



RiverRenew Workgroup Meeting Notes

Meeting No. 3 / October 15, 2018 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:

RiverRenew Workgroup	City of Alexandria	Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Councilman John Chapman	Emily Baker	Karen Pallansch
Councilman Paul Smedberg	Erin Bevis-Carver	Liliana Maldonado
John Hill, AlexRenew Board	Tafesse Gyes	Caitlin Feehan
		Justin Carl
		Susan Mitchell

The meeting convened at 6:30 p.m. 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 RiverRenew.

The highlights of the presentation included:

- A recap of the Community Listening Sessions that took place on September 17, 20, 24, and 25, including number and composition of attendees, feedback solicitation and examples of feedback, FAQs, and traffic to the RiverRenew website.
- Tunnel naming, which has been extended to December 1. Examples of names submitted thus far were shared.
- A revised discussion regarding the development of the RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) based on feedback from the Workgroup at September’s meeting. The discussion primarily focused on the recommended composition of the SAG.

Area of Representation	Number of Members	Description
Outfall 001	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated by the North Old Town Independent Citizens’ Association • Resident or business near Tobacco Quay, Oronoco Waterfront Residences or Rivergate
	1	
Outfall 002	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated by the Old Town Civic Association • Resident, business, or non-profit near South Royal/Green Streets
	1	
Outfalls 003/4	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated by the Eisenhower Partnership • Resident or business of the Carlyle community or Duke Street corridor
	1	
AlexRenew Customer	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At-large residents with interest in RiverRenew
City-wide Organizations	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated by Environmental Policy Commission • Nominated by an Alexandria business group • Nominated by the Park and Recreation Commission
	1	
	1	
At-large	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents with engineering, environmental, financial or related experience
Total	13	



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

- ***Councilman Smedberg and Councilman Chapman reported that they had gotten significant inquiries regarding the proposed Outfall 002 Diversion Facility.***

Ms. Pallansch: AlexRenew and the NPS have received a significant amount of comments from the Old Town South neighborhood. Most comments have favored placing the diversion facility as far south as possible.

- ***Councilman Smedberg asked whether FAQs could go on the RiverRenew website.***

Ms. Pallansch and Ms. Feehan: Some of the basic FAQs are already on the RiverRenew website and we will be updating the FAQs as we continue to collect comments from the community.

- ***Councilman Smedberg asked about the meeting with the Old Town Civic Association.***

Ms. Pallansch reported that the team met with approximately 60 community members at the Old Town Civic Association (OTCA) Meeting on October 10, 2018 and mainly covered the content discussed during the Community Listening Sessions in September.

Mr. Hill reported that the RiverRenew presentation to OTCA went well, noting that there were significant questions by the audience throughout the presentation.

- ***Councilman Smedberg asked how the tunnel names would ultimately be selected.***

Ms. Pallansch noted that the full list of names would be provided to the RiverRenew workgroup and they would shortlist to 3-4 names and then the community would vote.

- ***Councilman Smedberg and Councilman Chapman suggested that the SAG be revised to 13 members in order to ensure a diverse group representing all of Alexandria.***

Ms. Pallansch and Ms. Baker noted that the SAG would be revised per the Workgroups comments. The next step is to take the recommended SAG to the City Council Legislative Meeting on October 23, 2018. Ms. Pallansch also discussed the schedule for formation and how outreach would be conducted to select SAG members by January 2019. The first SAG meeting is proposed for January 2019.

Some of the characteristics that were highlighted included: A diverse, constructive group, people who are not necessarily engineers or technicians, but have good common sense and are comfortable with data. People who are comfortable communicating with the public and can go to community meetings with talking points.

Mr. Hill pointed out that the purpose of the group is not to re-write the proposal. It's to move forward with plans. Mr. Carl mentioned that the NPS may send a point of contact to meetings. Ms. Baker said that new members will take an oath when they are appointed.

- ***Councilman Smedberg asked how AlexRenew was conducting auditing for the program, other than the communications piece.***

Ms. Pallansch responded that the program is treated like any other capital improvement project that AlexRenew would undertake.

- ***Councilman Smedberg asked about soil testing.***

Ms. Pallansch stated that AlexRenew is currently conducting an initial geotechnical exploration program and has gathered additional historic information from past projects in the City of Alexandria. Additional soil testing is expected once the EA process concludes.

- **Councilman Smedberg asked if the City had a timeline of proposed projects that is complementary to the RiverRenew timeline.**

Ms. Baker responded that the DSUP would be the place to identify concurrent work.

- **Ms. Baker asked if AlexRenew should be prepared to provide a status update of RiverRenew at the October 23, 2018 Council meeting.**

The Workgroup decided that it was not necessary at this time.

- **Councilman Smedberg noted that some community members asked if the Potomac River alignment is a viable option, citing that previous utilities have sought similar options.**

Ms. Pallansch answered that it is a viable option and different than typical utility installation due to the depth and means/methods of tunnel construction.

- **Councilman Smedberg asked if the AlexRenew Board were going to ratify a recommendation in support of a preferred alternative.**

Ms. Pallansch answered that when the Environmental Assessment is issued, the City and AlexRenew will have the opportunity to acknowledge and endorse.

- **Mr. Hill asked when the construction for the Building J Facilities Relocation and Decommissioning project would begin.**

Ms. Pallansch answered that construction for the project will begin in 2019.

Other discussion points:

While reviewing the RiverRenew schedule and next steps, Ms. Pallansch reported that AlexRenew will need to submit a report to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in December 2018 discussing progress regarding the implementation of the program.

The next Workgroup meeting will be held on November 14, 2018 at AlexRenew.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.