

Negley Run Watershed Task Force

04/30/2020

Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Matt Barron – Heinz Endowments

Marti Battistone – City Planning

Erin Copeland – Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Beth Dutton - PWSA

Alyson Fearon – Allegheny Land Trust

Jordan Fischbach – RAND

Dana Fowler - Lincoln-Lemington Consensus Group

Mike Hiller – Nine Mile Run Watershed Association

Elijah Hughes – EvolveEA

Brian Jensen – Allegheny Conference

Ashley Kyber – Landscape Artist

Anna Leisher – Riverlife

Ian Lipsky – E Design Dynamics

Paul Martinchich – URA

Matt Mercurio – CivicMapper

Malik Morris – Larimer Consensus Group

Tom Paulin – DPW

Carolyn Peeks – Larimer Green Team

Ryan Quinn – PWSA

Susan Rademacher – Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Jan Rather – Nine Mile Run Watershed Association

Claudia Saladin – EvolveEA

Viv Schaeffer – North Point Breeze Development Corporation

Brenda Smith – Nine Mile Run Watershed Association

Kara Smith – City Planning

John Stephen – Negley Run Watershed Task Force

Lauren Terpak – MS Consultants

Joanne Tippet – Lincoln-Lemington Consensus Group

Elizabeth Urbaitis – Larimer Green Team

Stephanie Walsh – Highland Park Community Council

Gavin White – Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Pomaj Chakmam Yajalaji - Lincoln-Lemington-Consensus Group/IFAA ALLIANCE

Rebecca Zito – PWSA

PWSA – Ryan Quinn

- Implementation Design Project
 - Work on hold in February – had work contracted throughout spring and summer
 - Knowing that the work is meant to be applied City-wide, we have a lot of other studies going on giving us new ideas about how to develop the framework
 - Still doing capital planning – looking at the next two years for funding, but also bigger needs and how we can progress them
 - Limited resources, prioritizing bigger picture work

- Water and sewer projects (water main replacements, for example) in Negley Run – looking at how to integrate GSI into those projects so the shovel goes into the ground once
- Still open to partnership opportunities
- Reviewing ALCOSAN's *Controlling the Source* report
 - Will be published, a couple of updates this year
- John Stephen – 6 microsheds, is there a way we can think about zeroing in on a microshed?
 - Still actively planning for 2021 and 2022, but there are some severe limitations on funding that we're trying to work through as we move toward a stormwater fee (in 2022) – a matter of making sure we're ready to follow through on commitments
- USACE Task 2 – Mouth of Negley Run
 - US Army Corps of Engineers is funding design work to mitigate CSO and flooding
 - Want to focus on partnership – ALCOSAN, PennDOT, City, PPC, Task Force
 - At final design stage for north of velodrome
 - Continuing through this year
 - 35% design review last fall
 - Generally – separate stormwater outlet, trying to provide some co-benefits to the park, reduced flooding risk
 - Really complex given all the utilities
 - A proof of concept project
 - PennDOT initiated an engineering study with an eye toward flooding
 - Deliverables will start to inform the project re: improvements on Wash. Blvd. Work on the road in tandem with PWSA/Army Corps work
 - PennDOT has not shared specifically what projects are on the table
 - MS did look at roadway elevation and changes
 - 3 alternatives – haven't heard what they are
 - Tom Paulin – Have DPW comments been included?
 - Revisions have only been partially given to PennDOT
 - Modifications to velodrome could help provide more engineering options
 - Aim to connect to work up in the shed
 - Starting to build a roadmap for implementing projects
 - Jordan – PennDOT has a required level of service, what is it?
 - They have said at past meetings – their general guidance (not sure it's always applicable, but) 50 year storm
 - So then we start getting into your work – how often does a 50 year design storm actually take place
 - For our analysis – we'll run the 35% design for a “50 year storm” under various climate conditions

URA - Paul Martinchich

- Liberty Green - 50% complete
 - Plantings may be delayed to the fall

- A moving target given shutdown, availability of things and people
- A lot of the stormwater features are installed
- Village Green – not a really strong stormwater component, but updating the community space
 - Designed by LaQuatra Bonci with LCG
 - Larimer Playground – packaged some improvements to park access and circulation with DPW
- Larimer School – moving toward environmental clearances for renovations – affordable housing project

Larimer Green Team - Ms. Peeks – Larimer Orchard

- Working with conservation district on soil remediation testing
- Ashley Kyber – met with Ms. Peeks – discussed placement of rain catchment system
- Looked at potential of replacing structures from Village Green
 - Malik Morris – is there a timetable for Village Green and the environmental clearances?
 - Village Green – probably start up next two weeks
- Dana – Clamai (sp?) – we didn't get an opportunity to have a walkthrough of Chadwick Park
 - Already moving forward with rain catchment system
 - Will a visit be on the table?
 - Want to keep rain for urban ag there on the table
- John – yes, would love to set up a water walk
 - Also, get Penn Hills involved since they're uphill
- John – re: Larimer – through the existing grant, still have some resources available for professional services
 - Would really like to be able to help with a vision for Zone B
 - WRT plan had a lot of ideas
 - Thinking about a small visioning study starting with another water walk, review of WRT's work, consideration of ongoing work, think about an implementation strategy

Westinghouse Park – Viv Schaeffer

- Had big ideas for engagement, now discussing whether we should delay
- Potentially could carry out some other ways to achieve the goal
- Thomas and McPherson – refer back to PWSA
 - Ryan – conveying from other project manager
 - Phase 1 currently in design
 - Also now planning to do water main repair and replacement at the same time
 - Determining paving materials, working on official construction agreement

Homewood Field Project – Marti

- Out to bid for design services
- Erin – do you know when you might award?
 - Would be a total guess

Homewood Comp Plan – Marti

- Within inches of the finish line

Lincoln-Lemington – John Stephen

- February 29th – coldest day of winter – water walk of Paulson Valley
- One of the areas studied as part of *Controlling the Source*
- Owned by 3-4 private entities over the years, drained directly into Negley Run Valley
- Submitted proposal to American Planning Association for technical assistance for ecosystem performance of the valleys with focus on Paulson

Joanne Tippett

- The walk was great – we got to see parts that we hadn't seen in years
- Two areas that we thought could be good –
 - Paper mill, now used by construction company
 - Navarro field – created by a family for local children, now vacant
- Dana Fowler – Ian, could you clarify re: testing AMD?
- Lincoln Lemington is in line for a comp plan process – would be great to make sure these water issues are considered prominently
 - Marti – Can't speak to when this will happen, but we're incorporating UN SDG's into all of our neighborhood processes
- Malik – Any progress on the steps on Meadow Street
 - Definitely keeping it in mind, no concrete progress

RAND – Jordan

- Conceptually building out 9 phases of potential infrastructure, modeling for various climate scenarios
- 200,000 computer hours scheduled, but have been on pause because supercomputers devoted to epidemiological simulations for COVID-19
- Tried to reimplement using Amazon web services
- Ran first strategy (the big one) – interesting initial results, want to see a lot more
- Much more to come in July (more to share 7/30)

Section 219 – John Stephen

- What Army Corps uses to participate in engineering for Mouth of Negley Run
 - Marking up the Act in May or June – want to bring more federal resources to the table
 - Important thing – get the Senate to pay attention as well
- Jordan – FEMA – new “BRIC” program designed to replace pre-disaster mitigation – funded through existing disaster mitigation – up to 6% for pre-disaster investment

Communications – John

- Created livingwaterspgh.org
 - Meant to be a citizen's guide for one water in Pittsburgh
 - Includes *One Water Guide*
 - Please explore, communicate any improvements, suggestions, etc.

- Nine Mile Run 1-1 and Negley Run 1-1
 - Mike – goal to capture problems and even highlights in the watersheds

Watershed Task Forces – Gavin

- Expanding into other 6 priority watersheds
 - Based on PWSA Green First Plan
- Next Quarter – digital engagement, virtual learning
 - Webinar ideas? Let us know!
- Water walks in the fall, summit early winter, hopefully

City Planning – Kara

- Soapbox re: Policy – Contact your state senator re: house bill 1822 – a lot of environmental cuts
 - ALT is very concerned
- Stormwater Code update - Phase 2 – more comprehensive analysis to consolidate and better meet demands of increasing urban dev.
 - Tech analysis
 - Unified stormwater code
 - Process improvement
 - Internal policy updates
 - Outreach and stakeholder coordination
- Led by Kara and James Stitt
 - AKRF leading (Tom Batrone) with other consultants
 - RAND, Ethos, Evolve, E holdings, Sci-tek
 - Marti reviewing plans
- Started some technical analysis
- Drafted engagement plan
- Next – kickoff and ramp up – background and interviews, engagement plan
- Next – analysis and collaboration – the meat!
- Next – synthesis, recommendations, draft code, developer manuals, etc.

Next Task Force meeting – July 30th