Negley Run Watershed Task Force Meeting

Date: July 16th, 2026

Attendees: Emerson O'Donnell, Ryan Quinn, Rick Duncan, Cindy Berger, Deborah Gross, Katie Bowie, Kyla Prendergast

Agenda Items

- Updates
    - Update from Emerson O'Donnell on Rain Reclaim project
        - Have been working over the past 2 years with UpstreamPgh, Ethos Collaborative, Pittsburgh Water & City of Pittsburgh to identify opportunities for green stormwater infrastructure on vacant parcels in the City of Pittsburgh, specifically in Lincoln-Lemington Belmar neighborhood.
        - Working with Lincoln Lemington Collaborative and Lincoln Lemington Consensus Group to socialize idea of green infrastructure on vacant lots with residents. Goal is to identify locations that manage stormwater and reduce basement flooding. Started with 12 sites and goal is to select 1 or 2 sites to develop conceptual drawings.
        - 2 Sites that came to top were at Lincoln Ave & Deary Street and Gladefield street leading into Chadwick Park.

Thank you to the Kingsley Association for having us!

        - Working with City Forestry to improve woodlands around Chadwick Park, remove invasive species and develop some trails through a separate grant.
        - Waternow's grant is ending and they will be handing the two projects over to City of Pittsburgh & Pittsburgh Water to finish design work and construct the projects.
    - Update from Aaron Birdy on the Allegheny Woodlands Coalition - next meeting 7/25 in the morning. If you are interested in participating reach out to John Stephen
        - goals, are to provide some updates on existing planning efforts and future planning efforts including the ALCOSAN engineering work for the ART Allegheny River Tunnel Interceptor Project, the grant that the city applied to for trail connectivity planning through DCNR and their C2P2 program, the transportation and mobility projects advancing throughout the Brilliant Lands area, which includes the brilliant line and to discuss opportunities for coordinated stakeholder engagement in coming months.
    - Update from Ryan Quinn Pittsburgh Water on Negley Run master plan
        - Pittsburgh Water is planning to have another stormwaters stakeholder meeting before the end of the year. If you are interested in attending those meetings, the Negley Run Task Force will send out information about those as well.
        - The Stormwater master plan is a really significant effort. It's envisioned as a multi-year project with community planning in different neighborhoods and also at the sewershed level. This is coming along with the evolution of H&H modeling and efforts made citywide to develop better tools for evaluating the level of service of the existing service system. This will be focused effort to go from citywide planning to actual implementation of projects in the context of level of service of the sewer system as well as the stormwater system. Looking at who's at risk when the system is exceeded and ways to provide flood risk reduction.

        - Building on the UpstreamPgh Ripple Watershed Plan, Rain Reclaim and past Negley Run planning studies and modeling efforts. Layering in a decision making tool around equitable investments in the sewer system to prioritize projects and move them from planning to implementation.
        - The proposed budget is between $2 to $3 million. It's not just reports, it's flow monitoring. A really big first effort will be some detailed flow monitoring.
        - Goal from this plan is to identify at least two priority early action projects for implementation that would be funded in future capital projects budgets.
        - Will be at least a 3 year project with a start date of potentially Q2 2027
        - City Councilwoman Deb Gross asked about the City's Comprehensive plan and how that plan will align with the Negley Run plan to ensure that areas being rezoned for dense redevelopment have adequate water and sewer service to handle the increase in use?
            - Kyla Prendergast with Department of City Planning noted that the most recent water, sewer and storm data has been incorporated into the comp plan. Public health and safety watersheds designation and City's Stormwater code also require stricter standards for stormwater mitigation. Suggests to continue conversation around planning in relation to the existing water and sewer service and priority watersheds.
        - Aaron to follow up with Negley Run Task Force members to advocate for funding at PW board meeting in September or October of this year.
    - Heth's Run & Negley Run test borings by ALCOSAN
        - Led by Councilwoman Deb Gross, City Council negotiated terms of easement for ALCOSAN geotechnical borings for the design of two drop shafts (A-41 & A-42) for the Allegheny River Tunnel (ART) project. The terms for the easement include

- During test boring and tunnel construction, avoid impacts to the two mature ash trees identified through the Ash Tree Restoration Project as #105 and #106.
- Fully restore any construction-affected land, trails, parking areas, and recreational spaces.
- Reconstruct the parking lot using pervious materials where feasible.
- Replant trees and strengthen hillside vegetation to support trail connectivity around Highland Park.
- Restore the Cat Tail Trail connection to the parking lot.
- Incorporate green stormwater infrastructure to mitigate new impervious surfaces associated with access roads and construction areas.
- Continue meaningful community involvement during design, review, and construction to ensure project improvements reflect neighborhood priorities and long-term environmental goals.
- Ensure ongoing coordination among ALCOSAN, Pittsburgh Water, PennDOT, the City of Pittsburgh, local Registered Community Organizations (RCOs), and the Brilliant Waterways & Woodlands Coalition to align tunnel construction with broader watershed and flood mitigation goals.
- Design the A42 access shaft, portal, and surface facilities to accommodate and reinforce planned stormwater conveyance and flood-control projects in the A42 sewershed to ensure the project positively contributes to flood reduction in the A42 sewershed generally, and in the area of Washington Boulevard specifically.
- Design the A41 access shaft, portal, and surface facilities to accommodate and reinforce public river access as part of project development and construction.

        - Kyla Prendergast DCP suggests that we look at the Riverlife MOU regarding the West End bridge connector for the Ohio River Tunnel project as a model for working with ALCOSAN on this project.
            - Established communications structure and meetings to coordinate on design.
    - Kingsley Association & T.E.E.N. Lead continuing work late July
        - Watersmith Guild project
        - Working with Grounded on a green infrastructure project
    - Allegheny Cleanways Report out on watershed cleanups from Erica Pasquali
        - ACW did two more cleanups off of Standard Ave in the Negley Run watershed on 6/6 and 6/14. We removed another 121 tires from the lower part of the watershed. The tires we are working on now have been there for years and are buried in mud. We still have more to dig out, but it's a slow-moving process to get them out.
- Activities - postponed due to weather
    - Visit the Allegheny River Boulevard Turnout #1
    - Optional Cat tail trail and overlook trail hike out after meeting
- Upcoming Events
    - Allegheny Cleanways Penn Hills DumpBust - 8/1 from 9 am to noon
    - WZUM & City of Pittsburgh Reservoir of Jazz in Highland Park every Sunday in August from 5 - 7 pm
    - Anglers Club of Pittsburgh Family Fishing at Lake Carnegie every Wednesday. Events are free and participants must register in advance for event times