

Allegheny Basin

Overflow Control Facilities Demonstration Project Allegheny Basin Working Group November 14, 2006

Attendees:

Michelle Buys, Allegheny County Health Department
Paul Eiswerth, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
Jen Novak, Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Shawn McWilliams, Girty's Run Joint Sanitary Authority
Vince Cinski, Mayor, Millvale Borough
Virginia Heller, Millvale Borough
Jim Porter, Millvale Borough
Len Jesteadt, Millvale Marina
Grace Jesteadt, Millvale Marina
Mike Lichte, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
Don Waldorf, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority

Presenters:

ALCOSAN staff: Arletta Scott Williams
Dave Borneman
ALCOSAN consultant: Greg Heath, Metcalf & Eddy

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, by way of a system of over ninety miles of interceptor sewers and over 300 Wet Weather Overflow structures. He explained that ALCOSAN's treatment plant is the largest wastewater treatment facility in the Ohio valley.
- Mr. Borneman outlined the key issues of the wet weather sewage overflow issue. He 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. He explained that ALCOSAN and the communities served by ALCOSAN 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.
- Greg Heath, of Metcalf & Eddy, presented the consultants' approach to understanding the system and the site option characteristics, explaining that both are integral to developing Overflow Control Facilities alternatives. He noted that system understanding is achieved through:

- Mapping the collection system;
- Performing site inspections;
- Monitoring and sampling flows; and
- Examining collection system models.

Mr. Heath explained that water quality sampling results showed that oxygen demanding and solid matter were at “typical” levels and bacteria levels ranged from “typical” to high. Bacteria are more likely to have an impact on the water quality, whereas solids are viewed as having a less significant impact. He explained the concepts of peak flow and volume and showed the modeling results for peak flow and volume during a typical rainfall year for the ALCOSAN outfalls within the Demonstration Project area.

Mr. Heath noted that Demonstration Project siting options were arrived at through field visits, community input, identifying possible impact on existing and future land use, and identifying buffering opportunities. Geographic Information Systems mapping was utilized to visualize the siting options. He presented a series of potential sites, located in the area east of ALCOSAN outfall A-62 and just to the east of ALCOSAN outfall A-67.

Finally, Mr. Heath explained the next steps in the project. Through refinement of system understanding and siting options, the project team will be developing alternatives, to be presented to the Working Groups at a third round of meetings in early 2007. Finally, the evaluation and comparison of alternatives will be presented at a fourth round of Working Group meetings in the Spring of 2007.

- 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

- Millvale park is close to completion (note on map property owned by Millvale, including some within City of Pittsburgh).
- Millvale can't afford to lose business, esp. those dependent on recreation.
We don't want to destroy, we want to enhance. In fact, the goal of this project is to create opportunities.
- Widest property from railroad out is 90 feet.
The cost analysis will include encroaching into river if necessary. The bulk of the treatment facility will be underground; the surface can be enhanced.
- How is the size of facilities determined? What are the design considerations?
We are sizing for a range of overflow events over the course of a year (0,1,2,4,7). The sizing is based on design criteria accepted in the wastewater treatment industry.
- What is the distance between A-67 and A-62?
7,000 feet.
- To go 7,000 feet, will it then cost \$7 Million?
Cost will be part of the analysis; the solution may be a combination of conveyance and treatment. We will be developing cost/performance ratios. We will look at future as well as present conditions to analyze benefits.

- Could close two CSOs: A-63, because Heinz drains to A-62 and A-66 could be diverted to A-65.
We see a combination of improvements as being part of the solution.
- What is “taken” for the peak flow?
It is the highest flow during a particular rain event and it is the flow that is discharged into the river.
- What about the manholes that drain into river between A-66 and A-67 (see photo dated September 3, 2006)?
We know that there are other overflow conditions.
- How far does the bike path go from Herr’s Island?
The City of Pittsburgh trail ends at A-62. The Millvale path starts at A-65 and ends at Evergreen, trying to go to Etna. The connection between the two trails is actually not a trail (trespassing on Norfolk-Southern property).
- PADOT has been talking about Route 28 for years; does the OCF have to wait?
Preliminary design is anticipated in 2007; final design in the spring of 2008. We have met with PennDot and are coordinating schedules. They can delay and we will still move forward.
- We don’t have to wait for construction drawings?
We will not risk a lot of money without design assurances. This project is not contingent on the Route 28 reconstruction, but we need to understand its impact.
- Municipalities are trying to correct overflow problems; will those measures be enough to not need this OCF?
We are not mandated to do this project but we are mandated to control overflows. We have a plan as part of Consent Decree, to employ technology to deal with overflows. There are two components: upstream (municipalities) and downstream (ALCOSAN). The system cannot handle overflows; flows will not be reduced enough by municipal changes. We thought that the Allegheny and Mon sites would be good demonstrations due to the development on the rivers. The Allegheny was selected to make water quality improvements because of the marina and rowing club.
- How soon will ALCOSAN sign the Consent Order?
We are very close to signing.
- What is the situation with the East Street valley line?
It was originally a 96” line. Now it has separate lines with a 27” dedicated sewer line. The flow is controlled by the 27” line. The City of Pittsburgh has a number of sewer sheds on the North Side.
- What are the chances of extending A-67 to the river, out of the back channel?
There are no promises. There could be benefits to extending this outfall pipe; we are considering it. No models have shown marked improvement unless outfall goes practically to the other bank.
- Originally the outfall pipe was to be 600 feet, but it was cut back to 110 feet because of cost.
ALCOSAN’s understanding is that there were other interferences with the outfall pipe. This area was selected for the demonstration project because of marina and other uses.

- What is the time frame for this project?
Two years for design; 18 months to two years for construction.
- Is this a short term fix?
We are aware of long-term and short-term fixes. At the next meeting, we'll present a range of solutions.
- Looking at the parking lot, would the building for the OCF take all of the lot? At least 50% of people come from the outside and we don't want to lose businesses, recreation, etc. Save our parking!
Note that the majority of the OCF will be underground. We have not sized anything yet.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy Barylak
ALCOSAN Manager of Public Relations
(412) 734-8353 direct
(412) 649-5019 pager