

City Council/AlexRenew Board Workgroup for Wet Weather Program

Kickoff Meeting Notes

Meeting #1 – July 23, 2018 6:30PM

Meeting Attendees	
CSO Workgroup	City of Alexandria
Councilman John Chapman	Mark Jinks
Councilman Paul Smedberg	Emily Baker
John Hill, AlexRenew Board	Junaid Malik
Patricia Turner, AlexRenew Board	
	Alexandria Renew Enterprises
	Karen Pallansch
	Liliana Maldonado
	Caitlin Feehan
	Justin Carl
	Jeff Theerman
	Kelvin Coles
	Susan Mitchell
	Kasey Kraft
	Other Attendees
	Nancy Stoner – Potomac River Keeper

The meeting convened at 6:30 pm starting with the introduction of participants. Ms. Emily Baker, Deputy City Manager, presented a brief overview of the purpose of the meeting.

Ms. Karen Pallansch, General Manager of Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew), presented updates on the Wet Weather Program following the established agenda. The highlights of the presentation included:

- The City and AlexRenew partnership is crucial to the success of the program. An Outfall Transfer Agreement was signed in May 2018 to establish the working relationship.
- Per the Outfall Transfer Agreement, City and AlexRenew staff are collaborating at several levels, including the Council Board Workgroup, City Regulatory Team, and Program Coordination Team.
- The Program has a deadline of July 1, 2025. The Program team is currently preparing the Preliminary Engineering Report, coordinating with third parties, and gathering field survey and geotechnical data. Overall construction of the proposed facilities is anticipated to take 4.5 years, with shorter timeframes at the outfall sites.
- The major components of the Program include a storage tunnel, conveyance tunnel, diversion facilities, pumping stations, and improvements to existing facilities at AlexRenew's WRRF.
- Some considerations for the proposed tunnel alignments and diversion facilities include: proximity to public land/open space, connecting to the existing outfall sites and AlexRenew, and avoidance of existing utilities and structures.
- Potential tunnel alignments and diversion facility locations were discussed for both the CSO 003/4 and CSO 001/2 systems. The CSO 001/2 system identified six (6) potential alignments for the deep tunnel, while three (3) alternatives for the CSO 003/4 system were identified. The alignments under consideration for the 001/2 system include combinations of two (2) east/west reaches along Green Street and Church Street and three (3) north/south reaches along the Potomac River, Union Street, and Lee Street. The CSO



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003/4 alternatives included a deep tunnel under Hooffs Run, trenchless diversion sewer along Holland Lane, and open-cut/trenchless diversion sewer along Hooffs Run.

- Coordination with federal, state, and local agencies is ongoing. City staff is providing guidance on the City’s Development Special Use Permit (DSUP) process.
- The Program team is initiating a focused community engagement plan for September 2018 that coincides with the National Environmental Policy Act process. The plan includes three (3) Listening Sessions to be held at each of the outfall sites to review potential alternatives for the proposed facilities and solicit feedback from the community. A Scoping Meeting and Open House will also be held at AlexRenew.
- The Program has been branded as “RiverRenew: Investing in Healthier Waterways for Alexandria.”
- A general 6-month look ahead schedule is shown below:

Timeline	Item
July 2018	Letter for CSO funding support to VML Environmental Policy Committee*
July – November 2018	Preliminary Engineering Report
	Draft Environmental Assessment
September 2018	Community Listening Sessions and Open House*
	Agency and stakeholder Scoping Meeting*
Late Summer 2018	Communication with Virginia General Assembly delegation*
	Visit by Senate Finance Committee*
October 2018	DSUP Concept Plan submittal*
November 2018	Start development of Program Implementation Advisory Group
	Begin detailed design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued coordination with third party agencies • Continue engaging Council/Board Workgroup* 	

* Denotes active coordination between AlexRenew and City

The following is a summary of the questions asked by Workgroup members and the answers provided by City and AlexRenew staff.

Councilman Smedberg - Is the City participating at AlexRenew Board and Executive Sessions?



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Ms. Baker – City staff is participating at the AlexRenew board meeting but would attend Executive Sessions by invitation only.

Councilman Smedberg – Who approves the rates?

Ms. Pallansch – AlexRenew Board approves the rates through a public process. The City is informed about any adjustment to rates in advance. Rates discussions will be held at the Workgroup meetings.

Councilman Smedberg – What percentage of program cost is associated with improvements at AlexRenew?

Ms. Pallansch/ Mr. Carl – Approximately 15 to 20 percent based on the conceptual estimates developed as part of the Long Term Control Plan Update.

Councilman Smedberg – What is cost differential among the 003/004 micro-tunnel and open cut option?

Ms. Pallansch/ Mr. Carl – AlexRenew is currently developing preliminary cost estimates for the trenchless alternative along Holland Lane and open-cut/trenchless alternative along Hooffs Run as part of the Preliminary Engineering Report.

Councilman Smedberg – Does City Council appoint members on AlexRenew Stakeholder/Program Implementation Advisory Group?

Ms. Pallansch – City and AlexRenew will discuss the best way to select the members and bring the issue back to the Workgroup for further discussion.

Councilman Smedberg – What is the biggest challenge on this Program?

Ms. Pallansch – Due to the complexity of the project, permits and approvals are required from a diverse set of local, state, and federal agencies as well as property owners. Coordination on the necessary permits and approvals is key to the Program's success.

Councilman Smedberg – Which agency has the biggest potential impact on the project schedule?

Ms. Pallansch – Because the Environmental Assessment is on the critical path, working with the National Park Service (the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act process) is essential and any major delay in the coordination could have significant impacts on the Program's schedule.

Councilman Smedberg – Is there a financial cap on the Program?

Ms. Pallansch – Conceptual Program cost estimates presented in the Long Term Control Plan Update ranged from \$350 million to \$550 million. Because the planning and design is currently at a conceptual level, there is a wide range in costs. As the design is progressed, further cost definition can be provided.

Mr. Jinks – The state is being approached to assist with up to 20% of the funding.

In addition to the questions above, the following suggestions were made by Workgroup members.



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Councilman Smedberg

- Realize the enormity of the program, get organized and use the City’s experience in developing the community engagement efforts.
- Develop a plan to address the issue of communicating rate increases and construction impacts over the next several years.
- Engage businesses, Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and Alexandria Chamber of Commerce.
- Reach out to reporters, write articles.

Councilman Chapman

- Create a program to inform/reach out to the public and not “check the box” by holding a certain number of meetings/events.
- Hold open houses. The purpose should be to reach out to the maximum number of people.
- Update City’s website and make it easier to navigate. Have a special page for large projects such as the Wet Weather Program. Add a direct link to the information on the project.

The next Workgroup meeting will occur in first half of September 2018 to discuss the draft materials for the upcoming Listening Sessions and details of the proposed alternatives being evaluated as part of the Preliminary Engineering Report and Environmental Assessment. The following meeting is tentatively planned for the second half of October 2018 to discuss feedback from the Listening Sessions and submission of the draft Preliminary Engineering Report and Environmental Assessment. The dates of these meetings are still to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

