

Allegheny Basin

Overflow Control Facilities Demonstration Project Allegheny Basin Working Group September 19, 2006

Attendees:

Allegheny County Health Department
Department of Environmental Protection
Friends of the Riverfront
McCandless Township Sanitary Authority
Millvale Borough
Millvale Marina
Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
Shaler Township
Three Rivers Wet Weather

Presenters:

ALSOCAN staff: Arletta Scott Williams
Dave Borneman
Jan Oliver
ALCOSAN consultant: Greg Heath, Metcalf and Eddy/AECOM

Presentation Overview

- Arletta Scott Williams, Executive Director of ALCOSAN, welcomed the members of the Working Group, thanked them for their participation, and explained the purpose of the meeting. Ms. Williams invited participants to introduce themselves.
- David Borneman presented an overview of ALCOSAN. He explained that ALCOSAN provides wastewater treatment services to 83 communities, including the City of Pittsburgh, serving a population of just under 96,500. Mr. Borneman noted that ALCOSAN, formed in 1946, is a non-profit entity, not a County agency, governed by a 7-member Board of Directors and financed solely through user charges. The ALCOSAN system consists of over ninety miles of interceptor sewers and over 300 Wet Weather Overflow structures. ALCOSAN's treatment plant is the largest wastewater treatment facility in the Ohio valley.
- Jan Oliver, of ALCOSAN, outlined the wet weather sewage overflow issue. She explained that combined sewer systems carry both sewage and storm water. During wet weather, excess water overloads the sewer system and results in sewage overflows into area creeks, streams and rivers. Sewage overflow must be controlled to ensure rivers that are safe for recreation and attractive for development as well as to comply with State and Federal environmental regulations. Ms. Oliver explained that ALCOSAN and the

communities served by it will be working together to address the issue. Fixing the combined sewage overflow problem will involve four strategies: increased conveyance; increased treatment; storage; and source control. Sewer rates will increase over time to bring the system into compliance. Clearly, collaboration between ALCOSAN, the municipalities served by ALCOSAN, the regulatory agencies, and the public will help to reduce the cost of compliance.

- Greg Heath, of AECOM, presented an overview of the Combined Sewer Overflow Demonstration Project. He explained that the project goals are to:
 - Comply with Combined Sewage Overflow policy;
 - Improve water quality;
 - Control solid and floatable material;
 - Demonstrate effective disinfection;
 - Design a remote facility for intermittent operation; and
 - Design a system that requires low maintenance.

Mr. Heath explained the process for engaging the municipalities and the public in the project and that the Working Groups were being convened early in the project. He noted that the consultant team is currently involved in gaining system understanding. This includes mapping the collection system, performing site inspections, monitoring and sampling flows, and examining collection system models.

The project team is also exploring project siting options and will be presenting those options at the next set of Working Group meetings. Through an understanding of the system and site option characteristics, the project team will develop Overflow Control Facilities alternatives. Mr. Heath also noted that the alternatives will be evaluated based on total project cost, cost versus performance analyses, and other, non-monetary factors. Finally, Mr. Heath explained the project schedule and the junctures at which the Working Groups will provide review and input. There will be Working Group meetings convened for reviewing:

- Siting options;
 - Alternatives developed; and
 - Evaluations of alternatives.
- Arletta Scott Williams closed the presentation with a brief recap of the role of the Working Groups in ensuring meaningful public involvement at key points throughout the project. She then fielded the following questions and comments from the Working Group members.

Working Group Questions/Comments

- Is there demonstration funding available for this project?
 - One of the work items for this project is to identify funding opportunities.
- Could some of this project be “factored into” the Route 28 PADOT construction?
 - The Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) may have to be closed.
 - There is a separate project being undertaken on historic streams.
- Will this project have any impact on the trail system on the riverfront?

- That is yet to be determined; that is why we want to make sure and have public involvement during this project.
- Why is this project being undertaken in this area now?
 - This project is intended to address A62 and upstream issues. There is some immediate benefit as well as demonstration project benefit.
- Has this project examined how much equalization would be required?
 - This is a very preliminary stage, but that will be ultimately factored in.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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