Negley Run Watershed Task Force
Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2026
Kingsley Association

Welcome

Introductions

Rain Reclaim Update - Emerson O'Donnell, Waternow Alliance

The Rain Reclaim Program (focus is transforming city vacant lots into green stormwater infrastructure) in Pittsburgh is nearing the end of framework building. Program is working on pilot projects and has a current one in the Lincoln Lemington Belmar neighborhood. Two sites have been chosen for design through community engagement sessions with the Lincoln Lemington Community Consensus Group and the Lincoln Lemington Collaborative. Designs, being created by Ethos Collaborative, will be ready in March, and then there will be more engagement sessions with the community in the spring, summer, and fall. There will be neighborhood walks in the spring to see the chosen sites. If you want to get involved in this project, you can reach out to Aaron or Emerson at eo@waternow.org.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Training Update

Dr. Tina Ndoh, Samantha Nigida, and Alyssa Sharma - University of Pittsburgh Center of Public Health.Practice.

Work is being done also with Gabriel Gray and Emily Embrey. They are co-leading a community-led project which is focusing on refining a survey using CPTED principles for evaluating neighborhoods. This tool is community-advised, community-initiated, and the community does the assessment. An assessment was planned for the Liberty Green neighborhood.

Thank you to the Kingsley Association for having us!

The goal is to improve public safety and the well-being of Pittsburgh neighborhoods. Also promoting people using community open space. They are focusing on Zone 5 and Zone 2. They assess the crime incidents, measurement of residents' risks and safety perceptions, and evaluating these principles looking at health indicators (such as physical and mental well-being). The results are being brought forward to City decision-makers.

CPTED Principles:
- Natural Surveillance
- Social Management
- Natural Access Control

CPTED Principles - cont.
- Territorial Reinforcements
- Maintenance

2026 NRWTF Events Calendar and "Watershed Passport" - John Stephen

This packages a series of events that reflect the projects the Task Force has been working on over the years and bringing forward the focus of the parks engagement and community engagement aspects of River Roots. This series would be scheduled throughout the year, which people can attend and become recognized as an Ambassador of Negley Run Watershed The goal is to have voices from the communities to represent the interests of the watershed and water to our utilities and the different levels, city and county. The proposed events were reviewed.

First Waves of Negley Run - Ian of WaterSmith Guild

Youth from Western PA from communities that don't get much access to outdoor adventure/environmental education, have fun adventures in stand up paddle boarding and river surfing, combined with film making. This is then tied into environmental education. They also get introduced to citizen science.

A movie has been made of the experiences of the youth and will be available on YouTube.

- February 17th 11:30 am - Youtube Live Premier of First Waves of Negley Run
    - Will be followed by Q&A session afterwards around 11:40
- First Waves of Negley Run 2026

        - Workshop 1: Monday, July 20th, 2026 (Greenhouse Park – River Surf Day in Johnstown)
        - Workshop 2: Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026 (Allegheny Islands State Park – SUP & Native Mussels)
    - Workshop 3: Thursday, July 23rd, 2026 (Documentary Filmmaking Workshop – Kingsley)

Penn State Master Watershed Steward Program Overview - Laurie Maglietta, Penn State Extension Allegheny County Master Watershed Steward Coordinator

Master Watershed Steward Program is 10 years old. They take science-based research knowledge to the public. They teach people how to implement best management practices concerning watersheds. Master Watershed Stewards put in 40 hours of training and are taught by trainers from such agencies as DEP, EPA and Penn State Ext..There are 20 topics and the program focuses on human interaction with the watershed. After training, people go out into their communities to do their volunteer work.

Tom came to the program after retiring. He liked the program and walked streams as part of his work. Now working on a watershed interpretive trail.

Highland Reservoir Hillside Safety Project - Rebecca Zito, Senior Manager, Public Affairs

State government has determined the reservoirs in Highland Park are dams. The hillside around the covered reservoir needs to be stabilized. This is going to result in landscaping that needs to be done involving removing trees. The community will have the opportunity to learn more about the project at the first workshop. The second workshop will focus more on the actual design process.

- Highland Reservoir Hillside Safety Project
    - #1: Information Session — Learn the “why” and “how”
        - Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026 from 6:30 – 8:00pm
        - Where: Online using Zoom
        - RSVP: Register now to participate!
            - https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/3e26QUFNT3O0055XklQOO
    - #2: Community Design Workshop — Share your ideas for landscaping

        - Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 11:00am – 1:00pm
        - Where: Tree Pittsburgh | 32 62nd Street, Pittsburgh 15201
        - RSVP: Register now to participate!
            - https://pittsburghwater.jotformgov.com/260075846169061
    - Please contact Rebecca Zito, Senior Manager, Public Affairs by emailing rzito@pgh2o.com with any questions you may have about the engagement process.

        -