

**Appendix A-7:
Annual Customer Information Meetings**

Meeting Booklets

October/November 2010

**ALCOSAN Community Meeting
&
Annual Customer
Information Update**

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2010



ALCOSAN

Regional Wet Weather Plan

Notes

Welcome

MEETING PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting is:

- To provide you with the opportunity to review the potential solutions and the Basin Alternatives Analysis Process, and answer related questions
- To provide the Annual Customer Information Update for 2010
- To provide you with the opportunity to interact with ALCOSAN on any other project-related issues

TODAY'S AGENDA

<u>Time</u>	<u>Description</u>
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM	Sign in; visit information stations, and review displays
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Presentation (including 15 minutes for Q&A)
7:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Revisit stations, review displays, and complete comment form
8:00 PM	Meeting concludes

BOOKLET CONTENTS

Welcome.....	2
ALCOSAN Annual Customer Information Update - 2010 Presentation Summary.....	3
What is the Problem?.....	4
Developing Potential Solutions.....	5
ALCOSAN Wet Weather Process Time Line.....	6
ALCOSAN Service Area Map.....	7-8
What Can Residents Do?.....	9
Community Meeting Dates & Locations.....	10

ALCOSAN ANNUAL CUSTOMER INFORMATION UPDATE 2010 PRESENTATION SUMMARY

- ALCOSAN is under federal court order to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows and to significantly reduce combined sewer overflows by 2026. A regional wet weather control plan of corrective actions to accomplish this is due in 2013.
- ALCOSAN's approach to the development of this regional wet weather control plan involves the organization of its 83 municipality customer service area into seven planning basins. Detailed plans are being developed to address the needs of each planning basin, and these plans will be refined and integrated into a draft regional wet weather plan to be submitted to the regulatory agencies in 2013.
- ALCOSAN's wet weather plan development process includes flow monitoring, hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, water quality sampling, alternatives development (basin-level and regional solutions), and an affordability analysis to produce a draft regional wet weather plan. The draft plan will be subjected to public comment and regulatory agency review and approval prior to finalization. Critical elements of this planning process are public participation and municipal coordination.
- The primary focus for 2010 has been alternatives development. These alternatives are also referred to as potential solutions. Community and region-wide meetings are being held to share the potential solutions for various locations within each of the planning basins throughout the service area.
- Alternatives development will continue through 2012 and will incorporate the basin-level potential solutions into the development of regional alternatives. The affordability analysis is targeted for completion in 2012. ALCOSAN is in the process of collecting data and defining its approach to the affordability analysis.
- Flow monitoring, hydraulic and hydrologic modeling, and water quality sampling have been completed. Quarterly meetings continue to be held with the Customer Municipality Advisory Committee (CMAC), the Regional Stakeholders Group (RSG), and the Basin Planning Committees. Public meetings are being conducted and ALCOSAN continues to seek opportunities for raising public awareness and facilitating public education.
- Public participation and municipal coordination are key challenges and an ongoing effort for ALCOSAN as a part of the wet weather plan development process. ALCOSAN's efforts in these areas will continue through 2013 to ensure the opportunity for public involvement, information exchange, and effective municipal engagement and timely involvement in the planning process.
- Next steps include finalizing basin-specific alternatives, developing regional alternatives, obtaining preliminary cost estimates for the financial model, and completion of the water quality assessment.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

The problem is that too much storm water is going to places that it shouldn't – and it is the primary cause of the sewer overflows that ALCOSAN must fix.

During wet weather (rain or snow melt) excess water enters the system designed to carry flow to ALCOSAN's wastewater treatment plant. When this occurs, the system becomes overloaded, which can happen with as little as one-tenth of an inch of rain, and untreated sewage diluted with storm water and runoff from houses, yards, and roadways overflows into our rivers and creeks.

Some overflows occur by design since combined sewers, which are meant to carry wastewater and storm water together, become overloaded during wet weather. However, overflows also occur when excess groundwater enters the system through old, leaking and broken lines. Extraneous storm water and surface flow can enter the system through manhole lids and illicit residential connections, such as sump pumps and foundation drains. Another source of the problem stems from creeks that have been improperly directed into the sewer system.



Combined Sewer Overflow

Sewer overflows pose serious potential impacts to public health because 90 percent of Allegheny County's 1.3 million residents get their tap water from the rivers, and thousands use the rivers for recreation.

What happens if ALCOSAN cannot fix these problems?

Public health and the aquatic environment throughout the region will remain threatened, and existing conditions will continue to deteriorate. ALCOSAN will face heavy fines and will not be allowed to take on any new wastewater contributors because it would have failed to show that it can properly process existing wastewater flows. Your quality of life will be compromised, economic growth will be stymied, and the region's ability to retain and compete for new residents, employers, and investments will be jeopardized.

How is ALCOSAN going to fix the problem?

ALCOSAN is developing a Wet Weather Control Plan to correct sewer overflows which annually discharge up to an estimated 10 billion gallons of untreated wastewater into the Pittsburgh region's rivers and creeks and degrade water quality. However, the sewer overflow issue is not just an ALCOSAN problem. The stakes are high for everyone who lives, works, and recreates within the 83 municipalities that comprise ALCOSAN's service area, including the City of Pittsburgh.

What can you do to help?

If you are reading this article, you have already taken an important first step to **educate yourself** about the problem. You should also plan to **share the information** with someone else. Secondly, if you received this handout because you attended one of ALCOSAN's public meetings, we encourage you to **stay engaged in the process**, and plan to bring a friend to the next meeting that you attend. Finally, we ask that you **make a personal commitment to changing behavior that contributes to the problem**. Review the list of things that you can do on page 9 in this booklet, and identify as many items as you can to act on. The more you can do, the better. When thousands of people begin changing their behavior for the common good, the results can be profound.

DEVELOPING POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

ALCOSAN, along with your local municipality, is charged by the regulatory agencies to develop a plan to reduce and/or eliminate sewer overflows. As ALCOSAN develops this plan, it must evaluate and analyze the existing condition of the regional conveyance system. By gathering, evaluating, and analyzing this fundamental data, ALCOSAN has information it needs to start to develop potential solutions.

To date this evaluation has included:

- conducting comprehensive water quality studies;
- researching pollutant levels and their impact on local waterways;
- gathering and analyzing the amount of flow in the collection and conveyance systems;
- developing computer models and using them to predict flows within the sewer system; and
- developing tools to uniformly estimate project costs.

In order to effectively evaluate the most feasible solutions, ALCOSAN has divided its service area into watersheds or drainage basins, referred to as planning basins. In each of seven planning basins, engineering teams, with the help of municipal and community leaders, are developing potential solutions for sewer overflows. Engineers must first identify the problem areas and then examine the level of performance needed, the technology that could provide that performance, and the site needed to accommodate that technology.



Level of Performance or Capacity. The capacity is defined by the amount of flow generated during periods of wet weather which the facility is expected to control. Each potential solution has to consider the existing flow as well as possible future flow that would be generated by additional homes, industry, and businesses.

Technology. Technologies are the means used to control wet weather flows. There are four basic ways to control overflows:

- **REMOVE IT** technologies will “remove” flow by reducing or eliminating storm water entering the existing sewer collection system. These measures can range from household conservation to “green” technologies such as rain gardens which absorb storm water versus the storm water flowing into separate sanitary and storm sewers.
- **MOVE IT** technologies will “move” flow to ensure that the existing sewer system is operating at full capacity. This may include constructing new sewers and/or adding pumping facilities, which allows the flow to be captured and moved through the system more efficiently.
- **HOLD IT** technologies will “hold” flow by temporarily storing it in tanks, tunnels, or the sewer collection system, so it does not discharge into rivers and streams untreated. This flow is later sent to the treatment plant when capacity becomes available.
- **TREAT IT** technologies will “treat” flow by conveying it to treatment basins or to wastewater treatment plants. This may include expanding the existing plant, and/or building new smaller treatment plants referred to as “satellite” facilities. After treatment, all treated flow is discharged into a local waterway.

Site. A site is the location upon which a proposed technology will be constructed. Sites need to be large enough, accessible, and suitable for construction of the proposed technology

This combination of performance level (capacity), technology, and a site has produced hundreds of possible solutions. The most feasible technologies and sites will be evaluated, and the potential solutions will be individually and collectively evaluated as the basis for the regional solution.

ALCOSAN WET WEATHER PROCESS TIME LINE

What ALCOSAN is doing

What the public can do

Gather Information on Existing Conditions 2008

- Flow data
- ALCOSAN sewer system
- Municipal sewer system
- Stream inflows

Attend Basin Planning Committee (BPC) meetings quarterly; visit www.alcosan.org

Develop Information and Tools for Analysis 2009

- Potential sites
- Prepare Reports - Existing conditions, sites screening and control reports
- ALCOSAN Costing Tool (ACT)
- Hydraulic models

Attend BPC meetings quarterly; **Attend Community Meetings (Nov 2009)**; visit www.alcosan.org

Develop Solution Components 2010

- Provide models to municipalities
- Identify sites
- Determine capacity needs
- Evaluate technologies
- Prepare flow projections

Attend Basin Planning Committee (BPC) meetings quarterly; visit www.alcosan.org; find us on Facebook & follow us on Twitter

WE ARE HERE

Identify and Evaluate Potential Solutions 2010/11

- Range of alternatives
- Run computer model simulations
- Determine feasible solutions
- Develop estimated costs
- Develop evaluation criteria
- Prepare Basin Feasibility Report

Attend BPC meetings quarterly; **Attend Community Meetings (Oct/Nov 2010)**; visit www.alcosan.org and Facebook & Twitter pages

Identify and Refine Potential Solutions 2011

- Identify most favorable alternatives
- Combine basin solutions to create regional solutions
- Prepare Basin Facilities Plan

Attend BPC meetings quarterly; **Attend Community Meetings** and provide input; visit www.alcosan.org and Facebook & Twitter pages

Prepare Draft Regional Wet Weather Plan 2012

- Recommended regional alternatives
- Public comment period
- Address public comments
- Finalize Wet Weather Plan for regulatory review

Attend public hearing; provide comments during public comment period; visit www.alcosan.org and Facebook & Twitter pages

Regulatory Review and Approval Period 2013

- Agency comment and approval of final Wet Weather Plan
- Identify priority projects

Visit www.alcosan.org and Facebook & Twitter pages

Legend

 ALCOSAN Service Area

 Municipal Boundary

 River

ALCOSAN Planning Basins

 Chartiers Creek

 Lower Ohio River / Girty's Run

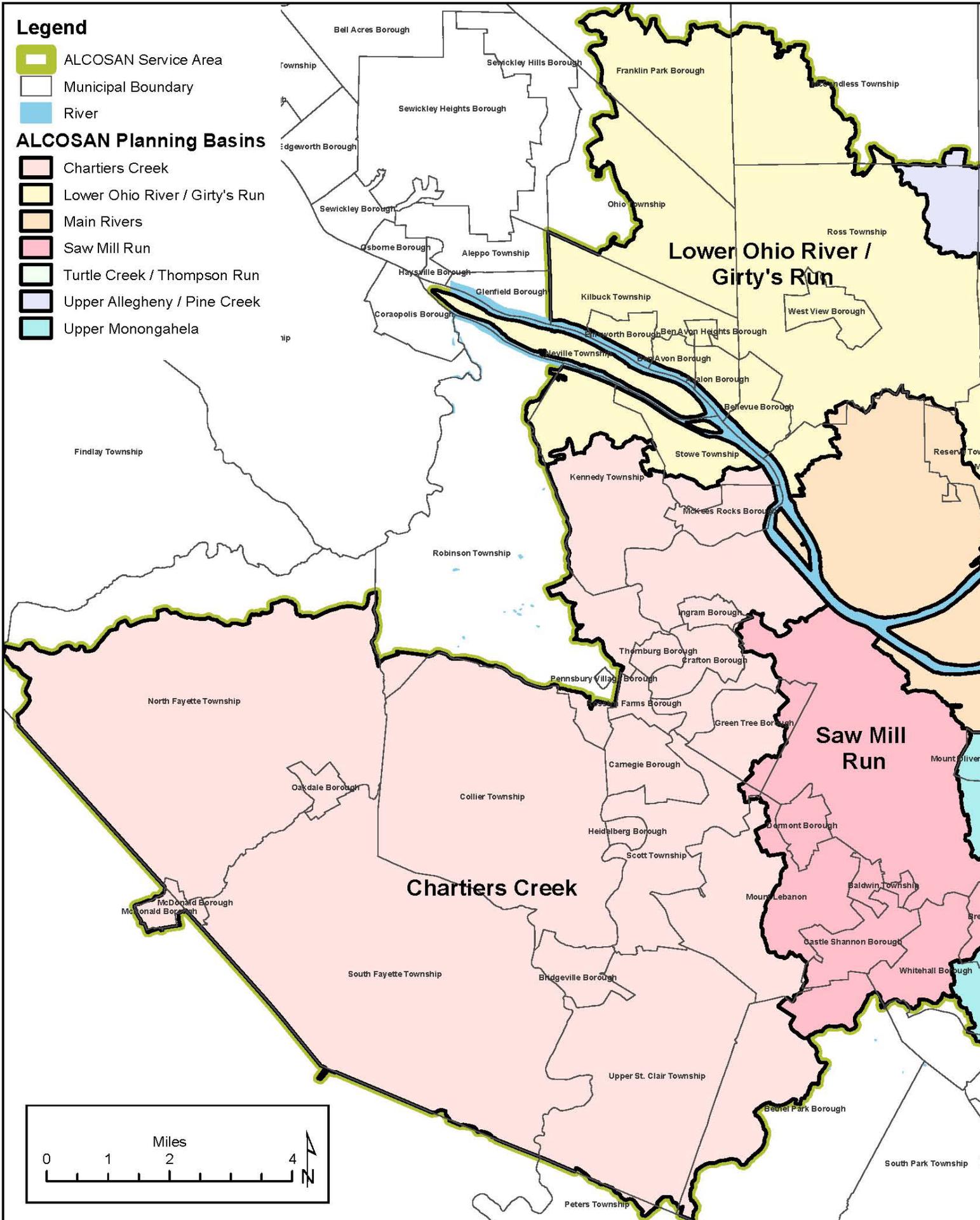
 Main Rivers

 Saw Mill Run

 Turtle Creek / Thompson Run

 Upper Allegheny / Pine Creek

 Upper Monongahela



SO, WHAT CAN RESIDENTS DO? PLENTY.

ALCOSAN is doing its part to address the overflow problem, but you can help. Review the following lists of things residents can do. Choose as many of these items as you can to act on, and share this information with a friend. By doing so, you can make a significant contribution that will impact public health and the environment. The more you can do, the better. When thousands of people begin changing their behavior for the common good, the effects can be profound.

Reduce Runoff

- reduce impervious surfaces (asphalt, concrete) on your property where possible; a typical city block generates five times more runoff than a woodland area of identical size
- replace concrete driveways with porous pavement
- use a rain barrel to capture and re-use storm water
- plant a rain garden to absorb storm water, remove pollutants, and beautify your property at the same time
(www.raingardenalliance.org)
- plant trees to reduce runoff
(www.treevitalize.net)
- use water-efficient landscaping techniques such as a rain garden



Rain Barrel

Reduce Pollutants

- use the local car wash instead of your driveway to clean your vehicle so that the wastewater will be properly captured
- avoid overuse of fertilizers in the summer
- avoid overuse of salt in the winter
- do not use indoor or outdoor drains to dispose of household chemicals and other hazardous household waste. (www.swpahhw.org)



- check local ordinances before flushing pharmaceuticals (www.epa.gov/ppcp)
- check local ordinances for proper disposal of chlorinated water from swimming pools and hot tubs

- do not place organic material such as leaves in sewers as they consume dissolved oxygen which can harm aquatic life
- repair fluid leaks in motor vehicles
- do not drain fluids from boats into the waterways
- use natural pesticides

Manage your Property

- inspect your storm water downspouts or sump pumps to ensure there is no connection to the sanitary sewer system; this may be a requirement before you can sell your home
- remove debris from property/streets to keep it from entering the sewers; debris in sewers can end up in rivers affecting water quality and aquatic life
- ensure property sewer lines and other plumbing are in good condition
- avoid landscaping near sewer lines; roots can block and damage sewer pipes
- pick up after pets as waste contains pathogens
- place mulch around trees and plants to slow evaporation and enhance soil's ability to retain moisture



Trash-clogged drain

Stay Informed about the Problem

- attend public meetings
- learn about solutions and your role in implementing the solutions
- share information on overflow prevention with your friends and neighbors
- visit ALCOSAN's web site at www.alcosan.org
- find ALCOSAN on Facebook & follow on Twitter @ALCOSANWWTP



COMMUNITY MEETING DATES & LOCATIONS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
Monday, October 18	<i>Heidelberg Volunteer Fire Department 456 1st Street, Carnegie, PA 15106</i>
Tuesday, October 19	<i>East Liberty Presbyterian Church 116 S. Highland Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206</i>
Wednesday, October 20	<i>Bellevue Christian Church 680 Lincoln Avenue, Bellevue, PA 15202</i>
Thursday, October 21	<i>Carnegie Library of Homestead 510 E. 10th Avenue, Munhall, PA 15120</i>
Monday, October 25	<i>Clarence Fugh Memorial Hall – Etna 437 Butler Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15223</i>
Tuesday, October 26	<i>William E. Anderson Library of Penn Hills 1037 Stotler Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15235</i>
Wednesday, October 27	<i>St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Brookline 933 Brookline Boulevard, Pittsburgh, PA 15226</i>
Thursday, November 4 (Region-wide Meeting)	<i>Senator John Heinz History Center 1212 Smallman Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222</i>
Tuesday, November 9	<i>Upper St. Clair Community and Recreation Center 1551 Mayview Road, Upper St. Clair, PA 15241</i>
Wednesday, November 10	<i>Boyd Community Center – O'Hara Township 1220 Powers Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238</i>



CONTACT

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