Negley Run Watershed Task Force Meeting

Date: March 20th, 2025

Attendees:
Keith Moore, UpstreamPgh
Kyla Prendergast, City Planning
David Kennedy, Pgh Water
Jordan Fischbach,
Danica Lonergan, Merritt Chase
Megan Lange, Pgh Water Collaboratory
Ian Smith, Watersmith Guild
Sarah Christian, CMU
Sara Thompson, Pashek MTR
Jake Milofsky, Tree Pittsburgh
Kathyrn Hunninen, Parks Conservancy
Khari Mosley, City Council
Fethiya Ozis, CMU
Erika Jackson, Upstream Pittsburgh
Rick Duncan, Allegheny River Blvd
Mike Hiller, Upstream Pgh
Greg McAuliffe, Grounded
Chief Pomaj, Lincoln Lemington Green Team
Jo Anne Tippett, Lincoln Lemington Green Team
Beth Dutton, Pittsburgh Water
Emily Zuetell, Carnegie Mellon
Stephanie Dax, Student Conservation Association
Emerson Odonnell, Water Now Alliance
Marilyn Oberst, Sen. Williams
David Hance, Highland Park CDC
Anita Keebler, Shadyside
David Weber,

Agenda Items

- Transition of NRWTF from PPC to UpstreamPgh - Kathryn Hunninen & Aaron Birdy
    - Upstream Pittsburgh will continue the pattern of work that has supported the Task Force, including periodic news blasts and quarterly meetingsUpstream Pittsburgh will continue the pattern of work that has supported the Task Force, including periodic news blasts and quarterly meetings
- City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Water, and WaterNow Alliance project to establish a joint program between the City of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Water to strategically convert vacant lots to green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) - Beth Dutton & Emerson O'Donnell
    - The RainReclaim Planning and Design project
    - Why Negley Run? Identified Priority Watershed and high concentration of vacant lots
    - The study will only include City-owned Vacant lots…which have high capture rate to make good use of ratepayer funds.
    - Will work with the community to develop designs on selected sites
    - Input needs…identify lots that have community benefits
    - Long term goals: Additional partners and everyone has a deeper understanding of opportunities
    - Discussion: Weber … when you assess parcels, how much do you look at ownership and potential developability of adjacent and nearby parcels.
    - Thompson … potential project near Shumann Center and VA Center
    - Kayla Prendergast … The project will stay in the City lane. We would love to consider URA parcels but that opens up another issue set and we do not have

resources to tackle them… and developable lots will be taken out of the inventory for stormwater

    - McAuliffe … Grounded is rebuilding the team that can be working on these projects, but keep us in mind as we will be ready when it comes time to implement.

- City of Pittsburgh & Pittsburgh Water anti-privatization (pro public ownership) referendum - Chief Pomaj-chakmam-yajalaji
    - Had meetings with Pgh Water to confirm the language and the key stakeholders (City and Pgh Water) support a yes vote. Guesstimating that the referendum needs 30,000 yes votes to pass. Pursuing voter engagement activities at this time.
    - Fairshake assisted by drafting the language which was shared with Pgh Water. 9-0 Council vote in favor of the referendum
- Kingsley Association and Watersmith Guild Project Update - John Stephen and Ian Smith
    - Natural evolution of the community art ethic of the Living Waters of Larimer and the Task Force. Aim for a screening of youth films at River Roots or Liberty Green near the end of the season.
    - Rick Duncan suggests Sycamore Island as a site for activities.
    - Water Quality stigma – Ian and his team have safety protocols including avoiding overflow days
- Allegheny River Boulevard Preservation Association Update on the Preservation Management Plan - Rick Duncan
    - Kyla will connect the Lincoln Lemington Turnout No. 1 Greenway project to the City greenway team.
- Lincoln Ave and Verona Ave Vacant Lot update - Jo Anne Tippett

    - Rising Tide and ALT are scheduling a conservatorship hearing for site. Waiting for the court to confirm the date. Need conservatorship control before more invasive work can be undertaken.
- City of Pittsburgh Comprehensive Plan update - Kyla Pendergrast
    - Quick background emphasizing the Stormwater and the Environmental Justice focus areas.
    - There will be summer engagements with communities and Working Groups on key subjects.
    - Recently announced that mini-grants are available to community groups to host forums
- Tree Pittsburgh Negley Run Tree planting update - Jake Milofsky
    - Fall 2022 planted 365 new trees across 70,000 sq ft
    - Knock out Knotweed program; Trees are growing fast tulip poplar, esp.
    - Volunteer tree stewards ... two for this site Stacey and Jack
    - This year … room to expand the project… controlling the knotweed…and in the fall we will head back to plant .. and the funding for trees is available.

Events

- River Roots Cleanup & Planting - May 9th
    - Kyle reported that she is convening a re-planting of River Roots on May 9, as a training project for City employees. There is still a good chance to tie it into ta site clean-up with the community or the Teen LEAD program.
- Environmental Justice Table Open House at UPMC Health Plan Neighborhood Center, East Side - 3/25 from 5:30 to 7 pm

    - https://upstreampgh.org/events/ejt-community-open-house032525/
- Penn State Extension & Pittsburgh Water Stormwater Workshop at Kingsley Association - 3/26 from 5 to 7:30 pm
    - https://www.pgh2o.com/news-events/events-meetings/2025-03-26-save-water-save-money-stormwater-management-workshop
- Flint Day of Action at Highland Park Reservoir
    - April 26th more details to come!

Adjourn 7:50 pm