyzed at SSO control levels corresponding to the 10-year storm and the Typical Year rainfall. This system-wide alternative is illustrated in the figure below.



The seven BPs will each base their Facility Plan on the portions of the recommended system-wide alternative contained in their respective planning basin.

On the Horizon - Future Actions

Get ready... This Fall, ALCOSAN will host a series of informational Town Hall meetings to provide updates on basin planning activities. Dates for CC Basin specific Town Hall meetings are as follows:

- Tuesday, October 25 (10:00 AM – Noon), Peter's Place Restaurant, Bridgeville
- Tuesday, November 1 (5:30 – 7:30 PM), Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall

Region-wide Town Hall meetings will also be held at the following locations:

- Wednesday, November 9 (5:30 PM - 7:30 PM), IBEW #5 Circuit Centre
- Tuesday, November 15 (10:00 AM - 4:00 PM), Heinz History Center

For more information, and for a list of all of the upcoming Town Hall meetings, please go to www.alcosan.org

Contact Information

Any questions or requests for information may be directed to:

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Chartiers Creek Planning Basin

Basin Quarterly Activity Report # 9

Finalizing the Chartiers Creek Facilities Plan

This Basin Quarterly Activity Report (BQAR) summarizes the activities of the Chartiers Creek Basin Planning (CCBP) team since fall 2011. The CCBP team is in the process of finalizing the Final Basin Facilities Plan (BFP). The Final BFP is part of the larger Wet Weather Plan (WWP) required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to address problems associated with combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in the ALCOSAN service area.

The recommended alternative for the Chartiers Creek Basin includes a relief sewer running parallel to the length of the existing ALCOSAN Interceptor system. This 12 mile sewer will provide the additional transport capacity necessary to eliminate SSOs and reduce CSO discharges. The vast majority of the sewer is expected to be constructed using trenchless technologies, which will significantly reduce construction disruption. In addition to the relief sewer, a storage basin is proposed in Crafton Borough to provide temporary storage for flows from large events. The new system would connect to the proposed regional tunnel at its downstream end (McKees Rocks). The regional tunnel would provide storage for the entire ALCOSAN system until flow could be treated at the ALCOSAN Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP). Under the proposed plan, there would be four to six remaining overflow events from the combined system each year. Sanitary sewer overflows would be eliminated up to a two-year rainfall event. In addition, the Plan proposes elimination of some pumping facilities to reduce operations and maintenance in the existing system. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$600 million. As the Plan is finalized, this cost and other details of the plan will continue to be refined.

Potential environmental impacts of the recommended basin alternative have also been evaluated. For the storage facility site and relief sewer route, environmental impact assessments were conducted. These assessments included an evaluation of the potential negative impacts on land use, water and air quality, recreational uses of the land and streams, wetlands, vehicular and pedestrian traffic, property values, and noise and aesthetic impacts. The sewer construction is complicated by railroad and creek crossings as well as locations of difficult access. A primary concern in the implementation of sewer construction is the need to minimize disruption.

The proposed alternative has been divided into separate projects and a construction schedule is being developed to implement the alternative. The plan is being evaluated for options to provide maximum environmental benefit while controlling costs in early periods of implementation. Unique site conditions along the relief sewer route that could potentially impact implementation are examined and accounted for during this process. The recommended basin alternative as part of the System-Wide Regional Plan is currently required to be completed by 2026. However, the region's ability to afford the WWP may push implementation of portions of the plan, including parts of the Chartiers Creek Basin solution, beyond 2026. The Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Fund (PEDF) lawsuit, which has a 2019 deadline, could also dictate the implementation schedule.



The proposed plan includes significant new sewers which would be constructed using open cut and trenchless technologies to minimize disruption.

Basin Planning Meeting #12
May 8, 2012 10:30 AM
Green Tree Fire Hall
825 Poplar Street,
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

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In the Chartiers Creek Basin Communities

Basin Planning Committee (BPC) Meeting No. 11 was held on October 6, 2011 at the Scott Township Community Room. Discussion topics included an update on the alternatives refinement process (specifically, the reduction in the number of facilities under consideration and the elimination of flow restrictions to the WWTP), integration of municipal alternatives, and the development of a System-Wide alternative. Municipal alternative submittals were summarized and discussed.

Since the last BPC meeting, the CCPB team continued to work with select municipalities to gain a more complete understanding of municipal alternatives and how they affect the basin's recommended alternative. As better information was acquired, it was implemented into the basin planner model for refinement of the recommended basin alternative.

BPC Meeting No. 12 will be held at 10:30 AM on May 8, 2012, at the Green Tree Fire Hall, 825 Poplar Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. The meeting will include a report on the Final CC Basin Facilities Plan and an update by the Program Manager on the draft WWP.

In the Region ... the Draft Wet Weather Plan

A strategic planning effort, mandated by a federal Consent Decree (CD), will achieve an important milestone when ALCOSAN officially releases its draft WWP for public review and comment on July 31, 2012. The WWP will provide a detailed strategy to eliminate existing SSO discharges and control CSO discharges in order to improve water quality in the region's rivers and streams for aquatic life, public water supply, and recreational use protection.

A comprehensive list of potential control alternatives was developed, subjected to computer simulation modeling, water quality and financial analyses, and then integrated to identify the most cost effective solution for the region. Facility improvements described in the Plan are intended to provide the needed sewer system capacity for continued population and economic growth throughout the ALCOSAN service area through 2046. The CD requires that, after review and approval by federal, state and county regulatory agencies, construction to implement the Plan would be completed by 2026.

A long-term recommended Plan has been developed that would begin with the expansion of the ALCOSAN WWTP from its current capacity of 250 million gallons per day (mgd) to 600 mgd for primary treatment and 295 mgd for secondary treatment. The Plan also includes a new tunnel conveyance and storage system, parallel to the existing interceptor sewers, which would extend along the Allegheny, Ohio, and Monongahela Rivers and along Saw Mill Run. Additional relief sewers along Chartiers Creek and Turtle Creek would convey additional wastewater flow from municipal customers to the ALCOSAN plant. A series of storage facilities placed at strategic locations would capture peak wet weather flow to be later released for treatment. The plan would meet regulatory requirements and achieve the desired goals, but the estimated cost of \$3.6 billion is far more than the region can afford.

According to an analysis utilizing federal affordability criteria, the region could afford up to \$2 billion through the 2026 construction period required by the CD. Three options that prioritize different improvements are being considered that would stay within affordability guidelines and allow for cost effective expansion for additional improvement phases in the future. One would give priority to eliminating SSOs. A second option would give priority to improving water quality. A third alternative would attempt to provide balanced priorities between CSO and SSO control, water quality improvement, and continued economic development.



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In the Region... ALCOSAN Community Outreach

Customer Municipalities Advisory Committee (CMAC)

Throughout 2012, CMAC members will be engaged as partners in ALCOSAN's effort to educate municipal representatives and solicit comments on the draft Wet Weather Plan (WWP). During meeting #13, convened on March 20, 2012, CMAC members previewed the progress of the draft WWP, provided comments on the long-term recommended plan, and were presented with three options to prioritize improvements while staying in affordability guidelines.

Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG)

ALCOSAN will continue to reinforce its partnership with the Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) by actively engaging the RSG for the citizen perspective and as ambassadors for the draft WWP. During meeting #13, held on March 28, 2012, RSG members shared their perspectives on each of the prioritized control plans that adhere to the affordability guidelines. Members expressed an interest in a flexible Plan that moves toward compliance but with an implementation schedule that allows time to implement source reduction and green infrastructure.

New Outreach Initiative

ALCOSAN is taking the show on the road! This spring, ALCOSAN will launch a Grassroots Outreach initiative to increase awareness and inform the public about ALCOSAN and the Wet Weather Plan (WWP). ALCOSAN recognizes that there are multiple ways to inform and involve service area stakeholders. To supplement its ongoing public outreach efforts, ALCOSAN has prepared a brief presentation designed to explain the "why" and "what" of the draft WWP and how the public may review and comment on the draft. Contact ALCOSAN today to schedule a presentation as an agenda item at your community based organization or at your municipal council meeting.

On the Horizon - Future Actions

Get ready...

This fall, following the release of the draft Wet Weather Plan, ALCOSAN will host a series of public hearings to solicit public comment on the draft Plan. For hearing dates, times, and locations, please visit the ALCOSAN website at www.alcosan.org.

Save the date...

ALCOSAN's annual Open House will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2012. In addition to presentations about the draft WWP, this free annual event features tours of the treatment plant and laboratory, hands-on activities and exhibits, games, food, and fun for all ages.

Contact Information

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Visit ALCOSAN's website at: www.alcosan.org