



## Four Mile Run Watershed Task Force

### Meeting #1

Monday March 23, 2020

#### *Facilitator:*

Gavin White - PPC Community Projects Manager - [gwhite@pittsburghparks.org](mailto:gwhite@pittsburghparks.org)

#### *Attending:*

Ose Akinlotan – City of Pittsburgh Neighborhood Planner

Marti Battistone – City of Pittsburgh Environmental Planner

David Caliguiri – The Caliguiri Group, Hazelwood Green

Erin Copeland – Parks Conservancy

Beth Dutton – Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)

Ziggy Edwards – Four Mile Run resident

Utkarsh Ghildyal – Carnegie Mellon University Design Manager

Megan Guy – Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory

Tim Nuttle – Civil and Environmental Consultants

Rebecca Kiernan – City of Pittsburgh Principal Resilience Planner

Megan Quatrini – Scotty Public Affairs – works on Hazelwood Green

Annie Quinn – Greenfield Resident, Three Rivers Wet Weather

Ryan Quinn – Greenfield Resident, PWSA

Susan Rademacher – Parks Conservancy

Bob Reppe – Carnegie Mellon University Director of Planning and Design

Claudia Saladin – EvolveEA on 4 Mile Run project

Mary Shaw – Squirrel Hill Resident, Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition, Transportation Committee

John Stephen – Lead, Negley Run Watershed Task Force

Todd Stern – U3 Real Estate Advisory Firm - Advisors to the Foundations for ALMONO Green

Tiffany Taulton – Hazelwood Initiative

Jim Turner – PWSA

Barb Warwick – Greenfield, The Run resident, Greenfield Community Association (GCA) Transportation Committee

Roy Weil – Squirrel Hill Resident, Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition, Transportation Committee

Tom Wolper – Greenfield resident, Cochair Greenfield Community Association (GCA) Transportation Committee

Rebecca Zito – Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)

Chris Zurawsky – Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition (SHUC)

## Follow-up Actions

- Get in touch with Mary Shaw about maps and water being directed to Panther Hollow in the park.
- Get a recap on the Magee Rec Center improvements. Any additional improvements planned?

- Check back in about Allegheny Watershed Alliance goals, etc.
- Megan Guy offered to check back in about Pitt GI projects and get the info to the group.
- Ask DOMI to provide Swinburne Project update.
- Greenfield residents would like to see models that do not include the road and know how much better the flood mitigation and stormwater/sewage separation could be achieved. One trail not precluding park improvements but no second road. This might be difficult because the project has always shown 2 paths – it's been requested by the recreation advocates.

## Presentation

Gavin White welcomed the group. Introduced the One Water Concept. Erin Copeland facilitated introductions.

- Gavin reviewed the One Water Guide discussing the notion that water should be thought of in a collaborative process. Highlighted the impacts of rain on our sewer system – that even a little bit of rain can overload the system.
- Ryan Quinn described the Green First Plan – pointed out the prioritized sewersheds, the regulatory drivers that helped to shape the plan and the rationale for initiating work in these areas.
- Gavin described the successes of the Negley Run Taskforce. John Stephens added that it grew out of Living Waters of Larimar project
- Gavin shared some information about the Negley Run project along Washington Blvd. Ryan added how the Negley Run Taskforce added momentum to the project. It's a good example for the city. Further discussed the microshed concept in Negley Run. John is excited that these projects can be replicated in other neighborhoods. Ryan added that these projects can be measured and provide information about the benefits experienced downstream of a project.
- Gavin shared some of the advocacy work and events that Negley Run Taskforce has spearheaded. Described that if taskforces were to form in other watersheds, they could bring the same type of collective voice.
- Shared other goals related to the Pisces grant and outcomes that reflect the interest of the Our Water Campaign.

**4 Mile Run Project Update:** Jim Turner provided an update on 4MR project. PWSA has done some additional modeling work to further refine information. This has led to better information on flooding problem, seem to have better resolution of those problems in last 1 – 2 months. Continuing forward with project to address flooding as best as possible. The additional modeling has given opportunity to look at the project and make sure we are getting the flood mitigation right. Continuing through design and DOMI coordination throughout the year. CSO mitigation remains unchanged.

## Comments and Discussion

**Open Discussion Four Mile Run** – Broader watershed, opportunities, challenges. How does it become a system that involves all partners, universities, etc. Erin described a map of the Four Mile Run sewershed pointing out landslide prone areas, undermined areas, parks, greenways, and the outfall to the Monongahela.

## Upper Watershed Discussion

- Watershed expansion is a term that was used to describe potential neighborhood water capture areas. The upper watershed expansion summary that was referenced can be found [here](#). It was noted that there is a great amount of power that comes with building awareness and advocacy about a watershed. Annie Quinn is a board member on Allegheny Watershed Alliance that has resources to help watershed groups form.
- Magee Recreation Center had a recent renovation, are there additional opportunities for updates to include stormwater management / green infrastructure?
- There was documentation of water being directed from the neighborhoods to the Panther Hollow Watershed. Find and see if it is part of PWSA's project planning.
- There are great opportunities for creating experiences that people can engage with clean stormwater flow, so it's a celebration of water.
- Carnegie Mellon has developed stormwater management features within their recent capital projects over the past 7-8 years. Existing projects have capacity to retain a half-million gallons of stormwater during major event. These include green roofs and planter beds that will include stormwater capture. Received state grant to do additional stormwater work.
- University of Pittsburgh - Pitt has campus green infrastructure projects underway; one is currently at Forbes and Bigelow. The Water Collaboratory will bring the AMD concerns to their team and investigate it.
- PWSA noted that additional sewer separation can happen in Squirrel Hill, but it is challenging. Currently, there are no plans for additional sewer separation.
- The Task Forces can help to build out the process in the upper watersheds. Engage people around a space in the park or neighborhoods and ability to reach your neighbors and stay on track.

## Schenley Park

- Schenley Park was spoken of highly during the call. Bridle Trail is a great project and the signage has been well received. Could there be more communication about it? PWSA has a growing communication activity around stormwater and the green infrastructure projects.
- There was discussion about the Swinburn Street landslide and remediation. Rebecca Kiernan provided an update regarding tree plantings on the site. More information was requested.
- There are concerns about DOMI project, as pertains to stormwater, would like to know how road does or does not impact flooding issue in the run. This discussion also taken off line and will follow up. Barb – what the Run neighbors would love to see is a look at a larger paved road through our green space in the park, will not help flooding in the run. Although projects are done in tandem, they are separated. Barb would like to see what the flood mitigation project would like without that road element included. PWSA won't solve the flooding in the Run. How will that road impact that project or not?
  - The paved surface that DOMI is planning on installing will handle all the water.
  - What does it look like if we just restore the trail today in those dimensions? Bike groups are advocating for separate trails.
- Meadows in Schenley Park are appreciated. The wildness of places throughout Pittsburgh are important and attendees would like to see those remain.
- As part of the 4MR stream project, CEC completed multiple investigations throughout the park, including a look at the bugs. What are the possibilities for additional educational opportunities? There is an iNaturalist project for the Panther Hollow Watershed. There are small streams and seeps throughout the park.
- There isn't acid mine drainage in the park.

**Tree Giveaway** - Tree Pittsburgh is giving away two trees to residents; we believe the program is on hold until the fall.

**A water trail** is a common term for paddling routes, so may look at new terminology, for the Water Trail work that was completed in Highland Park.

A Watershed Task Force can advocate for **funding through the city budget** process at the City.