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ALLEGHENY COUNTY SANITARY AUTHORITY (ALCOSAN)
PUBLIC MEETING

- - - - -

IN RE:

ALCOSAN DRAFT WET
WEATHER PLAN
PRESENTATION AND
PUBLIC COMMENTS

ALCOSAN
3300 Preble Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
Friday; October 19, 2012
9:00 a.m.

- - - - -

- PRESENT: Nancy Barylak - Manager of Public Relations
- Arthur M. Tamilia - Deputy Executive Director and Director of Environmental Compliance
- Arletta Scott Williams - Executive Director
- David Borneman - Director of Engineering and Construction
- Joseph Day - Government Relations Specialist
- Timothy Prevost - ALCOSAN Project Manager

- - - - -

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

- - - - -

Reported by:

- Tricia M. Clegg, Registered Professional Reporter
- Lee Ann Reid, Professional Court Reporter
- Sandra Mastay, Professional Court Reporter

- - - - -

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AGENCY

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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09: 07: 29

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MS. BARYLAK: Good morning.

09: 07: 29

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Go ahead and have a seat. I am Nancy Barylak,

09: 07: 32

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Manager of Public Relations, and Art Tamilia,

09: 07: 35

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our Deputy Executive Director. What we're

09: 07: 38

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going to ask you to do for the record is state

09: 07: 41

9

your name, your address, and if you're here

09: 07: 43

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representing a group, the name of that.

09: 07: 46

11

MS. BASTIANINI: Can I just

09: 07: 48

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give their address or do you want my personal

09: 07: 49

13

address?

09: 07: 51

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MS. BARYLAK: If you're

09: 07: 51

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representing a group, give their address. And

09: 07: 52

16

spell your last name because we are putting

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this as part of the record. And you will have

09: 07: 56

18

up to five minutes to give your testimony. Any

09: 07: 58

19

time you're ready, go ahead.

09: 08: 01

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MS. BASTIANINI: Thank you.

09: 08: 03

21

My name is Julie Bastianini, B as in boy,

09: 08: 03

22

A-S-T-I-A-N-I-N-I. And I'm here on behalf of

09: 08: 09

23

Edgewood Borough, 2 Race Street, R-A-C-E,

09: 08: 13

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Pittsburgh, PA 15218. And I'm here today to

09: 08: 18

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deliver a letter written by the President of

09: 08: 22

JULIE BASTIANINI

our Council, Patricia Schaefer, S-C-H-A-E-F-E-R.
Please find below the Borough of Edgewood's
official comments regarding the ALCOSAN Draft
Wet Weather Plan. The joint alternatives
analysis performed in the M-47 Nine Mile Run
point of connection by the Pittsburgh Water and
Sewer Authority and the upstream municipalities
assumed free discharge to the ALCOSAN system.

Under the ALCOSAN recommended plan,
it is not proposed to extend any ALCOSAN
facilities to M-47. What restrictions will
exist at this point if no facilities are being
proposed by ALCOSAN? 2, the current leading
alternative for M-47 is up-sized conveyance or
convey-all to ALCOSAN. Will ALCOSAN provide
sufficient capacity for all flows conveyed by
the borough up to and including the 10-year
design storm?

3, if capacity isn't provided by
ALCOSAN at the point of connection and the
borough with its neighboring municipalities
move forward with a convey-all alternative, who
will be responsible for any overflows that
occur at the point of connection? The ALCOSAN

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JULIE BASTIANINI

09:09:42

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DWWP assigns a value of \$530 million dollars

09:09:47

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for municipal improvements and then spread

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these costs evenly among all the municipalities

09:09:53

5

within the ALCOSAN service area based on the

09:09:56

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number of service connections.

09:09:57

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It was not clear what the source of

09:09:59

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the \$530 million dollar value is. There is a

09:10:02

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figure provided that shows the proposed

09:10:04

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municipal projects. However, a corresponding

09:10:07

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table that lists the projects along with the

09:10:09

12

costs for each would be helpful. With the

09:10:11

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information provided, it cannot be determined

09:10:14

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if the value used by ALCOSAN for work in Nine

09:10:17

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Mile Run matches the PWSA submission.

09:10:23

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5, Appendix B of the DWWP presents

09:10:26

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average dry and wet weather flow in gallons per

09:10:30

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day for each of ALCOSAN's point of connection.

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Is it ALCOSAN's intent to hold the community's

09:10:36

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tributary to each point of connection to the

09:10:38

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flow rate? It should be noted that PWSA on

09:10:42

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behalf of the community's tributary to the M-47

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has previously provided ALCOSAN with

09:10:49

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hydrographs that show the flow rates for the

09:10:50

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typical year and various design storms. It is

1 JULIE BASTIANINI - KATHY RISK0

09: 10: 53 2 suggested that a column be added to this table
09: 10: 56 3 or a separate table be added to the DWWP that
09: 11: 00 4 shows the peak wet weather rate for each POC
09: 11: 04 5 that ALCOSAN has planned for its facilities.
09: 11: 06 6 Sincerely, Patricia Schaefer, Edgewood Borough
09: 11: 11 7 Council President.

09: 11: 11 8 MS. BARYLAK: Thank you. Is
09: 11: 16 9 there anything else you wanted to add?

09: 11: 18 10 MS. BASTIANINI: That's all we
09: 11: 19 11 just wanted on the record.

09: 11: 20 12 MS. BARYLAK: We thank you for
09: 11: 22 13 coming. We appreciate that. That is entered
09: 11: 24 14 into the record.

09: 11: 25 15 MS. BASTIANINI: Great. Thank
09: 11: 26 16 you very much, and thanks for having these
09: 11: 28 17 meetings.

09: 11: 28 18 MS. BARYLAK: Okay. Thank you
09: 13: 32 19 for coming.

09: 13: 34 20 MS. RISK0: You're quite
09: 13: 35 21 welcome.

09: 13: 35 22 MS. BARYLAK: As you know, I'm
09: 13: 37 23 Nancy Barylak, Manager of Public Relations, and
09: 13: 37 24 this is Art Tamilia, our Deputy Executive
09: 13: 40 25 Director.

1

KATHY RISK0

09: 13: 41 2

MS. RISK0: Nice to meet you.

09: 13: 42 3

MS. BARYLAK: You have up to

09: 13: 43 4

five minutes to give your testimony. If you

09: 13: 44 5

will state your name and address for the

09: 13: 45 6

record, if you're representing a group, and

09: 13: 47 7

please spell your name. Any time you're ready.

09: 13: 54 8

MS. RISK0: Hi. I'm Kathy

09: 13: 56 9

Risko. I'm the Executive Director of CONNECT,

09: 13: 58 10

the Congress of Neighboring Communities. My

09: 13: 59 11

last name is spelled R-I-S-K-0. And my address

09: 14: 02 12

is 416 Todd Street, Wilkinsburg, Pennsylvania

09: 14: 05 13

15221. Good morning. My name is Kathy Risko.

09: 14: 12 14

I'm the Executive Director for the Congress of

09: 14: 12 15

Neighboring Community, CONNECT.

09: 14: 15 16

On behalf of the more than 650,000

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ratepayers in ALCOSAN service area that live in

09: 14: 20 18

the 37 communities of the urban core of

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Allegheny County and their elected and

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appointed officials who represent them, we are

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here to express our concerns with the Wet

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Weather Plan.

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Over the past four years our

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communities have gathered annually to, by

09: 14: 34 25

resolution, express our support for green

1 KATHY RISK0

09: 14: 36 2 infrastructure and source reduction technology
09: 14: 37 3 to reduce the costs of an entirely gray
09: 14: 40 4 infrastructure plan. We know that tunnels,
09: 14: 41 5 tanks, and increasing treatment capacity are
09: 14: 43 6 necessary components, but we believe that we
09: 14: 46 7 can drastically diminish the bills our
09: 14: 48 8 taxpayers will be footing.

09: 14: 50 9 We have said so in words and backed
09: 14: 52 10 it up with action. Our communities are working
09: 14: 54 11 together to identify green infrastructure
09: 14: 56 12 opportunities where they are cost-effective and
09: 14: 57 13 appropriate on a municipal level so that green
09: 15: 00 14 infrastructure can be a part of our feasibility
09: 15: 02 15 studies.

09: 15: 03 16 Many have already begun to implement
09: 15: 06 17 rain gardens and green streetscapes, programs
09: 15: 07 18 for rain barrels, downspout disconnections, and
09: 15: 09 19 even stormwater utilities. It takes political
09: 15: 13 20 capital, courage, and capacity to brings these
09: 15: 15 21 things to reality, and our communities are
09: 15: 17 22 stepping up to the plate.

09: 15: 18 23 It's time for ALCOSAN to do the
09: 15: 20 24 same. Of course, it's true that local
09: 15: 22 25 municipalities make the decisions on how street

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KATHY RISK0

09: 15: 25

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trees are planted, how porous the pavement is

09: 15: 28

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on their streets and the ordinances that

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developers are required to obey with regard to

09: 15: 31

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stormwater management. However, so long as

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ALCOSAN treats all ratepayers equally

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regardless of how much source flow

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municipalities reduce, there is no significant

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incentive to implement strategies that retain

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stormwater on site.

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Continuing this practice renders the

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cost-effectiveness of utilizing storm reduction

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in the Wet Weather Plan moot. Ensuring

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municipalities receive a fair return on their

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initial investment and index-responsive

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16

compensation for the ongoing maintenance and

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administration of such programs from ALCOSAN is

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the only major way projects of significance

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will break ground across our region to

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complement whatever remaining necessary gray

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infrastructure needs to be accommodated.

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We call upon you to re-evaluate your

09: 16: 11

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rate structure, investigate stormwater

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mitigation credits for customer municipalities,

09: 16: 16

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provide matching funds to leverage alternative

1 KATHY RISK0 - JOHN STEPHEN

09: 16: 16 2 resources and other ways to ensure the system
09: 16: 22 3 in place rewards communities like ours that
09: 16: 24 4 take proactive steps to make our consent decree
09: 16: 27 5 compliance as affordable as possible for the
09: 16: 29 6 ratepayers of our region. Thank you very much.

09: 16: 31 7 MS. BARYLAK: Thank you.

09: 16: 34 8 MS. RISK0: Did you want a
09: 16: 36 9 copy of this, too?

09: 16: 37 10 MS. BARYLAK: That would be
09: 16: 38 11 wonderful. Thank you for your comments at the
09: 16: 40 12 meeting the other day. Welcome. Thank you for
09: 56: 54 13 coming. My name is Nancy Barylak. I'm Manager
09: 56: 56 14 of Public Relations. This is Art Tamilia, our
09: 56: 59 15 Deputy Executive Director and also our Director
09: 57: 02 16 of Environmental Compliance. You have up to
09: 57: 05 17 five minutes to give your testimony. If you
09: 57: 09 18 run a few minutes over, we're okay with that
09: 57: 12 19 since there's not too many people here. And
09: 57: 15 20 you are asked to give your name and spell that
09: 57: 17 21 and your address. And if you're representing a
09: 57: 20 22 group, if you will identify that. And any time
09: 57: 23 23 you're ready.

09: 57: 24 24 MR. STEPHEN: Great. Thank
09: 57: 26 25 you very much. John Stephen, S-T-E-P-H-E-N.

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JOHN STEPHEN

09: 57: 32

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1106 North Sheridan, Pittsburgh, PA. And I'm

09: 57: 37

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Executive Director of the Three Rivers

09: 57: 40

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Waterkeeper, a membership-based organization

09: 57: 43

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here in the City of Pittsburgh. Thank you for

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6

the opportunity.

09: 57: 47

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And for better or worse, ALCOSAN is

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leading our region into the green/gray tipping

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point with this study. The good is that the

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agency managed an impressive level of analysis,

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research, and testing to inform its long-term

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control plan. As a result, we have a thorough

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baseline inventory of the current condition of

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wastewater infrastructure and water quality.

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For that, Three Rivers Waterkeeper thanks

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ALCOSAN for that work.

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The bad is that ALCOSAN launched its

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long-term control plan public discussion

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process by arguing that it has limits, legal

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and financial, and had no choice but to present

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a plan that lacks innovation. For a region

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that prides itself on its history of invention

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and risk-taking, there is nothing in the report

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that inspires or motivates.

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As a result, we get a multibillion

1 JOHN STEPHEN

09: 58: 42 2 dollar public investment that can only be
09: 58: 43 3 admired by the money chasers and sadly hides
09: 58: 46 4 the largest public works project in our
09: 58: 48 5 region's history underground and beneath our
09: 58: 51 6 river's surface.

09: 58: 52 7 The quality of our waterways is a
09: 58: 54 8 regional issue, and this tipping point should
09: 58: 57 9 be met with a regional call to arms with
09: 59: 00 10 engineers being joined by financiers, lawyers,
09: 59: 03 11 and politicians to meet the challenge. Lawyers
09: 59: 06 12 need to draft laws that allow ALCOSAN or its
09: 59: 09 13 partners to do more than just treat water at
09: 59: 12 14 the end of the collection system, and
09: 59: 14 15 financiers need to invent means to finance
09: 59: 18 16 stormwater controls wherever they are efficient
09: 59: 20 17 and needed.

09: 59: 21 18 At the previous public meetings, I
09: 59: 24 19 heard ALCOSAN leadership state more than once
09: 59: 26 20 that its charter limits its ability to
09: 59: 28 21 implement green infrastructure, that its charge
09: 59: 31 22 is to deal with the water sent to it by its
09: 59: 34 23 customer municipalities. I think that is a
09: 59: 36 24 restrictive interpretation that we need to take
09: 59: 40 25 a closer look at. ALCOSAN was created by the

1 JOHN STEPHEN

09: 59: 44 2 county in 1946 under the Municipality
09: 59: 47 3 Authorities Act to undertake a countywide
09: 59: 50 4 project for a prompt abatement, and quoted from
09: 59: 53 5 that charter, for a prompt abatement of the
09: 59: 57 6 pollution of the waters of the Commonwealth
09: 59: 59 7 caused by the currently existing practice of
10: 00: 01 8 discharge of sewage. That was in the '40s, but
10: 00: 05 9 that issue remains the need today.

10: 00: 08 10 Years of study and project proposals
10: 00: 10 11 and intermunicipal machinations during the
10: 00: 14 12 post-World War II era led to a city taking a
10: 00: 18 13 more active role in project finance and board
10: 00: 21 14 leadership, ALCOSAN board leadership through
10: 00: 23 15 approval of the projects Z agreement and
10: 00: 26 16 changes the project scope. Like other
10: 00: 28 17 agreements, project Z can be changed, if
10: 00: 32 18 necessary, to meet water quality standards and
10: 00: 34 19 laws. That is where we are today.

10: 00: 36 20 Years of study and project proposals
10: 00: 38 21 in the early 21st century have led us to this
10: 00: 41 22 tipping point where we, once again, must
10: 00: 43 23 redefine the administration for how we manage
10: 00: 46 24 wastewater. Admittedly it is actually the
10: 00: 48 25 ALCOSAN board and those that appoint those

1 JOHN STEPHEN

10:00:50 2 members that need to fully address this issue,
10:00:53 3 and I hope they are listening because they must
10:00:56 4 be part of the solution. ALCOSAN also seems
10:00:59 5 restricted by the finances, the cost of the
10:01:02 6 project, the cost of the bonds, and the need to
10:01:04 7 capture rates to pay off those bonds.

10:01:07 8 Again, since what matters is the
10:01:09 9 quality of our rivers and streams and limiting
10:01:12 10 the amount of concrete we put in them, we urge
10:01:14 11 you to study alternative distributive water
10:01:17 12 management, wastewater management techniques
10:01:19 13 that lessen the need to transport all of the
10:01:22 14 wastewater to a central treatment plant.

10:01:25 15 Maybe this makes it harder to
10:01:27 16 capture revenue needed to pay off multibillion
10:01:31 17 dollar bonds, but our rivers deserve these
10:01:33 18 efforts and the financial innovation to achieve
10:01:36 19 clean streams. Before we sink billions of
10:01:39 20 dollars into 12-foot pipes lining our rivers
10:01:42 21 and riverfronts, we ask that there be a
10:01:44 22 credible and intensive study of how to support
10:01:47 23 community scale efforts that can substantially
10:01:50 24 reduce the impact to our rivers with upstream
10:01:52 25 treatment. I am not proposing that we can

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JOHN STEPHEN

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eliminate all the pipes and all the downstream

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investment, but I am proposing that the gray

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intensive approach is an inflexible approach

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driven by habits in thinking and larger rules

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and regulations that can be changed.

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ALCOSAN reminded us often during the

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public discussion process that its authority

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only reaches to the collector pipes. And those

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pipelines are long. It takes a lot of water to

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wash waste through those pipes. Therefore, the

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system needs some stormwater. So water in the

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system is an essential ingredient, and water,

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the river is the receiver of the byproducts.

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Let's consider a different model, a model that

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would inquire that agencies and districts

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cooperate, that ALCOSAN evolves to efficiently

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serve the whole wastewater system, and that the

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infrastructure of Pittsburgh evolves towards a

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real sustainable future.

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Wastewater treatment has changed a

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lot in 20 years. There are amazing models of

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treatment plants, some being developed locally,

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that recycle everything and produce products

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that help ecosystems meet nutrient needs.

JOHN STEPHEN

1
10:03:01 2 ALCOSAN could be a leader at this critical time
10:03:03 3 and change the conversation. How about some of
10:03:06 4 the billions of funds being discussed going
10:03:09 5 towards new plants, state-of-the-art biological
10:03:12 6 plants, assets to districts. ALCOSAN could be
10:03:15 7 a national leader by evolving to manage a group
10:03:17 8 of smaller treatment plants, converting to
10:03:20 9 basically biological systems instead of just
10:03:23 10 larger pipes channeling water to an end plant.

10:03:27 11 While ALCOSAN transitions into a
10:03:30 12 whole system wastewater treatment utility, the
10:03:32 13 rest of Pittsburgh can begin to daylight and
10:03:35 14 reconnect their stream systems, capture
10:03:38 15 stormwaters, infiltrate everywhere, change the
10:03:40 16 roads, put up rain barrels, disconnect
10:03:43 17 downspouts, and design rain gardens.

10:03:45 18 Let's use this tipping point to put
10:03:46 19 an end to the end-of-the-pipe mentality. No
10:03:49 20 more excuses. We created public waste systems
10:03:51 21 to do what we could to treat our waters long
10:03:54 22 ago, but the game has changed, and our systems
10:03:57 23 must change, too. We are now partners with
10:04:00 24 nature, not the rulers of nature. Thank you
10:04:03 25 for the opportunity to submit our comments to

1 JOHN STEPHEN - DAN DEASY

10: 04: 06 2 the long-term control plan.

10: 04: 06 3 MS. BARYLAK: Thank you.

10: 04: 07 4 MR. TAMILIA: Thank you very
10: 04: 08 5 much.

10: 10: 25 6 MS. BARYLAK: Good morning.
10: 10: 29 7 Thank you for coming. I'm Nancy Barylak,
10: 10: 42 8 Manager of Public Relations, and Art Tamilia
10: 10: 44 9 you know is our Deputy Executive Director, and
10: 10: 44 10 we thank you for coming this morning. We want
10: 10: 46 11 you to state your name and your address for the
10: 10: 48 12 record and you spell your name, and you'll have
10: 10: 51 13 up to five minutes to give your testimony.

10: 10: 54 14 MR. DEASY: I'll try to be
10: 10: 56 15 brief.

10: 10: 57 16 MS. BARYLAK: Just stating
10: 10: 58 17 that for the record. But go ahead any time
10: 11: 00 18 you're ready for our stenographer.

10: 11: 03 19 MR. DEASY: Good morning. My
10: 11: 03 20 name is Dan Deasy, D-E-A-S-Y. Title, chairman,
10: 11: 07 21 Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, also a PA
10: 11: 10 22 state representative. And my address, home
10: 11: 12 23 address is 2093 Nobelstown Road, Pittsburgh, PA
10: 11: 16 24 15205. I have some brief remarks. I do
10: 11: 23 25 appreciate your time here today. First of all,

1 DAN DEASY

10: 11: 25 2 I want to thank you for all your hard work over
10: 11: 27 3 the past 10 years in this huge undertaking that
10: 11: 31 4 we have been forced to take upon. In my years
10: 11: 34 5 as a PWSA chairman and also as a board member,
10: 11: 38 6 we have always had a great working relationship
10: 11: 40 7 with ALCOSAN. Any time there's an issue that
10: 11: 43 8 concerns the both of us, we pick up the phone
10: 11: 45 9 and we work together on those issues. And I
10: 11: 48 10 thank ALCOSAN for that relationship, and I look
10: 11: 50 11 forward to continuing that in the future.

10: 11: 52 12 As the largest customer in the
10: 11: 54 13 ALCOSAN service area, PWSA, I feel it's
10: 11: 59 14 incumbent for me to come down here and make
10: 12: 01 15 some official comments for the record. Our
10: 12: 04 16 role at PWSA is to provide clean, safe drinking
10: 12: 05 17 water. We are always in support of protecting
10: 12: 07 18 the most valuable natural resource. We want
10: 12: 10 19 our water to be safe for drinking, recreation,
10: 12: 12 20 and aquatic life. We support efforts that will
10: 12: 15 21 reduce combined sewer overflows.

10: 12: 18 22 One concern we have is
10: 12: 19 23 affordability. The affordability of any plan
10: 12: 21 24 is our highest concern actually. The EPA's
10: 12: 26 25 criteria says that for a sewer bill, it should

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DAN DEASY

10: 12: 28

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be no more than 2 percent median household

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income. This criteria does not consider the

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water bill. Our customers pay a combined water

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and sewer bill each month. They don't care

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which line item it's coming from. They see one

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bill.

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PWSA has already had to make tough

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decisions based upon our own regulatory

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compliances, and our combined bill is already

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2.2 percent of Pittsburgh's household income.

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They simply can't afford to pay more. While we

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applaud ALCOSAN in advocating for the revised

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\$2 billion dollar plan, we feel this plan is

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still unaffordable to many of our residents.

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The lower cost ALCOSAN plan would cost -- the

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lower cost ALCOSAN plan would cost 2.3 percent

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of Pittsburgh median household income and

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double the current cost to our ratepayers.

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Another area we would like to focus

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is green solutions, and obviously, we recognize

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that ALCOSAN does not have the authority to

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require green infrastructure. ALCOSAN has done

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many things regarding green initiatives over

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the years, and we do hope, and we're confident

DAN DEASY

1
2 that you will do everything you can to
3 encourage green infrastructure here in the
4 city. So we are encouraged by that, and we
5 hope that you should make a review of a variety
6 of possibilities and recommend those best
7 practices that are reasonable for residences
8 and businesses in Allegheny County.

9 Another significant factor in the
10 plan is the economic vitality. There is
11 significant impacts on our entire community.
12 And PWSA would like to encourage ALCOSAN to
13 fully consider the economic impact on tourism
14 and businesses in the North Shore where the
15 proposed deep tunnel would be located.

16 A program of this magnitude would
17 require years of construction and associated
18 concerns that PWSA is already sensitive to and
19 long-term quality of life issues such as noise,
20 traffic, debris, and odor. ALCOSAN has
21 considered satellite plants. However, the cost
22 benefit needs to capture more than just the
23 tradeoff between the plants upstream and
24 expanding the facility. It must capture the
25 impact of some key businesses in Pittsburgh

1

DAN DEASY

10: 14: 40

2

that would be impacted by expanding tunnels.

10: 14: 42

3

Those include ALCOA, the Pirates, Steelers, and

10: 14: 48

4

Carnegie Science Center, et cetera. PWSA would

10: 14: 51

5

like to see ALCOSAN minimize the financial

10: 14: 53

6

impact on other agencies. The original \$3.6

10: 14: 57

7

billion dollar plan included municipal costs

10: 15: 01

8

estimated to be a half a billion dollars.

10: 15: 02

9

According to the EPA affordability rate, this

10: 15: 04

10

was also very expensive for ratepayers.

10: 15: 07

11

ALCOSAN reduced the cost by \$2

10: 15: 09

12

billion dollars by deferring components of

10: 15: 11

13

ALCOSAN facilities but none of the municipal

10: 15: 14

14

projects. A more effective way of attaining

10: 15: 17

15

affordability may be to defer components of the

10: 15: 20

16

municipal projects in municipalities where

10: 15: 22

17

affordability is harder to achieve. This would

10: 15: 26

18

have the same regional impact but would target

10: 15: 29

19

savings to community with less financial

10: 15: 31

20

resources.

10: 15: 33

21

ALCOSAN's \$2 billion dollar plan

10: 15: 35

22

eliminated facilities in Saw Mill Run that are

10: 15: 37

23

required to accommodate identified upstream

10: 15: 41

24

municipal improvements. This has created a

10: 15: 43

25

high degree of uncertainty in PWSA's planning

DAN DEASY

1
2 efforts and has the potential to further
3 increase costs to our customers.

4 In terms of rate structures, we know
5 that CSOs must be reduced. We support
6 obviously improving water quality in the
7 rivers. We would also like to see a rate
8 structure that considers the impact that this
9 plan has on city residents and businesses. By
10 the EPA's own measure, they can't afford even
11 the reduced plan. This will also have a
12 negative effect on business and quality-of-life
13 issues.

14 City residents bear the burden for
15 the entire region. A disproportionate amount
16 of ALCOSAN's regional facilities are located in
17 the City of Pittsburgh. Roughly 63 percent of
18 the service population and 81 percent of the
19 service area lie outside the City of
20 Pittsburgh. However, the preponderance of the
21 facilities that ALCOSAN has proposed lie within
22 the Pittsburgh city limits.

23 In closing, I want to thank ALCOSAN
24 for taking the time for listening to the
25 comments of the public and also look forward to

1

DAN DEASY

10: 16: 51

2

continuing the opportunity to work together

10: 16: 53

3

with ALCOSAN on the Wet Weather Plan. We

10: 16: 56

4

applaud all the time and effort put into the

10: 16: 59

5

plan and look forward to working with you to

10: 17: 02

6

continue to develop a plan that protects and

10: 17: 04

7

improves the environment in a way that its

10: 17: 07

8

affordable and does not disrupt Pittsburgh's

10: 17: 10

9

growing and increasing vibrant economy.

10: 17: 13

10

In closing, in my role as a state

10: 17: 14

11

representative, I look forward to working

10: 17: 16

12

together with you with our state, local, and

10: 17: 18

13

federal officials in looking and seeking any

10: 17: 22

14

funding opportunities that are out there to

10: 17: 24

15

implement this plan. So thank you very much.

10: 17: 26

16

MS. BARYLAK: Thank you.

10: 51: 45

17

Before you begin, I want to introduce

10: 51: 49

18

ourselves. I'm Nancy Barylak, Manager of

10: 51: 51

19

Public Relations. This is Art Tamilia. He is

10: 51: 53

20

our Deputy Executive Director and Director of

10: 51: 56

21

Environmental Compliance. We are taking your

10: 52: 00

22

comments for the record; the stenographer. So

10: 52: 03

23

we're going to ask you to give your name and

10: 52: 06

24

address and spell your name, please, and you

10: 52: 08

25

will have up to five minutes to give your

1

SCOTT PITZ

10: 52: 09

2

testimony. And you can begin at any time.

10: 52: 13

3

MR. PITZ: Thank you for

10: 52: 14

4

having us here today. My name is Scott Pitz of

10: 52: 17

5

the Kingsley Association. I live at 609 North

10: 52: 20

6

Beaty Street in Pittsburgh. Zip, 15206. With

10: 52: 20

7

me today I have --

10: 52: 20

8

THE COURT REPORTER: Can you

10: 52: 20

9

spell your name for me, sir?

10: 52: 27

10

MR. PITZ: P-I-T-Z. With me

10: 52: 31

11

are Juan Castellanos and Carla Boyd of the

10: 52: 31

12

Kingsley Association.

10: 52: 31

13

THE COURT REPORTER: Can you

10: 52: 31

14

spell their names?

10: 52: 38

15

MR. PITZ: Yes. Juan is

10: 52: 39

16

C-A-S-T-E-L-L-A-N-O-S. And Carla Boyd,

10: 52: 46

17

B-O-Y-D. And Ms. Donna Jackson of the Larimer

10: 52: 50

18

Consensus Group and the Larimer Green Team.

10: 52: 53

19

MS. BARYLAK: Welcome.

10: 52: 55

20

MR. PITZ: Thank you. It's a

10: 52: 56

21

pleasure to be here. As you know, the Kingsley

10: 52: 58

22

Association sits in Larimer, and we're partners

10: 53: 01

23

with the citizens of Larimer in a redevelopment

10: 53: 04

24

scheme going on there and its grass routes

10: 53: 07

25

redevelopment scheme headed up by the Larimer

1

SCOTT PITZ

10: 53: 10

2

Consensus Group and various action teams

10: 53: 13

3

including the Green Team. With us today is

10: 53: 15

4

Ms. Donna. She's a citizen of Larimer. And

10: 53: 18

5

those citizens have put tens of thousands of

10: 53: 22

6

hours into a master plan development. And now

10: 53: 26

7

we have moved on, and we have been looking at

10: 53: 29

8

stormwater management systems. We have

10: 53: 31

9

actually hired a company as a partner who has

10: 53: 34

10

done a GIS map of the neighborhood. We have

10: 53: 38

11

drainage patterns. We have pooling locations.

10: 53: 41

12

The Larimer Green Team has built one

10: 53: 43

13

rain garden that drains a lot in a large

10: 53: 46

14

commercial building at this point. We're

10: 53: 50

15

putting in a variety of bioswales. And on the

10: 53: 54

16

corner of East Liberty and Larimer Boulevard,

10: 53: 57

17

if you haven't been there, there's a new

10: 53: 59

18

environmental site called the EECO Center, and

10: 54: 01

19

they have actually put in a large pilot street

10: 54: 04

20

drainage retention system.

10: 54: 06

21

So what we're really trying to do in

10: 54: 09

22

Larimer is pilot community sustainability

10: 54: 14

23

driven from the bottom up. And the reason

10: 54: 17

24

we're doing that is Larimer is a

10: 54: 21

25

disenfranchised community, and we want to

1

SCOTT PITZ

10: 54: 23

2

create community level scaleable solutions to

10: 54: 26

3

stormwater management that puts the citizens at

10: 54: 29

4

the center of it so they can be educated, that

10: 54: 31

5

they can go back out to their neighbors and

10: 54: 34

6

educate them as to what green sustainable

10: 54: 37

7

practices look like, but more importantly, to

10: 54: 40

8

raise the skill levels and to train and provide

10: 54: 43

9

vocational opportunity for the residents in the

10: 54: 45

10

neighborhood.

10: 54: 46

11

So we come before you seeking

10: 54: 48

12

collaboration and hope that the solution to

10: 54: 51

13

this major civil works project isn't just pipes

10: 54: 56

14

and valves, but that it's working with local

10: 54: 59

15

communities, especially disenfranchised

10: 55: 03

16

communities where an opportunity like this

10: 55: 05

17

could be a once-in-a-generation event, because

10: 55: 08

18

we know these systems are planned over

10: 55: 10

19

centuries and not years and decades.

10: 55: 12

20

So it's a once-in-a-generation

10: 55: 14

21

event, an opportunity for the Larimer community

10: 55: 17

22

and Kingsley Association to develop skills and

10: 55: 20

23

probably most importantly to put citizens in

10: 55: 23

24

the center of the process in a democratic

10: 55: 27

25

regime where experts come and advise and

1 SCOTT PITZ - MARTHA ISLER

10: 55: 29 2 partner with citizens to take care of their own
10: 55: 32 3 community. So that's basically what I have to
10: 55: 35 4 say. We're excited to be here. We're thankful
10: 55: 38 5 for the opportunity, and good luck to you all.

10: 55: 40 6 MS. BARYLAK: Thank you very
10: 55: 41 7 much. Before we begin, my name is Nancy
10: 56: 58 8 Barylak. I'm Manager of Public Relations.
10: 56: 59 9 This is Arthur Tamilya. He is the Deputy
10: 57: 01 10 Executive Director and Director of
10: 57: 03 11 Environmental Compliance. We want to capture
10: 57: 06 12 your information for the record. So we're
10: 57: 08 13 going to ask you to give your name, and if
10: 57: 11 14 you'll spell it, and your address, and then
10: 57: 13 15 you'll have up to five minutes to give your
10: 57: 16 16 comments.

10: 57: 17 17 MS. ISLER: Thank you very
10: 57: 17 18 much, and thank you for the opportunity to
10: 57: 19 19 comment on the ALCOSAN draft plan to improve
10: 57: 21 20 water quality in our area. My name is Martha
10: 57: 26 21 Isler. That's I-S-L-E-R. I reside at 5655
10: 57: 31 22 Darlington Road, City of Pittsburgh. I'm Chair
10: 57: 33 23 of the Pittsburgh City Shade Tree Commission, a
10: 57: 36 24 quasi-governmental entity that is charged with
10: 57: 39 25 restoring and maintaining the city's tree

1

MARTHA ISLER

10: 57: 42

2

population. I am also a founding and current

10: 57: 44

3

board member of the nonprofit Tree Pittsburgh

10: 57: 47

4

with a mission to protect and grow the urban

10: 57: 50

5

forest.

10: 57: 51

6

These two organizations have serious

10: 57: 53

7

concerns about the plan that ALCOSAN intends to

10: 57: 56

8

submit to the EPA in January. We see it as

10: 58: 00

9

based on old thinking about how to manage rain.

10: 58: 03

10

We need to take a long view, we believe, and

10: 58: 06

11

consider our next generation. We believe that

10: 58: 08

12

we have the resources in this region to figure

10: 58: 11

13

this out.

10: 58: 13

14

You all probably know that trees are

10: 58: 15

15

mini reservoirs controlling runoff at the

10: 58: 18

16

source. It is a fact that trees intercept

10: 58: 22

17

rainfall and help to reduce the amount of

10: 58: 24

18

stormwater that runs into storm drains helping

10: 58: 27

19

to lessen the burden of our combined sewer

10: 58: 30

20

overflow system. This is especially important

10: 58: 32

21

in an urban setting with a significant quantity

10: 58: 35

22

of impervious surfaces in such close proximity

10: 58: 41

23

to our Three Rivers. Our healthy urban trees

10: 58: 43

24

can reduce the amount of runoff and pollutant

10: 58: 47

25

loading in receiving waters in three primary

MARTHA ISLER

ways.

No. 1, leaves and branch surfaces intercept and store rainfall, thereby reducing runoff volumes and delaying the onset of peak flows. No. 2, root growth and decomposition increase the capacity and rate of soil infiltration by rainfall and reduce the overall flow. And No. 3, tree canopies reduce soil erosion and surface transport by diminishing the impact of raindrops on barren surfaces.

According to an analysis commissioned by Tree Pittsburgh in 2008, the city's approximate 30,000 street trees alone intercepted 41.8 million gallons of stormwater annually, for an average of just over 1,400 gallons per tree. These figures are calculated using a model developed by the USDA Forest Service, a model that's been tested time and time again and which serves as a standard -- the scientific standard across the nation. We didn't make this up, honestly.

I'm providing this background because the Shade Tree Commission and Tree Pittsburgh both advocate for green

MARTHA ISLER

1
11:00:00 2 infrastructure as a viable and smart compliment
11:00:02 3 to any gray plan that's proposed to improve
11:00:05 4 water quality by reducing stormwater runoff.
11:00:09 5 Trees provide additional social, economic,
11:00:12 6 health, and environmental benefits to city
11:00:15 7 residents that the gray infrastructure
11:00:17 8 solutions obviously cannot.

11:00:20 9 The gray plan indicates that we will
11:00:21 10 be investing only in old thinking traditional
11:00:25 11 sewer solutions such as large pipes,
11:00:27 12 underground storage tunnels, and treatment
11:00:30 13 facilities, and even this investment of
11:00:32 14 billions won't solve our problem long term.
11:00:35 15 It's interesting when I've heard, since I
11:00:38 16 agreed to come and testify, everyone has said,
11:00:40 17 really there's nothing that can be done. I
11:00:43 18 have heard this over and over. ALCOSAN treats
11:00:44 19 sewage for 83 municipalities, and they can't
11:00:47 20 control what municipalities do. Okay. I
11:00:51 21 understand that. But in a way, government
11:00:53 22 regulatory environment, in any government
11:00:57 23 regulatory environment, quasi-governmental,
11:01:00 24 business and in life, there are consequences
11:01:02 25 for actions.

1

MARTHA ISLER

11:01:03

2

I would like to question that if

11:01:05

3

municipalities refuse to capture and filter

11:01:08

4

runoff before it enters the sewer system or

11:01:10

5

refuse to institute green infrastructure

11:01:12

6

including both natural and constructed systems,

11:01:15

7

then charge them more. The fees should reflect

11:01:19

8

the adverse impact on our clean water. That's

11:01:21

9

only logical, isn't it? Where are the

11:01:24

10

proposals to increase fees to those who cause

11:01:26

11

the problem? I think that's what all residents

11:01:29

12

and citizens should be asking. Where is the

11:01:32

13

new thinking that proposes incentives for malls

11:01:36

14

and parking lots to do the right thing?

11:01:38

15

We know that roof gardens on these

11:01:41

16

huge mall complexes and huge big boxes would

11:01:44

17

help. Where are the proposals to decrease fees

11:01:47

18

to those who are trying to reduce their

11:01:50

19

stormwater footprint, to actually solve the

11:01:53

20

problem rather than push it down the road? Why

11:01:55

21

can't we work with municipal clients to achieve

11:01:58

22

a sustainable solution? And why do we all have

11:02:02

23

to pay for the environmentally hazardous

11:02:05

24

practices of some? We shouldn't.

11:02:07

25

That's why we ask that you consider

1 MARTHA ISLER - DONNA JACKSON

11:02:09 2 the positive impact and benefits to the
11:02:12 3 community when green alternatives, green roofs,
11:02:15 4 rain gardens, trees, permeable pavement, rain
11:02:18 5 barrels, just to name a few, are employed. As
11:02:21 6 a community, we cannot give up on this unique
11:02:23 7 opportunity to make a lasting impact.

11:02:25 8 Tree Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh
11:02:27 9 Shade Tree Commission are ready and willing to
11:02:29 10 work cooperatively with ALCOSAN to help them
11:02:32 11 develop and implement a greener plan. We have
11:02:35 12 experts on both our boards and on our
11:02:38 13 commission.

11:02:38 14 In conclusion, one thing we know for
11:02:40 15 sure, we're going to see significant rate
11:02:42 16 increases. Why not have at least some of our
11:02:45 17 money go green and work on our behalf and
11:02:50 18 behalf of generations to come? Thank you again
11:02:53 19 for this opportunity to comment.

11:02:55 20 MS. BARYLAK: And thank you
11:02:56 21 for attending. We appreciate that.

11:04:04 22 MS. JACKSON: Can I add one
11:04:05 23 thing?

11:04:05 24 MS. BARYLAK: Yes. Give your
11:04:09 25 name and spell that out and your address.

1

DONNA JACKSON

11: 04: 11 2

MS. JACKSON: My name is

11: 04: 11 3

Donna, D-O-N-N-A, Jackson, J-A-C-K-S-O-N, the

11: 04: 16 4

secretary for the Larimer Consensus Group and

11: 04: 19 5

the cocaptain for the Larimer Green Team. I

11: 04: 22 6

just wanted to ask something that Scott said.

11: 04: 24 7

With the new development that's happening in

11: 04: 26 8

Larimer, we really want to address the

11: 04: 28 9

stormwater that's going on because there's a

11: 04: 30 10

lot of sewage problems that was brought to our

11: 04: 34 11

attention from the community.

11: 04: 35 12

So that's our biggest interest is to

11: 04: 37 13

educate us along with educating the people as

11: 04: 41 14

far as how do we manage the stormwater within

11: 04: 44 15

the new developments that are going on.

11: 04: 47 16

MS. BARYLAK: Great. Thank

11: 04: 48 17

you very much. My name is Nancy Barylak. I'm

11: 37: 54 18

Manager of Public Relations. This is Arthur

11: 37: 57 19

Tamilia, Deputy Executive Director and Director

11: 37: 59 20

of Environmental Compliance. Because we're

11: 38: 01 21

keeping this for the record, we're going to ask

11: 38: 03 22

you to state your name and address and spell

11: 38: 05 23

your name, please, and you have up to five

11: 38: 07 24

minutes to give your testimony. You can start

11: 38: 11 25

any time.

1

PAUL SUTER

11: 38: 12 2

MR. STEPHEN: My name is Paul

11: 38: 16 3

Suter, S-U-T-E-R, and I'm from McKees Rocks,

11: 38: 21 4

Pennsylvania, and I have property in McKees

11: 38: 24 5

Rocks. I also have property in Robinson

11: 38: 25 6

Township and the City of Pittsburgh. The

11: 38: 26 7

reason I'm stopping in to leave a comment is

11: 38: 31 8

because, in fact, I own property, and all my

11: 38: 34 9

property happens to sit within the footprint of

11: 38: 38 10

ALCOSAN's service area.

11: 38: 39 11

And my concern is, in fact, not only

11: 38: 42 12

this year, but the next 10 or 15 years the fact

11: 38: 46 13

of the burden that this tunnel as well and, in

11: 38: 51 14

fact, this gray infrastructure is going to put

11: 38: 53 15

on the value of my properties. And I'm not

11: 38: 55 16

quite sure if the citizenry and the service

11: 39: 00 17

area that ALCOSAN represents understands the

11: 39: 03 18

impact that it's going to have in regards to,

11: 39: 06 19

in fact, their personal properties, or their

11: 39: 06 20

real estate properties. Let's put it that way.

11: 39: 08 21

Because I have a feeling once this

11: 39: 10 22

gets up and running, no matter how cost-

11: 39: 13 23

effective it is, no matter how prudently it's

11: 39: 18 24

installed, no matter how craftsmanship-like

11: 39: 22 25

it's developed, none of it's going to happen at

1

PAUL SUTER

11: 39: 26

2

the benefit of the community. It's all going

11: 39: 27

3

to be a cost burden that exceeds anybody's

11: 39: 30

4

anticipation of the bottom line.

11: 39: 31

5

That stated, my concerns are, in

11: 39: 34

6

fact, when you go to sell your piece of

11: 39: 36

7

property, because, you know, you're 70 years

11: 39: 39

8

old, there's not enough blight within the

11: 39: 41

9

neighborhood to contend with. Now you have to

11: 39: 43

10

contend with a piece of property that's

11: 39: 45

11

actually in ALCOSAN's footprint. And the value

11: 39: 47

12

of the property dealing with its service

11: 39: 50

13

contribution on a monthly basis and on a yearly

11: 39: 52

14

basis is going to be phenomenal in regards to

11: 39: 56

15

you, in fact, getting your bottom dollar out of

11: 39: 58

16

the property you paid for dearly over the

11: 40: 00

17

course of time, maintained your lifetime, over

11: 40: 02

18

the course of your lifetime, and really kind of

11: 40: 06

19

were hoping to use it as maybe, in fact, your

11: 40: 08

20

retirement fund.

11: 40: 09

21

So my concerns are, in fact, this

11: 40: 11

22

escalating -- potential escalating cost of, in

11: 40: 15

23

fact, the service that's going to be imposed on

11: 40: 17

24

all the property owners. And so let me get to

11: 40: 23

25

the other aspect of this which is, in fact, you

1

PAUL SUTER

11: 40: 25 2 know, my concerns the fact that this is already
11: 40: 28 3 maybe a little bit too far downstream in
11: 40: 31 4 regards to, in fact, the engineering, the
11: 40: 33 5 tunnel development, and the gray infrastructure
11: 40: 35 6 that's already been committed to some degree.

11: 40: 37 7 I understand that this project has
11: 40: 38 8 been on the drawing board since 1997, where, in
11: 40: 42 9 fact, maybe at that particular point in time
11: 40: 44 10 the citizenry should have been noted -- at
11: 40: 47 11 least noticed, in fact, this was on the
11: 40: 49 12 schedule, and the possible implementation and
11: 40: 52 13 cost factors related to all this since 1997 to
11: 40: 56 14 this current date.

11: 40: 58 15 I wasn't aware of it, you know, in
11: 41: 00 16 regards to when this all became a decree from
11: 41: 04 17 the court, when this all became a problem on
11: 41: 06 18 the horizon. Whether it was fogged in or
11: 41: 09 19 fogged over, or I wasn't paying attention, it's
11: 41: 11 20 probably all a little of the three. The fact
11: 41: 13 21 of the matter is that I think being that that
11: 41: 15 22 is stated, I want to state that, in fact, that
11: 41: 19 23 I think, you know, the green infrastructure
11: 41: 23 24 is -- excuse me -- one of those things where,
11: 41: 25 25 in fact, it hasn't been taken into

1

PAUL SUTER

11: 41: 27

2

consideration. I think this whole ship has

11: 41: 29

3

been sailed, built, designed, going backwards

11: 41: 32

4

as opposed to going frontwards in regards to --

11: 41: 37

5

excuse me.

11: 41: 37

6

MS. BARYLAK: I apologize.

11: 41: 39

7

MR. STEPHEN: Has been all

11: 41: 40

8

been designed in the gray water aspect. That's

11: 41: 44

9

what really bothers me. In fact, none of this

11: 41: 47

10

commonsense approach, or more commonsense

11: 41: 51

11

approach has been taken into consideration

11: 41: 52

12

probably because, in fact, it was created or

11: 41: 54

13

seen so far back on the horizon as opposed to a

11: 42: 00

14

current basis.

11: 42: 00

15

So I want to understand that

11: 42: 02

16

ALCOSAN -- I want to believe that ALCOSAN is an

11: 42: 07

17

advocate for the ratepayers of Allegheny

11: 42: 09

18

County, or more particularly, you know, within

11: 42: 11

19

the footprint of their service area. And I'm

11: 42: 13

20

not sensing that in some degree. I'm sensing,

11: 42: 16

21

in fact, they are just a conveyor of, in fact,

11: 42: 18

22

the service. They can give, you know, two

11: 42: 21

23

cents whether, in fact, it's actually part of,

11: 42: 23

24

in fact, their responsibility or, in fact,

11: 42: 26

25

whether it's water off their back much like a

1

PAUL SUTER

11: 42: 29

2

duck. I believe, in fact, that -- I wish it

11: 42: 33

3

was one way where, in fact, we knew that they

11: 42: 36

4

were in our corner, they were advocates for the

11: 42: 38

5

ratepayers.

11: 42: 38

6

And, in fact, if we told them that

11: 42: 40

7

we don't want to go along with the program of

11: 42: 42

8

tunnel development, you know, of this gray

11: 42: 44

9

water mass infrastructure, you know, concept,

11: 42: 49

10

that they would go to the EPA and say, sorry,

11: 42: 53

11

our ratepayers don't want to go along with it,

11: 42: 55

12

they feel strongly that, in fact, whatever you

11: 42: 57

13

might discern as far as punishment goes against

11: 43: 00

14

the ratepayers that they're willing to ante up.

11: 43: 03

15

And maybe in the interim, we could actually

11: 43: 07

16

take a serious look at the concept of the green

11: 43: 10

17

infrastructures.

11: 43: 11

18

I know we have 93 communities out

11: 43: 13

19

there -- 83 communities out there that

11: 43: 15

20

represent their service commitment to ALCOSAN.

11: 43: 16

21

And being such, I think that -- I know you have

11: 43: 19

22

talked to 83 of them in some regard and have

11: 43: 22

23

advocates as service coordinators in each of

11: 43: 25

24

those boroughs or communities or developments.

11: 43: 27

25

And I want to understand that maybe, in fact,

1

PAUL SUTER

11: 43: 29

2

they are our advocates, but I have a sense

11: 43: 32

3

they're not advocates either. They're just

11: 43: 35

4

part of, in fact, the long arm of the service

11: 43: 37

5

system which is ALCOSAN.

11: 43: 41

6

So in closing, which I think I might

11: 43: 43

7

have like 30 seconds left, I would like to

11: 43: 45

8

state that, in fact, you know I think this

11: 43: 47

9

whole thing should be reinvestigated. It

11: 43: 49

10

should be redesigned. It should be

11: 43: 51

11

reconsidered, redeveloped for the new year,

11: 43: 55

12

for, you know, from 2012 and going forward as

11: 43: 59

13

opposed to looking back and resting on the

11: 44: 02

14

laurels of, in fact, all the service or work

11: 44: 04

15

that's been put into it already, because I have

11: 44: 07

16

a feeling that that work doesn't include other

11: 44: 12

17

solutions in regards to the bottom line. I

11: 44: 14

18

want to thank you for listening.

11: 44: 16

19

MS. BARYLAK: Thank you.

11: 44: 58

20

MR. TAMILIA: I am Art

11: 45: 02

21

Tamilia, Deputy Executive Director. We ask

11: 45: 05

22

that you state your name, your address, and if

11: 45: 11

23

you represent an organization, give us the name

11: 45: 14

24

of your organization, and for our court

11: 45: 20

25

reporter here, if you would spell your name, we

1 TERRI SUPOWITZ

11: 45: 23 2 would appreciate that.

11: 45: 25 3 MS. SUPOWITZ: My name is
11: 45: 26 4 Terri, T-E-R-R-I, Supowitz, S as in Sam,
11: 45: 30 5 U-P-O-W-I-T-Z. I live in Wilkinsburg. I'm not
11: 45: 36 6 here representing any organization other than
11: 45: 39 7 myself and my concern about what you're doing
11: 45: 43 8 because I'm part of the system.

11: 45: 45 9 MR. TAMILIA: Right.

11: 45: 48 10 MS. SUPOWITZ: I have a really
11: 45: 49 11 basic question. Why wouldn't ALCOSAN want to
11: 45: 51 12 go green?

11: 45: 57 13 MS. BARYLAK: Is this part of
11: 45: 58 14 testimony?

11: 46: 00 15 MS. SUPOWITZ: Yes.

11: 46: 00 16 MS. BARYLAK: Because we're
11: 46: 01 17 not -- this is not a question-and-answer. This
11: 46: 04 18 is you giving testimony.

11: 46: 07 19 MS. SUPOWITZ: Oh, okay.
11: 46: 08 20 Well, I'll ask the question again. Why
11: 46: 10 21 wouldn't ALCOSAN want to go green? I mean,
11: 46: 14 22 it's a really basic question. I'm not -- I
11: 46: 17 23 admit I'm not very well informed about the
11: 46: 19 24 whole thing, but my sense is that some
11: 46: 23 25 corporations already have said, we want this

1 TERRI SUPOWITZ

11: 46: 27 2 contract, we want to do this, and they're going
11: 46: 30 3 to be making lots of money. So the money goes
11: 46: 34 4 to a few companies, and the citizens of the
11: 46: 38 5 area have to pick up the tab, and that's just a
11: 46: 42 6 really old, old story.

11: 46: 47 7 MS. BARYLAK: Again, we're not
11: 46: 48 8 doing a give-and-take until you're done. Are
11: 46: 52 9 you done with your testimony?

11: 46: 53 10 MS. SUPOWITZ: I guess so,
11: 53: 37 11 yeah.

11: 53: 37 12 MR. TAMILIA: I'm Arthur
11: 53: 38 13 Tamilia. I'm the Deputy Executive Director of
11: 53: 41 14 ALCOSAN and the Director of Environmental
11: 53: 43 15 Compliance. With me I have Arletta Williams
11: 53: 45 16 our Executive Director. For the record, if
11: 53: 48 17 you're giving testimony, please provide your
11: 53: 51 18 name and address --

11: 53: 56 19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak up.
11: 53: 57 20 Can't hear you.

11: 53: 57 21 MR. TAMILIA: If you are
11: 54: 02 22 testifying this morning, again, I am Arthur
11: 54: 04 23 Tamilia, Deputy Executive Director and Director
11: 54: 06 24 of Environmental Compliance. This is Arletta
11: 54: 09 25 Williams, our Executive Director. When you

1 REVEREND RICHARD FREEMAN

11: 54: 11 2 come up --

11: 54: 13 3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good

11: 54: 13 4 morning.

11: 54: 15 5 MR. TAMILIA: Good morning.

11: 54: 15 6 When you come to give testimony, we ask that

11: 54: 19 7 you give your name and address, state the

11: 54: 22 8 organization that you represent, if you are

11: 54: 24 9 representing an organization. Please tell your

11: 54: 28 10 name for our court reporter. This testimony is

11: 54: 31 11 being recorded and will be included in our

11: 54: 35 12 submission to the EPA. If I hadn't mentioned

11: 54: 41 13 it, please spell your name. And we're limiting

11: 54: 44 14 comment to five minutes. You're on.

11: 54: 53 15 REVEREND FREEMAN: Good

11: 54: 53 16 morning. My name is The Reverend Richard,

11: 54: 57 17 R-I-C-H-A-R-D, Freeman, F-R-E-E-M-A-N. I am

11: 55: 02 18 the Pastor of the Resurrection Baptist Church

11: 55: 06 19 in Braddock, Pennsylvania, and I'm the

11: 55: 08 20 President of the Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact

11: 55: 12 21 Network. We represent over 50 congregations

11: 55: 15 22 and organizations who represents literally tens

11: 55: 18 23 of thousands of rateholders that are serviced

11: 55: 22 24 by ALCOSAN. We are here today to demand that

11: 55: 25 25 we look at the solutions that best address the

1 REVEREND RICHARD FREEMAN

11: 55: 29 2 needs and concerns of our constituency. We
11: 55: 32 3 believe that includes green solutions. Many
11: 55: 36 4 municipalities in the country have already
11: 55: 38 5 utilized those types of solutions including
11: 55: 42 6 Cleveland. And I kind of believe if Cleveland
11: 55: 46 7 can do it, Pennsylvania can do it, Pittsburgh
11: 55: 48 8 can do it. There's nothing Cleveland has ever
11: 55: 50 9 done that we can't do better. We represent --

11: 55: 50 10 (Applause.)

11: 55: 56 11 REVEREND FREEMAN: Amen. We
11: 55: 56 12 represent faith. We represent labor. We
11: 55: 59 13 represent environmental groups, communities.
11: 56: 01 14 We represent everybody that works and lives in
11: 56: 04 15 Allegheny County. These communities, our
11: 56: 07 16 communities need solutions that move forward
11: 56: 10 17 into the 21st Century in a powerful way.

11: 56: 14 18 I sit here as president of PIIN to
11: 56: 16 19 advocate that the solutions must include green.
11: 56: 20 20 When I think about the problems that we have, I
11: 56: 22 21 share with my colleagues and I continue to
11: 56: 24 22 passionately share. When I look at these
11: 56: 28 23 problems, I don't want them to be around when
11: 56: 30 24 my grandson matures. He's currently two and a
11: 56: 33 25 half years old. We have been working on this

1 REVEREND RICHARD FREEMAN

11: 56: 36 2 now since the '90s. I don't want it to be
11: 56: 39 3 around when he comes around. And I hope that
11: 56: 41 4 we would put forth the energy that's necessary
11: 56: 44 5 to make sure that the green solutions are
11: 56: 47 6 solutions that reduce price, that improve our
11: 56: 51 7 communities, improve our neighborhoods, and
11: 56: 54 8 make our community better.

11: 56: 56 9 Our rivers are very powerful places
11: 56: 58 10 for us. They are very beautiful. We love
11: 57: 01 11 them. We think they're a great asset. Now, we
11: 57: 04 12 need to make them more usable. The current
11: 57: 07 13 situation is just untenable. Many days during
11: 57: 10 14 the summer our waterways cannot be used. Last
11: 57: 14 15 night as president of PIIN, I'm deeply proud to
11: 57: 18 16 host a public action meeting where our county
11: 57: 21 17 executive, Rich Fitzgerald came, and he pledged
11: 57: 25 18 to us that he would lead the way in forming a
11: 57: 28 19 green response to this problem. And I'm
11: 57: 31 20 grateful that he is taking the leadership --
11: 57: 33 21 willing to take the leadership role on this
11: 57: 36 22 issue.

11: 57: 36 23 I think fervently that green is the
11: 57: 39 24 best answer. I believe that other communities
11: 57: 41 25 have done it. Milwaukee has done it.

1 REVEREND RICHARD FREEMAN - BARNEY OURSLER

11: 57: 43 2 Philadelphia has done it. Cleveland is doing
11: 57: 46 3 it. We can get it done. And so I'm here to
11: 57: 49 4 advocate with you that we can make these
11: 57: 53 5 solutions happen.

11: 57: 53 6 I read in the article that we have
11: 57: 55 7 been -- ALCOSAN has said that we cannot force
11: 57: 58 8 municipalities to do anything. And I could not
11: 58: 00 9 agree more. We're not talking about forcing.
11: 58: 03 10 We're talking about partnering. I think we
11: 58: 05 11 have some leadership here from municipalities
11: 58: 07 12 who are willing to sit down with us to partner,
11: 58: 10 13 to make sure that the solution meets the
11: 58: 13 14 challenge of the 21st Century.

11: 58: 17 15 As a Baptist preacher, I can talk
11: 58: 18 16 all day. So I'm going to get on out of the way
11: 58: 20 17 and ask that you listen to the testimony of
11: 58: 23 18 others who are here to advocate that green is
11: 58: 27 19 the way to go. Thank you so, so much.

11: 58: 27 20 (Applause.)

11: 58: 27 21 (At this juncture, there was a
11: 58: 27 22 change of court reporters.)

11: 58: 08 23 MR. OURSLER: Good morning.
11: 58: 08 24 My name is Barney Oursler. I'm Executive
11: 58: 10 25 Director of Pittsburgh United. Our offices are

1 BARNEY OURSLER

11: 58: 12 2 located at 841 California Avenue, Pittsburgh
11: 58: 16 3 15212. Pittsburgh United coordinates The Clean
11: 58: 20 4 Rivers Campaign. We are here as the public
11: 58: 20 5 comment period comes to an end to give voice to
11: 58: 26 6 solutions that have not been fully explored,
11: 58: 26 7 green solutions, that will not only help to
11: 58: 30 8 solve our sewer problem, but also bring our
11: 58: 32 9 communities the family-sustaining jobs,
11: 58: 34 10 revitalized business districts, higher property
11: 58: 38 11 values, reduced flooding, improved air quality,
11: 58: 42 12 many, many, many benefits that will make our
11: 58: 46 13 neighborhoods better.

11: 58: 46 14 We know that we must spend billions
11: 58: 48 15 of dollars to clean our waterways and stop raw
11: 58: 50 16 sewage from flowing into our rivers, but we
11: 58: 54 17 believe that that investment should buy a
11: 58: 56 18 cleaner, greener, more sustainable Pittsburgh,
11: 58: 58 19 one that we are proud to leave for future
11: 59: 02 20 generations.

11: 59: 02 21 Throughout the public comment period
11: 59: 04 22 we've thanked ALCOSAN for its hard work in
11: 59: 06 23 putting together a plan. We've acknowledged
11: 59: 10 24 that green solutions alone cannot fix 100
11: 59: 12 25 percent of our sewer problem. We are grateful

1

BARNEY OURSLER

11: 59: 14

2

that ALCOSAN and the municipalities are making

11: 59: 18

3

our updates and are making our sewer system

11: 59: 20

4

work more effectively, but throughout the same

11: 59: 24

5

public comment period we've been met with

11: 59: 26

6

excuses, outdated and ineffective solutions,

11: 59: 28

7

and a rigid, unbending mentality that has done

11: 59: 32

8

nothing to address ratepayers' overwhelming

11: 59: 34

9

call for beneficial and more affordable green

11: 59: 38

10

solutions.

11: 59: 38

11

Throughout the public comment period

11: 59: 40

12

Ms. Williams, the Executive Director of

11: 59: 42

13

ALCOSAN, has referred to this plan as, "This is

11: 59: 46

14

my plan." But the truth is it's our plan.

11: 59: 50

15

Every ratepayer, each one of us has a stake in

11: 59: 52

16

this plan. We will pay for it and we will be

11: 59: 56

17

responsible for the future we leave to our

11: 59: 58

18

children and grandchildren.

12: 00: 02

19

Despite the comments of detractors

12: 00: 02

20

that say the Clean Rivers Campaign isn't real

12: 00: 06

21

people, we are here today with almost 200 real

12: 00: 08

22

people. More than 50 organizations.

12: 00: 12

23

(Applause.)

12: 00: 12

24

MR. OURSLER: More than 50

12: 00: 20

25

organizations and businesses representing

1 BARNEY OURSLER

12:00:22 2 thousands of people and more than 800
12:00:24 3 individuals have officially endorsed this
12:00:28 4 Campaign. We've done workshops in our
12:00:30 5 communities. We've knocked on doors. We've
12:00:32 6 spoken in our places of worship. We've called
12:00:34 7 our members and spoken to our neighbors. And
12:00:36 8 we've attended every public comment meeting.
12:00:40 9 That is community outreach. That is engaging
12:00:42 10 the public.

12:00:42 11 The Clean Rivers Campaign is made up
12:00:46 12 of average unorganized citizens who've gotten
12:00:48 13 organized and come together because we share
12:00:50 14 the same values and vision for our region.
12:00:52 15 That vision is that green investments should be
12:00:54 16 the first priority as we create a plan to solve
12:00:58 17 the sewer problem.

12:01:00 18 Cities and regions around the
12:01:02 19 Country are tackling these same sewer
12:01:06 20 challenges. Sewer authorities like ALCOSAN and
12:01:06 21 places -- you've heard them before listed --
12:01:08 22 are taking real responsibility for reducing
12:01:12 23 flow with green infrastructure. Like ALCOSAN
12:01:14 24 some of these municipalities don't own the land
12:01:16 25 where installation must occur. Some have steep

BARNEY OURSLER

1
12:01:20 2 slopes, some have clay soils, some have
12:01:24 3 increasingly heavy rain, some have brown
12:01:26 4 fields, some have all of the above. But rather
12:01:28 5 than viewing these as roadblocks or excuses,
12:01:30 6 they're considered to be challenges to be met
12:01:34 7 and overcome with cooperation and ingenuity and
12:01:38 8 the political will to make visionary choices.

12:01:40 9 Therefore, we call on the leaders
12:01:42 10 and staff and the Board of ALCOSAN to fully
12:01:44 11 study, explore, and prioritize green
12:01:48 12 infrastructure solution before gray pipes and
12:01:50 13 tunnels. We ask that you heed our appeal to
12:01:52 14 learn from the best technologies that cities
12:01:56 15 around the Country and around the world have to
12:01:56 16 offer and we demand the visionary thinking that
12:02:00 17 will fix our sewer problem and bring the most
12:02:02 18 benefit to our communities. The future of our
12:02:04 19 region depends on it. Thank you.

12:02:16 20 One last thing. I did want to share
12:02:18 21 an opinion from the Pitt Environmental Law
12:02:20 22 Clinic that says that ALCOSAN can spend its
12:02:22 23 money that it raises through rate increases to
12:02:28 24 help municipalities afford their investments.
12:02:32 25 Thank you.

1 CHARLES MARTONI

12: 02: 32 2 MR. MARTONI: Thank you. My
12: 02: 48 3 name is Charles Martoni, M-A-R-T-O-N-I. I am a
12: 02: 48 4 member of the Allegheny County Council and I'm
12: 02: 52 5 here to try to make some relevant points.

12: 02: 54 6 Okay. Can everybody hear me? I'm not sure.

12: 02: 54 7 THE FLOOR: No.

12: 03: 02 8 MR. MARTONI: Okay. I'll try
12: 03: 04 9 to speak louder. I have a soft voice, so you
12: 03: 04 10 guys have to forgive me for that. Okay. Where
12: 03: 08 11 I come from you show your iron fist.

12: 03: 14 12 Anyway, what I want to do is give
12: 03: 14 13 you some comments of why we think and reiterate
12: 03: 18 14 that the ratepayers in ALCOSAN and Allegheny
12: 03: 22 15 County -- and I'm not speaking only for myself.
12: 03: 24 16 I'm speaking for the controller of Allegheny
12: 03: 26 17 County and also for the County Executive, Rich
12: 03: 30 18 Fitzgerald. We are all united in an
12: 03: 34 19 alternative green vision plan. We are all
12: 03: 34 20 united. And, quite frankly, I can't understand
12: 03: 36 21 why the whole world wouldn't be united in such
12: 03: 40 22 a plan. Okay. The fact is if Rome would have
12: 03: 44 23 been united in such a plan, we would probably
12: 03: 44 24 be speaking Latin today. Probably still be
12: 03: 44 25 here. Okay.

1

CHARLES MARTONI

12: 03: 48

2

I want to also acknowledge that I'm

12: 03: 50

3

not speaking just for myself. I'm speaking for

12: 03: 52

4

a number of municipal leaders. And several of

12: 03: 56

5

them are with me today. Lloyd Cunningham from

12: 03: 58

6

Homestead, Darrell Rapp from Swissvale, and

12: 04: 00

7

Marty O'Malley from Forest Hills, and people

12: 04: 02

8

from a lot of places. I just took a visual

12: 04: 06

9

look outside and I spotted them. Okay.

12: 04: 08

10

What we need, what we need not only

12: 04: 10

11

here in Allegheny County in Western

12: 04: 12

12

Pennsylvania, what we need across this United

12: 04: 14

13

States of America and after that across the

12: 04: 16

14

world is green solutions to our problems.

12: 04: 18

15

Okay. If we don't do that, we are eventually

12: 04: 22

16

going to destroy our environment and we're

12: 04: 24

17

eventually going to destroy the future of our

12: 04: 26

18

region, which is one of the great regions of

12: 04: 28

19

the United States of America.

12: 04: 30

20

The environment I'm talking about,

12: 04: 32

21

the rivers, the three rivers, it was the

12: 04: 34

22

environment I'm talking about really that made

12: 04: 36

23

America great. It was this environment that

12: 04: 38

24

the early steel people who made the steel mills

12: 04: 40

25

looked and said hey, we can produce here. We

1

CHARLES MARTONI

12: 04: 42

2

can make things here. It was this environment

12: 04: 44

3

that won the Second World War because those

12: 04: 46

4

steel mills created so much steel and so many

12: 04: 48

5

weapons for war. Okay. And we are in a

12: 04: 52

6

process and they are in the rest of the

12: 04: 54

7

Country, too, of rebuilding our municipalities

12: 04: 56

8

and our neighborhoods. We let things go for a

12: 04: 58

9

long time. Now it's time that we come back.

12: 05: 00

10

Okay.

12: 05: 02

11

And, quite frankly, I'm here --

12: 05: 04

12

quite frankly, I'm never comfortable coming

12: 05: 06

13

here because I think ALCOSAN is a great

12: 05: 10

14

organization. I think you do a great job. I

12: 05: 12

15

think every organization that does this does a

12: 05: 14

16

great job. Sometimes we run into a conflict

12: 05: 18

17

between the great job we do and the public

12: 05: 20

18

interest. And I'm trying my best to speak for

12: 05: 22

19

the public interest. Okay. We got to listen

12: 05: 26

20

to the ratepayers. We got to listen to our

12: 05: 28

21

citizens. It's the first lesson I learned in

12: 05: 30

22

government when I started participating many,

12: 05: 32

23

many, many years ago. I'm not going to tell

12: 05: 34

24

you how many years ago. It's many years ago.

12: 05: 36

25

You got to listen to people. You got to take

1

CHARLES MARTONI

12: 05: 40

2

these kind of hearings very serious. Okay.

12: 05: 42

3

Because we all are like clients of the people.

12: 05: 46

4

Okay. We work for the people. Okay.

12: 05: 46

5

(Applause.)

12: 05: 56

6

MR. MARTONI: Let me start off

12: 05: 56

7

by saying that I'm very respectful for the

12: 06: 00

8

manner in which you're treating the people

12: 06: 00

9

testifying here. I think that's very

12: 06: 02

10

respectful of you and I know it takes a lot of

12: 06: 06

11

patience to do that, so I respect that. But I

12: 06: 08

12

also want you to take it serious. Okay. Take

12: 06: 10

13

it serious. They're not just down here

12: 06: 12

14

today --

12: 06: 12

15

Everyone in this room and everyone

12: 06: 14

16

out there waiting to get in this room probably

12: 06: 18

17

has 100 other things they could be doing today

12: 06: 18

18

that would be fun, but they are here. They are

12: 06: 20

19

here because they are true believers in this

12: 06: 22

20

region and want to see this region move

12: 06: 26

21

forward. Okay.

12: 06: 26

22

If 100 years ago when all this stuff

12: 06: 28

23

started here, if you had a meeting like this

12: 06: 30

24

and we had people like this here, this would be

12: 06: 32

25

a much better region than it is today. Okay.

1

CHARLES MARTONI

12: 06: 36

2

We got to stop it right here and we got to

12: 06: 38

3

change direction and go forward. Okay.

12: 06: 40

4

I'm not sure. I didn't count them,

12: 06: 42

5

but there's at least 50 groups here from

12: 06: 42

6

Allegheny County. At least 50. And we're

12: 06: 44

7

talking about faith groups. We're talking

12: 06: 46

8

about neighbor groups, environmental groups,

12: 06: 48

9

community groups, municipality groups, and

12: 06: 50

10

student groups which are very important.

12: 06: 52

11

They're a big part of our future. Okay. All

12: 06: 54

12

of them are calling for one thing, green

12: 06: 58

13

solutions. Green solutions. Solutions that

12: 06: 58

14

will bring family-sustaining jobs also. That's

12: 07: 02

15

a second priority. Family-sustaining jobs. In

12: 07: 06

16

recent years we lost a lot of those jobs.

12: 07: 06

17

(Applause.)

12: 07: 10

18

MR. MARTONI: We lost a lot of

12: 07: 10

19

those jobs to regions that could care less

12: 07: 12

20

about their environment and care less about

12: 07: 14

21

people. We lost those jobs to countries across

12: 07: 16

22

the ocean that could care less about their

12: 07: 18

23

environment and their people. We all care

12: 07: 20

24

about our people and our environment. That's

12: 07: 22

25

why we are here today. Okay. We got to

1

CHARLES MARTONI

12: 07: 26

2

revitalize our business districts. We got high

12: 07: 30

3

property values. We got to get them even

12: 07: 30

4

higher. Okay. That way the County can collect

12: 07: 34

5

more taxes, too, by the way, by doing that. A

12: 07: 36

6

little aside there. Okay. And the water to

12: 07: 40

7

our neighborhoods or keeping stormwater out of

12: 07: 42

8

the sewer system. Okay.

12: 07: 42

9

We are here to ask you, to ask you

12: 07: 44

10

for green solutions. Okay. And for the

12: 07: 48

11

community benefits that have been prioritized

12: 07: 54

12

as we develop a plan to fix our sewer system.

12: 07: 58

13

ALCOSAN is a great organization, but

12: 08: 00

14

keep in mind it's also a public entity. It's a

12: 08: 02

15

public entity that works for all of us and we

12: 08: 06

16

work for you. Okay. It is responsible for

12: 08: 08

17

using our dollars wisely. Okay. We ask you to

12: 08: 12

18

really consider the green solutions to be fully

12: 08: 16

19

explored. And you're not going to do that

12: 08: 18

20

today. You're not going to do that tomorrow.

12: 08: 20

21

That's going to take some time before one foot

12: 08: 22

22

of a tunnel is laid in the ground. Okay.

12: 08: 26

23

At this time we would like to

12: 08: 28

24

represent our collective testimonies for the

12: 08: 30

25

record. They're going to be here for you

DARRELL RAPP

12: 08: 30 2 today. Okay.

12: 08: 34 3 The Clean Rivers Campaign is calling
12: 08: 38 4 on ALCOSAN, calling on you as representatives
12: 08: 40 5 of ALCOSAN, to solve this problem. How are you
12: 08: 42 6 going to solve this problem? It's not so
12: 08: 44 7 complex. Okay. Using green solutions that
12: 08: 48 8 will not only clean our water, but will create
12: 08: 50 9 family-sustaining jobs, rebuild our
12: 08: 52 10 neighborhoods, clean our air, and result in the
12: 08: 56 11 most benefit for the least cost to our
12: 09: 00 12 community. That's what we're asking for you to
12: 09: 02 13 do for us today. And we just know that you
12: 09: 06 14 will. We know that you're a public entity and
12: 09: 08 15 we know that you will do everything you could
12: 09: 10 16 to make this a reality and I thank you for the
12: 09: 12 17 opportunity to speak today. And if I rattled
12: 09: 14 18 on, please forgive me. Okay.

12: 09: 18 19 MR. RAPP: Good afternoon. My
12: 09: 40 20 name is Darrell Rapp. That's D-A-R-R-E-L-L
12: 09: 48 21 R-A-P-P. And I'm at 1125 Milton Street in
12: 09: 52 22 Swissvale, Pennsylvania 15218. I am a Borough
12: 10: 00 23 Council member in Swissvale as of starting in
12: 10: 02 24 January. And it's been very interesting to
12: 10: 06 25 learn about all of the things that go on. One

DARRELL RAPP

1
12: 10: 10 2 of the activities that I've gotten involved
12: 10: 12 3 with is I represent Council at the organization
12: 10: 16 4 called CONNECT. And that is -- and so I'm
12: 10: 22 5 going to be representing myself as a ratepayer.
12: 10: 24 6 I am representing the Municipality of Swissvale
12: 10: 30 7 Borough and I am going to also make sure to
12: 10: 32 8 read into the record some resolutions that have
12: 10: 36 9 been passed in the last several years by the
12: 10: 38 10 CONNECT.

12: 10: 40 11 So the municipalities of CONNECT,
12: 10: 42 12 which is a coalition of the City of Pittsburgh
12: 10: 46 13 and the 36 first-ring suburbs, have passed four
12: 10: 50 14 resolutions supporting green infrastructure as
12: 10: 52 15 a major component to our compliance with the
12: 10: 54 16 EPA Consent Decree.

12: 10: 56 17 Communities in our urban core have
12: 10: 58 18 taken the first steps on this issue on their
12: 11: 02 19 own and have begun implementing real solutions.
12: 11: 04 20 ALCOSAN needs to incentivize the second step
12: 11: 08 21 and beyond.

12: 11: 10 22 Just to also mention, the CONNECT
12: 11: 18 23 communities represent close to 700,000 people.
12: 11: 20 24 So the City of Pittsburgh is basically doubled
12: 11: 26 25 in size by those first-ring suburbs. That's

DARRELL RAPP

1
2 approximately half of or more than half of the
3 entire population of the County and probably a
4 majority of the ratepayers for ALCOSAN.

5 The resolution passed in 2009,
6 Resolution 09-19, CONNECT encourages ALCOSAN to
7 evaluate and implement green initiatives and
8 source reduction before designing and
9 constructing gray infrastructure. Where new
10 gray facilities are required, they should be
11 owned by a regional entity so that the costs
12 and benefits of construction and operation are
13 fairly shared.

14 In 2010, the Resolution No. 10-14
15 reads whereas CONNECT continues to commit to
16 the principle of eliminating sewage overflows
17 by rehabilitating the sewage collection and
18 conveyance system connected through its member
19 municipalities. And whereas CONNECT calls on
20 ALCOSAN to demonstrate to CONNECT that ALCOSAN
21 is working to implement green initiatives to
22 create alternatives to source reduction before
23 designing and constructing gray infrastructure.

24 Gray infrastructure refers to new
25 brick and mortar facilities built to store or

1 DARRELL RAPP - TERRI PINEDA

12: 13: 54 2 that CONNECT is committed to implementing green
12: 13: 56 3 infrastructure projects when possible and will
12: 13: 58 4 work with partners to develop a database of
12: 14: 02 5 funding opportunities for green infrastructure
12: 14: 04 6 projects that support the implementation of
12: 14: 06 7 these technologies in member municipalities.

12: 14: 10 8 So just to finalize, I have an
12: 14: 14 9 engineering background. I'm a mechanical
12: 14: 16 10 engineer. I'm not a civil engineer. I don't
12: 14: 18 11 have experience necessarily with sewage systems
12: 14: 22 12 or anything, but I do know that in design you
12: 14: 26 13 want to consider all the options that are
12: 14: 28 14 available to address the problem. And I would
12: 14: 34 15 like to see a greater emphasis and analysis and
12: 14: 40 16 incorporation of green infrastructure into the
12: 14: 42 17 solution that is implemented as we move forward
12: 14: 48 18 to clean up our rivers. Thank you.

12: 14: 48 19 MS. PINEDA: Hello. My name
12: 15: 06 20 is Terri Pineda, T-E-R-R-I P-I-N-E-D-A. My
12: 15: 06 21 address is 109 Renova Street, Pittsburgh, PA
12: 15: 10 22 15207.

12: 15: 12 23 I am a ratepayer and also member of
12: 15: 16 24 Action United of Hazelwood. If we use the same
12: 15: 20 25 thinking over and over again and expect a

1 TERRI PINEDA - MAREN COOKE

12: 15: 24 2 different outcome, that's the definition of
12: 15: 28 3 insanity. That was said to us by Albert
12: 15: 32 4 Einstein. Now, in order to get better and new
12: 15: 34 5 results and different results, we need to think
12: 15: 40 6 differently. We need to use greener and
12: 15: 42 7 cleaner plans, ones that put nice things in our
12: 15: 48 8 neighborhoods.

12: 15: 58 9 We went through our whole
12: 16: 00 10 neighborhood with a bus tour with Mr. O'Connor
12: 16: 06 11 and we showed him different spots of where we
12: 16: 10 12 could use permeable sidewalks, the different
12: 16: 18 13 ways of taking the rain water and using the
12: 16: 24 14 runoff to water our trees and gardens, rooftop
12: 16: 30 15 gardens, different things of that nature. Now,
12: 16: 34 16 this will make our neighborhoods nicer,
12: 16: 38 17 cleaner, fresher because our air will be made
12: 16: 40 18 fresher because of the trees.

12: 16: 46 19 There's lots of places in our
12: 16: 48 20 community that are being wasted, the spaces are
12: 16: 52 21 being wasted, and, worse, decaying from non use
12: 16: 58 22 and just being overgrown and just falling down.
12: 17: 04 23 With a little investment from ALCOSAN and a
12: 17: 06 24 little time, these areas can and will work for
12: 17: 10 25 us, for us, for you, for our communities, for

1 TERRI PINEDA - MAREN COOKE

12: 17: 16 2 our city. This will mean work for us and work,
12: 17: 24 3 people being put to work. And this will better
12: 17: 28 4 our homes and our lives, my neighborhood, your
12: 17: 32 5 neighborhoods. We need green solutions.

12: 17: 38 6 And I also have the testimony of
12: 17: 40 7 just 16 more people of how green solutions can
12: 17: 46 8 work for all of us. And I thank you for your
12: 17: 50 9 time.

12: 18: 24 10 MS. COOKE: My name is Maren
12: 18: 26 11 Cooke and I live in the City of Pittsburgh at
12: 18: 28 12 6745 Forest Glen Road in Pittsburgh. I'm an
12: 18: 32 13 urban ecosteward, a tree tender. I serve on
12: 18: 36 14 the Board of the Group Against Smog and
12: 18: 36 15 Pollution and I do environmental education
12: 18: 38 16 under the name of Putting Down Roots which is
12: 18: 40 17 an endorser of the Clean Rivers Campaign. And
12: 18: 44 18 I do work with a lot of other environmental
12: 18: 44 19 organizations.

12: 18: 46 20 My family is fortunate to be able to
12: 18: 48 21 live on the edge of Frick Park, and I can tell
12: 18: 50 22 you the reason in one word. Trees. The
12: 18: 54 23 positive effects of tree on quality of life are
12: 18: 56 24 numerous and well documented casting welcome
12: 18: 58 25 shade in the summer and shielding us from cold

1

MAREN COOKE

12: 19: 00

2

winter winds, improving air quality both

12: 19: 02

3

directly and through reduced energy use,

12: 19: 06

4

muffling sound from traffic and industry,

12: 19: 06

5

providing wildlife habitat shelter and food

12: 19: 10

6

sources to maintain necessary biodiversity,

12: 19: 12

7

affording esthetic beauty and recreational

12: 19: 14

8

opportunities. For all these reasons

12: 19: 16

9

increasing property values and hence the tax

12: 19: 18

10

base. And most germane to the issue at hand,

12: 19: 22

11

trees can contribute substantial reduction in

12: 19: 24

12

erosion and flooding.

12: 19: 26

13

As we've settled into our home,

12: 19: 26

14

we've been renovating it using as many green

12: 19: 28

15

approaches as possible. In addition to things

12: 19: 30

16

like photovoltaic panels, passive solar design

12: 19: 34

17

insulation, local wooden stone, and recycled,

12: 19: 36

18

reused, and salvaged materials we have

12: 19: 38

19

implemented many methods of rain water

12: 19: 40

20

harvesting and storage on our own property in

12: 19: 44

21

order to reduce our impact on the watershed and

12: 19: 44

22

get a lot of use out of Pittsburgh's

12: 19: 46

23

significant rainfall while we're at it. We

12: 19: 48

24

have several rain barrels, a rain garden, and a

12: 19: 50

25

roof garden as well as productive multilayer

1

MAREN COOKE

12: 19: 52

2

gardens all around the property rather than

12: 19: 54

3

pavement or lawn. Hundreds of people have

12: 19: 56

4

visited our home to learn about permaculture,

12: 20: 00

5

green building, renewable energy, and watershed

12: 20: 02

6

issues and many are working to shrink their own

12: 20: 04

7

environmental footprint.

12: 20: 06

8

Sewer overflows are more than

12: 20: 06

9

inconvenient and unhealthy. They are

12: 20: 08

10

dangerous. I was caught in street flooding the

12: 20: 12

11

same afternoon that four people died on

12: 20: 12

12

Washington Boulevard. I was in Squirrel Hill

12: 20: 14

13

and I was lucky. As soon as I drove into the

12: 20: 18

14

over-the-hood water -- a little photo in my

12: 20: 20

15

comments -- as soon as I drove into the

12: 20: 22

16

over-the-hood water at Forbes and Wightman, I

12: 20: 24

17

ducked up into a nearby driveway and my car

12: 20: 26

18

actually survived the experience. My cell

12: 20: 28

19

phone didn't as it was in my pocket when I went

12: 20: 30

20

back into the water to assist another stranded

12: 20: 34

21

motorist.

12: 20: 34

22

You've pointed out that ALCOSAN

12: 20: 36

23

doesn't control the land and facilities

12: 20: 36

24

upstream and can't mandate green infrastructure

12: 20: 40

25

modifications, but through rate setting

1 MAREN COOKE

12: 20: 42 2 discounts and other incentives you can
12: 20: 44 3 certainly encourage greener more distributed
12: 20: 46 4 solutions such as permeable pavement, rain
12: 20: 50 5 water harvesting and storage, green roofs,
12: 20: 52 6 increased open space and vegetation, and
12: 20: 52 7 generally wiser, more affordable and more
12: 20: 54 8 sustainable development like trees and rain
12: 20: 58 9 water harvesting for crops and landscaping.
12: 21: 00 10 Most of these approaches have many other
12: 21: 02 11 benefits as well.

12: 21: 04 12 ALCOSAN has been educating the
12: 21: 06 13 public about watershed issues for years and it
12: 21: 08 14 would be in line with your mission to follow
12: 21: 12 15 through with your Wet Weather Action Plan.

12: 21: 12 16 I would also like to point out that
12: 21: 14 17 the multiple municipalities comprising the
12: 21: 14 18 ALCOSAN service area can be seen as an
12: 21: 16 19 opportunity as well as a challenge. Individual
12: 21: 20 20 municipal systems and rate structures can be
12: 21: 20 21 tried out in the effects on outflow measures.
12: 21: 24 22 Just like one should always insulate and water
12: 21: 26 23 seal a house before getting a really huge
12: 21: 28 24 furnace no matter how efficient it might be,
12: 21: 32 25 ALCOSAN should pursue these upstream green

1 MAREN COOKE - RANDALL WALSH

12: 21: 32 2 infrastructure approaches by all possible means
12: 21: 34 3 before committing to huge, costly disruptive,
12: 21: 38 4 energy intensive downstream tanks and tunnels.

12: 21: 40 5 Thank you for your time and
12: 21: 42 6 consideration and I hope that you're able to
12: 21: 42 7 reconsider your Draft Wet Weather Plan with
12: 21: 44 8 more diverse avenues such as differentiated
12: 21: 46 9 rates and other incentives to implement the
12: 21: 48 10 green infrastructure that will benefit our
12: 21: 50 11 region in so many ways. Thank you.

12: 21: 50 12 MR. WALSH: My name is Randall
12: 22: 08 13 Walsh. I am a Highland Park resident. I live
12: 22: 10 14 at 1315 North Sheridan Avenue, Highland Park.
12: 22: 14 15 I am also an environmental economist on the
12: 22: 16 16 faculty of University of Pittsburgh. And let
12: 22: 18 17 me start by saying that I'm personally really
12: 22: 22 18 excited about the cleanup that's going to come
12: 22: 24 19 as a result of whatever plan we adopt. I kayak
12: 22: 28 20 on the Allegheny regularly and am intimate with
12: 22: 30 21 some of the CSOs that hopefully people stop
12: 22: 34 22 spewing unpleasant stuff. And also as an
12: 22: 36 23 environmental and urban economist I know that
12: 22: 38 24 cleaning up these rivers is going to make
12: 22: 38 25 Pittsburgh even more successful than it already

1

RANDALL WALSH

12: 22: 40

2

is. So I think there's a long-term impact.

12: 22: 42

3

I am surprisingly really concerned,

12: 22: 46

4

however, with the fact that reading through the

12: 22: 48

5

plan that ALCOSAN has put together, it's clear

12: 22: 50

6

you guys are missing significant cost savings

12: 22: 54

7

that are available from source reductions.

12: 22: 58

8

Now, I'm not here to tell you what

12: 23: 00

9

the optimal level of source reduction is. I

12: 23: 02

10

don't know what the answer is. Unfortunately,

12: 23: 04

11

it's really clear that ALCOSAN doesn't know

12: 23: 06

12

that answer either. I'm pretty sure it's not

12: 23: 08

13

zero.

12: 23: 10

14

When you read through the report,

12: 23: 12

15

while overall it's clear the report didn't take

12: 23: 14

16

the issue seriously, when you looked at some of

12: 23: 16

17

the base level analysis, it was clear that the

12: 23: 18

18

engineers who were doing that analysis saw

12: 23: 20

19

opportunities for source reductions to occur.

12: 23: 24

20

But then they would look at and conclude well,

12: 23: 28

21

that's upstream from our point of collection so

12: 23: 30

22

we can't make that happen although we shared

12: 23: 32

23

these ideas with the municipalities and that

12: 23: 34

24

was the end of the story. And then we move to

12: 23: 38

25

the system-wide analysis and it never gets any

1

RANDALL WALSH

12: 23: 40

2

attention. It dies at the basin level.

12: 23: 44

3

Now, as I said, I'm an economist. I

12: 23: 46

4

don't know anything about engineering green

12: 23: 48

5

solutions, but I know a lot about how you do

12: 23: 50

6

cost benefit analysis. And what I expected to

12: 23: 54

7

see when I read the plan was a careful basin by

12: 23: 58

8

basin analysis, first off, of what would be the

12: 24: 00

9

value of green or source reductions. What was

12: 24: 04

10

the cost savings for every 100 gallons or 1,000

12: 24: 08

11

gallons or how were you going to measure that

12: 24: 10

12

basin by basin? Right. So, essentially, what

12: 24: 12

13

would the benefits of basin by basin be of one

12: 24: 14

14

of these plans? And then compared next to that

12: 24: 18

15

should have been an analysis of what were the

12: 24: 18

16

costs. What would it cost to achieve a 10

12: 24: 22

17

percent reduction through source reduction?

12: 24: 24

18

What would it cost to in this basin to get to

12: 24: 26

19

20 percent? And then set those two side by

12: 24: 30

20

side and eventually you would find that place

12: 24: 30

21

where the cost savings of the last gallon

12: 24: 38

22

diverted was equal to the cost of the last

12: 24: 40

23

gallon reduced in terms of gray infrastructure,

12: 24: 42

24

and that was your sweet spot. But you guys

12: 24: 42

25

haven't done that analysis.

1

RANDALL WALSH

12: 24: 46 2

So my biggest message to you is that

12: 24: 48 3

I really hope that you will do that analysis

12: 24: 50 4

because I think you're leaving millions,

12: 24: 50 5

probably hundreds of millions of dollars on the

12: 24: 52 6

table.

12: 24: 52 7

I also wanted to comment just

12: 24: 54 8

briefly on why I think we don't see this in

12: 24: 56 9

your plan. Right. The first part is a concern

12: 24: 58 10

about uncertainty. And as you read through the

12: 25: 02 11

plan, that shows up from time to time.

12: 25: 02 12

However, it's clear that the EPA is willing to

12: 25: 06 13

sign on to these solutions. And others are

12: 25: 08 14

doing it, so I don't think that that is a

12: 25: 10 15

reason not to go forward.

12: 25: 12 16

And, again, if you look closely at

12: 25: 14 17

your basin level analysis, it's clear that the

12: 25: 16 18

folks of the analysis thought that there was a

12: 25: 18 19

role for green infrastructure. Right.

12: 25: 22 20

Unfortunately, you seem to be hung up on this

12: 25: 24 21

issue of not being able to control beyond the

12: 25: 26 22

point of collection. And I think that's where

12: 25: 28 23

the crux of the problem is and it's also being

12: 25: 30 24

used as a crutch, because another thing that I

12: 25: 34 25

can tell you as an economist is that if there

1

RANDALL WALSH

12: 25: 36

2

is a cheaper approach, if we can do this more

12: 25: 38

3

cheaply by getting municipalities to change

12: 25: 40

4

their behavior, right, there is a policy

12: 25: 44

5

solution.

12: 25: 44

6

Now, if you went to McKees Rocks and

12: 25: 46

7

you said look, we've got this pipe screen

12: 25: 50

8

that's going right here into the CSO right now,

12: 25: 50

9

if you would cover that screen, right, divert

12: 25: 54

10

gutters into side street wet gardens, make

12: 25: 56

11

those changes, we're going to lower the rates

12: 25: 58

12

to your ratepayers and we're going to lower the

12: 26: 00

13

rates to your ratepayers more than that

12: 26: 02

14

investment cost, you're going to be able to cut

12: 26: 02

15

that deal with McKees Rocks.

12: 26: 06

16

If you went to the City of

12: 26: 06

17

Pittsburgh and said look, here are all these

12: 26: 08

18

abandoned lots in Homewood, we want you to go

12: 26: 12

19

in and build natural areas, wetlands, and then

12: 26: 12

20

we're going to float bonds to pay for them and

12: 26: 14

21

we're going to pay off those bonds from the

12: 26: 16

22

increase that we have to put in place in all of

12: 26: 20

23

our ratepayers' bills to pay for this plan, but

12: 26: 22

24

those increases are going to be smaller because

12: 26: 24

25

you made this change, they would sign off on

1

RANDALL WALSH

12: 26: 26 2

that.

12: 26: 26 3

If you went to Stowe and said look,

12: 26: 28 4

we're going to put 2,000 rain barrels on houses

12: 26: 28 5

there, we're going to build wet gardens and

12: 26: 34 6

we're going to pay for that out of your rate

12: 26: 34 7

increase, but your rate increase is going to be

12: 26: 34 8

less than it would have been if we didn't put

12: 26: 38 9

those rain barrels in, they're going to sign

12: 26: 40 10

off.

12: 26: 40 11

So I think you need to be more

12: 26: 42 12

creative when you think about this. Right. On

12: 26: 44 13

top of the cost savings, the different types of

12: 26: 46 14

things that I have talked about, as everybody

12: 26: 48 15

here is saying to you, are going to provide

12: 26: 50 16

additional benefits, not just the cost savings.

12: 26: 52 17

So I don't think you'll struggle to get

12: 26: 54 18

support.

12: 26: 54 19

Another area where it seems like

12: 26: 58 20

you're reporting where there's all these

12: 27: 00 21

entities, like 84 entities in ALCOSAN, well, my

12: 27: 04 22

understanding of the numbers is that Pittsburgh

12: 27: 06 23

alone is 74 percent of the CSO miles in your

12: 27: 10 24

system. If you go to the ten next biggest

12: 27: 12 25

communities, you get 90 percent. So it seems

1

RANDALL WALSH

12: 27: 14

2

to me that the number of communities that you

12: 27: 16

3

need to deal with is not that large. And,

12: 27: 20

4

clearly, you're hearing today there's a lot of

12: 27: 22

5

support at that level.

12: 27: 24

6

So let me just conclude by saying

12: 27: 26

7

I'm concerned because I think you're missing a

12: 27: 28

8

really big potential savings from not having a

12: 27: 32

9

balanced approach. You're missing

12: 27: 32

10

opportunities in terms of esthetics that this

12: 27: 34

11

would provide, but also in terms of positioning

12: 27: 36

12

the region as we go forward.

12: 27: 38

13

And perhaps the biggest problem I

12: 27: 40

14

have with the current plan is there are

12: 27: 42

15

absolutely no incentives for the municipalities

12: 27: 44

16

to do anything to reduce. As I understand it

12: 27: 46

17

-- and I could be wrong -- a community that

12: 27: 48

18

decides to reduce 25 percent of their flow into

12: 27: 52

19

your system by investing in this on their own

12: 27: 52

20

is going to pay the same sort of rate increases

12: 27: 56

21

as a community that doesn't make that decision.

12: 27: 58

22

And so because you haven't priced it right,

12: 28: 02

23

we're missing opportunities as well.

12: 28: 04

24

And, finally, there's this huge path

12: 28: 06

25

dependency problem. It's easy for us to look

1 RANDALL WALSH - MARTY B. O'MALLEY

12: 28: 08 2 back and say look, 100 years ago when those
12: 28: 10 3 idiots didn't separate sanitary sewers from our
12: 28: 14 4 road drains, right, they made a terrible
12: 28: 18 5 mistake. I think we should ask ourselves a
12: 28: 20 6 question; 40 years from now when folks look
12: 28: 22 7 back at the decision you're making right now,
12: 28: 22 8 are they going you say you were idiots or are
12: 28: 26 9 they going to say you were forward looking?
12: 28: 26 10 And I think that it's clear that if you don't
12: 28: 30 11 want them to think we were idiots, we've got to
12: 28: 32 12 look at source reduction, because anything you
12: 28: 34 13 don't do about source reduction now locks us in
12: 28: 38 14 essentially forever to not doing the source
12: 28: 40 15 reduction. So I hope, really hope, you'll re
12: 28: 42 16 evaluate your plan. Thank you.

12: 28: 42 17 MR. O'MALLEY: My name is
12: 29: 06 18 Marty B. O'Malley. I am the mayor of Forest
12: 29: 06 19 Hills Borough. That's M-A-R-T-Y B.
12: 29: 06 20 O-M-A-L-L-E-Y.

12: 29: 14 21 I grew up in the 1950s in Greenfield
12: 29: 18 22 when ALCOSAN was building one of the few
12: 29: 20 23 visible parts of today's ALCOSAN system at the
12: 29: 24 24 bottom of Greenfield Avenue and Second Avenue.
12: 29: 26 25 As little kids we would ask, "What's going on

MARTY B. O'MALLEY

1
12: 29: 28 2 here?" The answer always was, "We'll tell you
12: 29: 32 3 about it when we are finished." That was the
12: 29: 36 4 typical reply to everything when the political
12: 29: 40 5 life of the area was ruled by an old school
12: 29: 42 6 political boss named David Leo Lawrence. Well,
12: 29: 44 7 those days are over. Many of those little kids
12: 29: 48 8 grew up and went to college and some even to
12: 29: 50 9 graduate school. We don't have to shut up and
12: 29: 54 10 hope for the best. We have knowledge to share
12: 29: 58 11 that will benefit all of the community, not
12: 30: 00 12 just a few who will benefit the most from the
12: 30: 04 13 entranced interest of using expensive,
12: 30: 06 14 outdated, obsolete technology.

12: 30: 10 15 The fact is Pennsylvania's laws of
12: 30: 12 16 the 1950s created ALCOSAN and they never
12: 30: 16 17 intended and never stated that ALCOSAN must
12: 30: 20 18 spend the citizen ratepayers' money exclusively
12: 30: 24 19 for the enhancement of the ALCOSAN system.
12: 30: 26 20 Those 1950 laws were designed to benefit the
12: 30: 30 21 citizens, the ratepayers, not ALCOSAN.

12: 30: 34 22 Today ALCOSAN plans to spend over 2
12: 30: 38 23 billion dollars of citizens' money to expand
12: 30: 40 24 and upgrade just the ALCOSAN system only.
12: 30: 46 25 ALCOSAN says it will not spend any money on the

MARTY B. O'MALLEY

1
12: 30: 50 2 municipality sewer systems. That ALCOSAN
12: 30: 52 3 approach overlooks and ignores some basic
12: 30: 54 4 facts. No. 1, when less water goes into its
12: 30: 58 5 system, it is cheaper to maintain and operate.
12: 31: 00 6 No. 2, unneeded overexpansion would be a waste
12: 31: 04 7 of citizen ratepayers' money. No. 3, new
12: 31: 08 8 proven technology will provide citizen
12: 31: 10 9 ratepayers the needed expansion at lower cost
12: 31: 14 10 than the outdated, wasteful ALCOSAN big pipes
12: 31: 18 11 underground method.

12: 31: 20 12 There is a sensible alternative to
12: 31: 22 13 the ALCOSAN big pipes underground debacle.
12: 31: 26 14 Here it is. No. 1, stop wasting time and money
12: 31: 30 15 on an old, outdated, obsolete, unnecessary,
12: 31: 32 16 expensive big pipes underground scheme. No. 2,
12: 31: 38 17 offer municipalities the ability to submit a
12: 31: 42 18 plan for municipally upgraded systems that
12: 31: 46 19 drastically reduce the quantity of water and
12: 31: 48 20 sewage entering the system. No. 3, evaluate
12: 31: 52 21 those submitted systems using modern scientific
12: 31: 56 22 engineering methodology. No. 4, encourage and
12: 32: 00 23 fund new technologies for the citizens and
12: 32: 02 24 ratepayers. Such as, for example, increase
12: 32: 06 25 water rate fees for excess water consumption

1 MARTY B. O'MALLEY - MYRON ARNOWITT

12: 32: 10 2 and payments for installing new reduced flow
12: 32: 14 3 toilets and shower heads. No. 5, approve only
12: 32: 18 4 those submitted systems which meet and exceed
12: 32: 20 5 the existing criteria. No. 6, provide money to
12: 32: 26 6 those approved municipalities for the citizen
12: 32: 28 7 ratepayer money which ALCOSAN collects from the
12: 32: 32 8 citizens. No. 7, let us all live happily
12: 32: 36 9 thereafter.

12: 33: 02 10 MR. ARNOWITT: Good afternoon.

12: 33: 04 11 My name is Myron Arnowitt. I'm Pennsylvania
12: 33: 06 12 State Director for Clean Water Action. And I'm
12: 33: 10 13 delivering a statement here today from our
12: 33: 12 14 national president, Bob Wendelgass, for Clean
12: 33: 16 15 Water Action.

12: 33: 18 16 We appreciate the opportunity to
12: 33: 18 17 provide input into ALCOSAN's Wet Weather Plan.
12: 33: 24 18 Clean Water Action is a national citizens
12: 33: 26 19 organization of over a million members working
12: 33: 30 20 in 15 states and with over 5,000 ratepayers
12: 33: 34 21 into ALCOSAN's system. Like our nation's
12: 33: 38 22 landmark of Clean Water Law, the Clean Water
12: 33: 44 23 Act, we, Clean Water Action, are celebrating
12: 33: 44 24 our 40th anniversary this year. Our founder,
12: 33: 50 25 David Zwick, was known for his work exposing

MYRON ARNOWITT

1
2 our nation's water pollution crisis and helping
3 to devise the solutions that became the Clean
4 Water Act. He recognized that then, just as
5 now, citizens' engagement is crucial to ensure
6 that the fishable, swimmable, and drinkable
7 standard that the Clean Water Act established
8 is met.

9 We've made remarkable progress in
10 cleaning up our rivers, lakes, and streams, and
11 our communities are healthier and thriving for
12 it. However, the unfinished business of the
13 Clean Water Act and the 21st Century challenges
14 that we are facing still have a way to go.

15 Managing how water flows through our
16 communities is one of our major challenges.
17 Every time it rains in Pittsburgh, as we all
18 know, sewage, raw sewage, untreated sewage
19 flows directly into our rivers. This is an
20 obvious kind of pollution problem which the
21 Clean Water Act is meant to address and that's
22 why we're all here. That's what needs to be
23 addressed in the plan going forward.

24 We believe that 21st Century water
25 management innovations must be part of the plan

1

MYRON ARNOWITT

12: 35: 10

2

to solve stormwater pollution challenges in

12: 35: 12

3

Pittsburgh and throughout our region.

12: 35: 14

4

A cornerstone of Clean Water

12: 35: 16

5

Action's work is preventing pollution before it

12: 35: 20

6

starts rather than cleaning it up after it

12: 35: 22

7

happens. The same principle applies to working

12: 35: 26

8

with nature instead of against it when it comes

12: 35: 34

9

to managing water in our communities. Green

12: 35: 38

10

infrastructure needs to be part of the mix.

12: 35: 42

11

This is not a futuristic or idealistic

12: 35: 46

12

approach. These are approaches that have been

12: 35: 48

13

achieved in many communities and are common

12: 35: 50

14

sense solutions.

12: 35: 54

15

Our organization has been a strong

12: 35: 54

16

supporter of the bold Green Infrastructure

12: 36: 00

17

Initiative developed by the Philadelphia Water

12: 36: 00

18

Department to reduce their same sewage overflow

12: 36: 04

19

problem in the Philadelphia area. Their

12: 36: 08

20

inventive uses of green approaches that as much

12: 36: 10

21

as possible targeted both public and private

12: 36: 16

22

sector investments into effects to reduce rain

12: 36: 20

23

water into their sewer system and reduce their

12: 36: 24

24

sewage overflows is a really significant and

12: 36: 28

25

important step forward for our State. We hope

1

MYRON ARNOWITT

12: 36: 32

2

to bring that type of initiative to this end of

12: 36: 34

3

the State.

12: 36: 36

4

I will say that Clean Water Action

12: 36: 38

5

has worked with dozens of municipalities around

12: 36: 42

6

the State on efforts to reduce their stormwater

12: 36: 46

7

flow through greener stormwater management,

12: 36: 48

8

green infrastructure tools, and other ways of

12: 36: 52

9

engaging in source reduction.

12: 36: 54

10

The City of Pittsburgh itself passed

12: 36: 56

11

a law recently requiring publically-funded

12: 36: 58

12

developments a greater use of green

12: 37: 00

13

infrastructure. I think we've heard from other

12: 37: 02

14

municipalities today how municipalities are

12: 37: 04

15

ready for these approaches. They have already

12: 37: 06

16

started to take them. We know that EPA is open

12: 37: 10

17

to this approach and our political leadership

12: 37: 14

18

in our County is open to this approach. We

12: 37: 16

19

hope that ALCOSAN will be able to join everyone

12: 37: 20

20

in proposing a plan that is in line.

12: 37: 26

21

This is going to be one of the

12: 37: 28

22

biggest public investments in our region that

12: 37: 32

23

we've ever seen. And that is all the more

12: 37: 36

24

reason to make sure that we're considering our

12: 37: 38

25

options very carefully and that the benefits of

1 MYRON ARNOWITT

12: 37: 42 2 cost are clearly weighed.

12: 37: 44 3 The benefits of green infrastructure
12: 37: 46 4 approaches have been clearly shown in many,
12: 37: 48 5 many places through pollution prevention at a
12: 37: 54 6 low cost, jobs, cleaner air, and even cooler
12: 37: 58 7 more moderate temperatures for our region, a
12: 38: 00 8 real concern with climate change.

12: 38: 02 9 Across the Country many cities, as
12: 38: 04 10 you've heard, have been taking this approach.
12: 38: 08 11 And whether it's Philadelphia, Milwaukee,
12: 38: 12 12 Kansas City, Chicago, or New York City, we know
12: 38: 16 13 that Pittsburgh can be up to this challenge.
12: 38: 20 14 Our local economy can benefit from both the
12: 38: 22 15 short and long-term jobs that green
12: 38: 24 16 infrastructure will bring and these green
12: 38: 28 17 infrastructure investments can really help
12: 38: 32 18 revitalize communities that have been hard hit
12: 38: 32 19 by the last recession. Clean Water Action
12: 38: 38 20 urges ALCOSAN to join with these other cities
12: 38: 42 21 in taking a 21st Century approach to our sewage
12: 38: 46 22 overflow problem. Thank you.

12: 39: 04 23 MR. SKINNER: My name is
12: 39: 06 24 Calvin Skinner. I live at 7115 Mt. Vernon
12: 39: 08 25 Street, City of Pittsburgh. Zip code 15208.

1

CALVIN SKINNER

12: 39: 08

2

MR. TAMILIA: Spell your last

12: 39: 08

3

name.

12: 39: 08

4

MR. SKINNER: S-K-I-N-N-E-R.

12: 39: 20

5

City of Pittsburgh. First I would like to read

12: 39: 22

6

a letter to Chairman Deasy from the Mayor City

12: 39: 22

7

of Pittsburgh Luke Ravenstahl. Dear Chairman

12: 39: 30

8

Deasy, as you are well aware from your role as

12: 39: 32

9

chairman of the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer

12: 39: 36

10

Authority, virtually every community in the

12: 39: 36

11

greater Pittsburgh region will be submitting

12: 39: 38

12

plans for reduction of combined sewer overflows

12: 39: 42

13

to either the Pennsylvania Department of

12: 39: 44

14

Environmental Protection in the case of the

12: 39: 50

15

PSWA and many Pittsburgh suburbs or the US

12: 39: 52

16

Environmental Protection Agency in the case of

12: 39: 54

17

ALCOSAN.

12: 39: 56

18

While the ultimate extent and cost

12: 39: 58

19

of these plans will not be known until they

12: 40: 00

20

gain final approval from the relevant agency,

12: 40: 02

21

all parties agree that steps must be taken to

12: 40: 04

22

reduce CSOs in order to protect the

12: 40: 08

23

environment, public health, and the quality of

12: 40: 10

24

life we enjoy in Pittsburgh. It is this later

12: 40: 14

25

item that has contributed so much to Pittsburgh

1

CALVIN SKINNER

12: 40: 14

2

being ranked again and again over the last few

12: 40: 18

3

years as one of the world's most livable

12: 40: 20

4

cities. A key aspect of this desirability has

12: 40: 22

5

been the City's embrace of green policies.

12: 40: 26

6

Therefore, I was somewhat disappointed, as were

12: 40: 28

7

many others, that the plan recently released by

12: 40: 30

8

ALCOSAN to address CSOs had so little to say

12: 40: 34

9

about the implementation of green

12: 40: 36

10

infrastructure to help reduce wet weather

12: 40: 40

11

flows.

12: 40: 40

12

With PSWA's long-term compliance

12: 40: 42

13

plan for the reduction of CSOs not due for

12: 40: 46

14

submittal to DEP until July 2013, this provides

12: 40: 52

15

Pittsburgh and the PSWA with sufficient time

12: 40: 52

16

and a great opportunity to ensure that LTCP

12: 40: 58

17

incorporates green infrastructure and

12: 40: 58

18

approaches to the extent feasible. Not only is

12: 41: 02

19

this the right thing to do, but it will also

12: 41: 04

20

serve to showcase Pittsburgh's leadership role

12: 41: 06

21

as the region's green leader. Therefore, I

12: 41: 10

22

respectfully request that you direct the PSWA

12: 41: 12

23

to ensure that all appropriate steps are taken

12: 41: 14

24

by authority staff to ensure the versions of

12: 41: 18

25

its LTCP submitted to DEP fully consider and

1 CALVIN SKINNER

12: 41: 22 2 where appropriate maximize the use of green
12: 41: 26 3 technologies, practices, and policies that will
12: 41: 28 4 contribute to the reduction of wet weather
12: 41: 30 5 flows into the combined sewer system. How you
12: 41: 34 6 implement this request is, of course, up to you
12: 41: 36 7 and the Board; however, I would point out that
12: 41: 38 8 the City is home to numerous entities with
12: 41: 40 9 great expertise in that area that are eager to
12: 41: 44 10 assist PSWA in such an effort and that
12: 41: 48 11 stakeholder's buy in is critical to the
12: 41: 50 12 acceptance and success of the final plan
12: 41: 52 13 approved by the DEP.

12: 41: 54 14 I am also requesting that PSWA
12: 41: 56 15 include the Department of City Planning on its
12: 41: 58 16 efforts in this regard to ensure the issues
12: 42: 02 17 within its jurisdiction are considered and
12: 42: 04 18 incorporated as appropriate.

12: 42: 06 19 Thank you for your attention to this
12: 42: 08 20 matter. I will make my staff and relevant city
12: 42: 10 21 agencies available to assist in this effort as
12: 42: 12 22 needed at your request. Sincerely, Luke
12: 42: 16 23 Ravenstahl, Major City of Pittsburgh.

12: 42: 18 24 So that's the Mayor's, but I live in
12: 42: 24 25 Homewood-Brushton, a neighborhood that has

1

CALVIN SKINNER

12: 42: 26

2

approximately 30 percent unemployment. I live

12: 42: 28

3

in a neighborhood and I am a ratepayer and live

12: 42: 32

4

in a household that's been in my family for

12: 42: 34

5

three generations. My grandmother lives

12: 42: 36

6

directly around the corner from me in a

12: 42: 38

7

household that's been in our family for four

12: 42: 40

8

generations. We are life-long Pittsburghers

12: 42: 44

9

and we will continue to be a family that's

12: 42: 46

10

established in this region for many generations

12: 42: 50

11

to come. And my concern is that we can't

12: 42: 54

12

afford a solution in my community that leads to

12: 42: 56

13

higher rates without creating jobs for the

12: 43: 00

14

residents of those communities.

12: 43: 00

15

(Applause.)

12: 43: 02

16

MR. SKINNER: My neighbors, I

12: 43: 06

17

see everyday my neighbors some two doors up

12: 43: 10

18

carry 5 gallon jugs of water into their

12: 43: 12

19

household that they use for cooking, cleaning,

12: 43: 16

20

and bathing because they already can't afford

12: 43: 20

21

the rates that exist. There are many homes

12: 43: 24

22

that are abandoned and blighted in my community

12: 43: 28

23

that cannot be sold or moved into because of

12: 43: 32

24

the liens placed by the Pittsburgh Water and

12: 43: 34

25

Sewer Authority against those properties.

1 CALVIN SKINNER- REGINALD WALLACE

12: 43: 34 2 (Applause.)

12: 43: 40 3 MR. SKINNER: 2 billion

12: 43: 42 4 dollars spent in this County for services

12: 43: 46 5 provided by taxpayers and ratepayers of this

12: 43: 50 6 County should employ the maximum number of

12: 43: 54 7 residents from this County, period.

12: 43: 58 8 The fact that the best solution is a

12: 44: 00 9 green solution is an added benefit, but you

12: 44: 04 10 have an obligation as stewards of public

12: 44: 06 11 resources provided through taxes and rate

12: 44: 10 12 payment to employ the maximum number of people

12: 44: 14 13 in this region to do the work for this region

12: 44: 18 14 with our money.

12: 44: 36 15 MR. WALLACE: Good afternoon.

12: 44: 36 16 My name is Reginald Wallace. Reginald,

12: 44: 46 17 R-E-G-I-N-A-L-D, Wallace, W-A-L-L-A-C-E.

12: 44: 46 18 Address, 3346 McNeil Place, Pittsburgh

12: 44: 50 19 Pennsylvania 15219. I represent Unite Here

12: 44: 56 20 Local 57 Hospitality. Nationally hospitality

12: 45: 00 21 and also casinos. Again, my name is Reginald

12: 45: 04 22 Wallace. I am a resident of Pittsburgh and

12: 45: 06 23 executive board of Unite Here Local 57, the

12: 45: 10 24 Hospitality Workers' Union.

12: 45: 12 25 We are Pittsburgh's warm welcome for

REGINALD WALLACE

1
12: 45: 16 2 the guests who visit this region. The 2,000
12: 45: 20 3 members of Local 57 and our families stand in
12: 45: 22 4 support of the investment in green solutions in
12: 45: 26 5 the largest public works project to happen in
12: 45: 30 6 our lifetimes. We believe that green solutions
12: 45: 32 7 are the right investment for several reasons.
12: 45: 36 8 Green solutions will create construction jobs
12: 45: 38 9 in their early phases of the project and green
12: 45: 42 10 solutions will create long-term jobs in their
12: 45: 46 11 maintenance of the infrastructures and green
12: 45: 50 12 spaces resulting from this approach. Unlike an
12: 45: 54 13 approach that wastes billion of dollars on
12: 45: 56 14 underground storage tunnels, green solutions
12: 45: 58 15 are likely to foster jobs in the hospitality
12: 46: 04 16 and service industries and trees and green
12: 46: 08 17 spaces are planted in urban areas allowing for
12: 46: 12 18 the revival of neighborhood business districts.
12: 46: 16 19 We are 100 percent certain that no
12: 46: 18 20 neighborhood boutique hotels will be built in
12: 46: 22 21 sewer tunnels. We believe that Pittsburgh's
12: 46: 26 22 three rivers are a source of national beauty
12: 46: 28 23 that once free of raw sewage may serve as an
12: 46: 34 24 attraction for visitors and a boom to the
12: 46: 36 25 regional tourism industry.

1 REGINALD WALLACE - NIKKI LUKE

12: 46: 40 2 And, finally, hospitality families
12: 46: 42 3 deserve as all Allegheny County residents to
12: 46: 46 4 breathe clean air, drink clean water, and to
12: 46: 50 5 pay a reasonable cost for public utilities.
12: 46: 52 6 For all these reasons, the families of Unite
12: 46: 56 7 Here Local 57 urge ALCOSAN to adopt green
12: 47: 02 8 solutions.

12: 47: 14 9 MS. LUKE: My name is Nikki
12: 47: 18 10 Luke. N-I-K-K-I L-U-K-E. I live at 3459
12: 47: 20 11 Parkview Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
12: 47: 24 12 15213. And I'm here today to speak on behalf
12: 47: 26 13 of Free the Planet, an environmental
12: 47: 30 14 organization at the University of Pittsburgh
12: 47: 32 15 and all of the student environmental
12: 47: 34 16 organizations that we have partnered with
12: 47: 34 17 through the Pittsburgh Student Environmental
12: 47: 36 18 Coalition.

12: 47: 38 19 But I'm also here today to speak as
12: 47: 40 20 a citizen and a new resident of this city that
12: 47: 42 21 came here for school yet is interested in
12: 47: 44 22 making Pittsburgh my home. But it's deterred
12: 47: 48 23 by a history of industrial pollution that we
12: 47: 50 24 still see today reflected in the polluted
12: 47: 52 25 waterways of the city. And I represent only

1

NIKKI LUKE

12: 47: 54

2

one of the many students at the 35 universities

12: 47: 58

3

in the Pittsburgh metropolitan area that employ

12: 48: 02

4

more than 70,000 people and train students both

12: 48: 06

5

now and in the future to think of creative and

12: 48: 08

6

forward-thinking solutions to the problems of

12: 48: 10

7

our cities today.

12: 48: 12

8

Many researchers, including Dr.

12: 48: 14

9

Walsh who previously cited testimony as to how

12: 48: 16

10

we can use a fraction of the 2 billion dollar

12: 48: 20

11

proposed spending to come up with more

12: 48: 22

12

forward-thinking solutions and promote a more

12: 48: 24

13

sustainable city have identified ways in which

12: 48: 26

14

we cannot only limit stormwater overflow but

12: 48: 30

15

also develop green infrastructure such as

12: 48: 34

16

rooftop gardens which has the added benefit of

12: 48: 36

17

reducing utility costs, urban gardens which can

12: 48: 40

18

help encourage a local food economy and provide

12: 48: 46

19

opportunities for employment for many of the

12: 48: 48

20

citizens of the city, and permeable pavements

12: 48: 50

21

which can help to fix our infrastructure

12: 48: 52

22

problems and fix those regarding stormwater

12: 48: 56

23

overflow.

12: 48: 58

24

Many of these green infrastructure

12: 49: 00

25

solutions would provide employment for future

1 NIKKI LUKE - TIFFANY HICKMAN

12: 49: 02 2 students as well as those current residents of
12: 49: 04 3 the City of Pittsburgh and continue to attract
12: 49: 06 4 young and hopefully creative minds like myself
12: 49: 10 5 to the city. And it is these alternatives
12: 49: 12 6 which will not only prove that Pittsburgh is
12: 49: 16 7 one of America's most livable cities but help
12: 49: 18 8 us to sustain this definition for the years to
12: 49: 20 9 come. Thank you.

12: 49: 32 10 MS. HICKMAN: My name is
12: 49: 34 11 Tiffany Hickman and I am the Western
12: 49: 36 12 Pennsylvania Outreach Coordinator for Citizens
12: 49: 38 13 for Pennsylvania's Future, also known as
12: 49: 40 14 PennFuture.

12: 49: 40 15 MR. TAMILIA: Excuse me.
12: 49: 40 16 Could you spell your name.

12: 49: 42 17 MS. HICKMAN: Yes. Tiffany,
12: 49: 48 18 T-I-F-F-A-N-Y, Hickman, H-I-C-K-M-A-N.
12: 49: 50 19 PennFuture is a public interest organization
12: 49: 52 20 that works to create a just future where
12: 49: 54 21 nature, communities, and the economy all
12: 49: 56 22 thrive.

12: 49: 58 23 We have done extensive work to
12: 49: 58 24 protect surface waters within the ALCOSAN
12: 50: 02 25 service area and throughout Pennsylvania. Most

TIFFANY HICKMAN

1
2 recently PennFuture along with our partners,
3 the National Resources Defenses Council and
4 Clean Water Action, conducted an independent
5 review of the combined sewage overflow,
6 long-term control plan update submitted by the
7 Philadelphia Water Department which was
8 instrumental in improving the draft plan
9 originally submitted and in helping the
10 department get regulatory approval of a final
11 plan.

12 PennFuture feels strongly that the
13 Draft Wet Weather Plan should have considered a
14 large scale deployment of green infrastructure
15 as one of the alternatives in its alternative
16 analysis. Many municipalities across the
17 Country have discovered that green
18 infrastructure is providing a cost effective
19 means of complying with regulatory
20 requirements.

21 In Philadelphia green infrastructure
22 is projected to cost billions of dollars less
23 than traditional infrastructure would cost.
24 Green solutions can also make it easier for
25 municipalities to meet requirements because it

TIFFANY HICKMAN

1
12: 51: 56 2 the September 30, 2026 deadline in the Consent
12: 52: 00 3 Decree until it embraces an integrated approach
12: 52: 02 4 that EPA proposed as an option in a June 2012
12: 52: 06 5 memo. This is not the -- EPA has not come out
12: 52: 08 6 and said this is the preferred option, but it
12: 52: 12 7 appears that they have been granting leniency
12: 52: 12 8 in the deadline requirements for those that
12: 52: 16 9 take on an integrated approach. So those are
12: 52: 20 10 Penn Future's official comments.

12: 52: 20 11 On a personal note, I am not a
12: 52: 22 12 native Pittsburgher by birth. I am from
12: 52: 24 13 Northern Virginia, Washington DC area. And
12: 52: 28 14 though it is a lovely place, it never really
12: 52: 30 15 felt like home to me. Pittsburgh on the other
12: 52: 32 16 hand when I came here for college, it
12: 52: 34 17 immediately felt like home. I knew that this
12: 52: 36 18 would be the place where I made my life
12: 52: 38 19 permanently, and I did. It's where I put down
12: 52: 42 20 my roots. It's where I met my husband. If I
12: 52: 44 21 ever choose to have children, they will most
12: 52: 46 22 certainly be raised here. I find that people
12: 52: 50 23 here think that Pittsburgh can make anything
12: 52: 54 24 possible. And I know that I'm not the only
12: 52: 54 25 person in the room who feels that way. So

1 TIFFANY HICKMAN - JAMES FEDD

12: 52: 58 2 there's something about the people here, the
12: 53: 00 3 architecture, the rivers that is magical. And
12: 53: 04 4 if people feel that way now, just imagine how
12: 53: 06 5 they would feel if we really invested in our
12: 53: 08 6 rivers and our water and our clean air.

12: 53: 10 7 So thank you for hearing my
12: 53: 12 8 commentary today. I hope that you really take
12: 53: 14 9 into consideration not only Penn Future's
12: 53: 16 10 comments, but also the fact that it takes an
12: 53: 20 11 incredible amount of time and energy and
12: 53: 22 12 bravery for average citizens who don't work for
12: 53: 24 13 environmental organizations to come out and
12: 53: 26 14 engage in public discourse. So thank you
12: 53: 28 15 again.

12: 53: 36 16 MR. FEDD: Good afternoon. My
12: 53: 40 17 name is James Fedd, F as in Frank E as in
12: 53: 44 18 Edward two Ds as in David. I am an Action
12: 53: 46 19 United Field Organizer as well as a resident of
12: 53: 50 20 the City of Pittsburgh.

12: 53: 50 21 I've spent the majority of my life
12: 53: 54 22 in the City of Pittsburgh without serving in
12: 53: 56 23 the United States Military growing up being in
12: 54: 00 24 the No. 1 livable city to coming back to a city
12: 54: 04 25 that is struggling with the water system.

1

JAMES FEDD

12: 54: 08

2

Green infrastructure would not only

12: 54: 10

3

secure the futures for our children, but secure

12: 54: 12

4

the futures for our children's children. We're

12: 54: 16

5

already in an economically struggling climate,

12: 54: 20

6

our seniors cannot even pay for their living

12: 54: 22

7

let alone pay for water.

12: 54: 26

8

ALCOSAN has a lot of power in this

12: 54: 30

9

instance. I don't know all of the technical

12: 54: 34

10

jargon nor would I sit up here and profess to

12: 54: 36

11

act like I know the technical jargon, but I

12: 54: 38

12

know as environmentalists yourselves, you can

12: 54: 42

13

agree with us that green infrastructure will

12: 54: 44

14

help the band-aid that you're trying to put on

12: 54: 48

15

the backs of our taxpayers. It's not fair nor

12: 54: 52

16

is it right of you to say that it's not in your

12: 54: 56

17

control. You guys have a lot of influence. We

12: 55: 00

18

pay our bills to keep our water. We can't

12: 55: 02

19

afford more rate hikes. There's no jobs.

12: 55: 06

20

There's no income in these homes. Some

12: 55: 10

21

families have a household full of folks with a

12: 55: 12

22

one-family income. Paying upwards of to \$100

12: 55: 16

23

or \$1,000 a year is ridiculous. As the young

12: 55: 20

24

lady said earlier today, it's insanity. We

12: 55: 24

25

need better. We're demanding better. And

1 JAMES FEDD - ZACHARY HIRSCHFELD

12: 55: 26 2 that's why we have been working to get better.

12: 55: 30 3 I ask that with your conscious minds
12: 55: 32 4 because I know you all have families just as
12: 55: 34 5 well as we do make this happen. The County
12: 55: 38 6 executives are behind it. The politicians are
12: 55: 40 7 behind it. All we're asking is you guys to
12: 55: 42 8 implement it in your plans when you submit it.
12: 55: 46 9 Thank you very much.

12: 55: 56 10 MR. HIRSCHFELD: My name is
12: 55: 56 11 Zachary Hirschfeld, Z-A-C-H-A-R-Y
12: 56: 04 12 H-I-R-S-C-H-F-E-L-D. I'm from the North Point
12: 56: 06 13 Breeze community.

12: 56: 10 14 I would like to bring up a pretty
12: 56: 12 15 important point I think that through the
12: 56: 16 16 ALCOSAN plan it's thinking of water as a waste,
12: 56: 20 17 stormwater as a waste. And I think we have a
12: 56: 24 18 unique opportunity in developing this plan to
12: 56: 26 19 create value from that water, value for our
12: 56: 32 20 economy, value for our environment, and value
12: 56: 34 21 for our communities. And we can do this a
12: 56: 38 22 number of ways.

12: 56: 42 23 Green infrastructure like so many
12: 56: 44 24 people have said is a huge opportunity for us
12: 56: 48 25 to do so through rain barrels, bioswales, rain

ZACHARY HIRSCHFELD

1
12: 56: 54 2 gardens, everything like that. We can
12: 56: 56 3 significantly reduce the outflows that gray
12: 57: 00 4 infrastructure has to absorb. So I think we
12: 57: 04 5 really need to take heed of this.

12: 57: 08 6 It's irresponsible to our
12: 57: 10 7 environment and it's irresponsible to our
12: 57: 12 8 children and our grandchildren to be thinking
12: 57: 14 9 about this as a waste problem and solving it
12: 57: 20 10 with 20th Century solutions instead of 21st
12: 57: 26 11 Century innovative solutions like we can do
12: 57: 28 12 like the rest of the Country and the world is
12: 57: 30 13 doing.

12: 57: 32 14 And I know that you can't force
12: 57: 34 15 communities to implement this infrastructure,
12: 57: 38 16 but like what Pastor Freeman said earlier,
12: 57: 42 17 partner with us. You have such a great ability
12: 57: 46 18 to partner with us and make these things
12: 57: 48 19 happen, to achieve an all-inclusive plan that
12: 57: 52 20 helps everyone involved, helps your families,
12: 57: 56 21 helps our families, helps the environment,
12: 57: 58 22 everyone. So that it's not a short-sighted
12: 58: 02 23 plan, but it's a plan that can endure over
12: 58: 04 24 generations.

12: 58: 06 25 And, lastly, we all want this to

ZACHARY HIRSCHFELD - BRENDA SMITH

1
12: 58: 08 2 work as much as you do. And now is not the
12: 58: 10 3 time to be stubborn. It's not the time to be
12: 58: 14 4 bitter that we're coming forward. It's a time
12: 58: 18 5 to be creative and it's a time to be open to
12: 58: 20 6 innovation and to new ideas and let's get this
12: 58: 24 7 thing done. Thanks a lot.

12: 58: 44 8 MS. SMITH: My name is Brenda
12: 58: 44 9 Smith. I'm representing the Nine Mile Run
12: 58: 48 10 Watershed Association which is located at 702
12: 58: 52 11 South Trenton Avenue in Wilkinsburg. Arletta,
12: 58: 58 12 thank you for the opportunity to offer comments
12: 58: 58 13 on ALCOSAN'S proposed Wet Weather Plan. As
12: 59: 02 14 executive director of the Nine Mile Run
12: 59: 06 15 Watershed Association, my comments are offered
12: 59: 06 16 from the point of view of our small urban
12: 59: 08 17 watershed.

12: 59: 10 18 As you may be aware, the Nine Mile
12: 59: 12 19 Run stream in Frick Park was the site of the
12: 59: 14 20 largest and most successful urban stream and
12: 59: 18 21 wetlands restoration that has taken place
12: 59: 18 22 anywhere in the United States. That 7.7
12: 59: 22 23 million dollar project turned a dangerous and
12: 59: 24 24 polluted eye sore into a significant regional
12: 59: 28 25 amenity. However, water quality is not yet

1

BRENDA SMITH

12: 59: 30

2

adequate and the restoration work that was done

12: 59: 32

3

is endangered by every large rain event that

12: 59: 34

4

occurs in the region. The volume and velocity

12: 59: 36

5

of stormwater entering the stream is far too

12: 59: 36

6

high.

12: 59: 40

7

We also have a significant number of

12: 59: 42

8

homeowners in our watershed who regularly

12: 59: 44

9

experience localized flooding and basement

12: 59: 48

10

backups during severe rain events. And in some

12: 59: 50

11

parts of our watershed childhood asthma rates

12: 59: 52

12

are far higher than the national average. And

12: 59: 54

13

lower income residents who cannot afford air

12: 59: 58

14

conditioning struggle to keep cool and even to

13: 00: 00

15

survive during this past summer's extended heat

13: 00: 04

16

wave.

13: 00: 04

17

With these realities top of mind, we

13: 00: 06

18

are extremely concerned that the Wet Weather

13: 00: 08

19

Plan recommend by ALCOSAN not only will not

13: 00: 10

20

bring us into compliance with water quality

13: 00: 12

21

standards by 2026, but it does nothing to

13: 00: 16

22

address any of the problems we face in our

13: 00: 18

23

watershed. Meanwhile, we know that there is an

13: 00: 22

24

alternative that could help achieve the

13: 00: 24

25

requirements of the Consent Decree and would

1

BRENDA SMITH

13:00:26

2

also address all of the local problems I've

13:00:28

3

mentioned while bringing additional benefits to

13:00:30

4

the community. That would be to take the

13:00:32

5

approach of dealing with rain where it falls

13:00:36

6

and keeping it out of the sewer system through

13:00:38

7

the use of green infrastructure.

13:00:40

8

My organization has firsthand

13:00:42

9

experience with the utility of this approach on

13:00:44

10

a residential level having carried out the

13:00:46

11

largest rain barrel program in the region

13:00:48

12

installing 1600 rain barrels on watershed homes

13:00:52

13

over the last 8 years. We've also built 25

13:00:54

14

rain gardens over the last 3 years, some inside

13:00:56

15

our watershed, and some in other parts of

13:01:00

16

Allegheny County. All are functioning as

13:01:02

17

intended infiltrating rain into the ground and

13:01:06

18

evaporating it into the air rather than sending

13:01:06

19

it into our sewers to add to sewer overflows.

13:01:10

20

We're also currently planting 500

13:01:12

21

trees in Wilkinsburg with funding from PENNVEST

13:01:16

22

specifically for the purpose of stormwater

13:01:18

23

management using the highest standards for

13:01:20

24

planting and maintenance.

13:01:22

25

So we know that these technologies

BRENDA SMITH

1
13: 01: 24 2 are feasible and effective; however, to really
13: 01: 26 3 address this problem on scale, other green
13: 01: 28 4 solutions such as green roofs, permeable
13: 01: 32 5 paving, and large bioswales will be needed and
13: 01: 34 6 will make a much larger contribution to solving
13: 01: 36 7 the problem than rain barrels do. We're not
13: 01: 38 8 kidding ourselves about whether or not rain
13: 01: 40 9 barrels can solve the problem, but there are
13: 01: 42 10 many other green technologies.

13: 01: 44 11 We see that other cities around the
13: 01: 46 12 Country have been implementing these
13: 01: 48 13 technologies and monitoring them for years, so
13: 01: 50 14 we know that the data is available to show how
13: 01: 52 15 this can work. And those cities have saved
13: 01: 56 16 money on their overall plan to eliminate sewer
13: 01: 58 17 overflows thereby placing a smaller burden on
13: 02: 02 18 ratepayers.

13: 02: 04 19 We refuse to accept the notion that
13: 02: 04 20 none of these solutions can work here in our
13: 02: 08 21 region and we are, therefore, consigned to
13: 02: 10 22 living without the benefits that they could
13: 02: 12 23 bring. Installing green infrastructure in our
13: 02: 14 24 watershed on the scale necessary to reduce the
13: 02: 18 25 overflows would also safeguard the stream

1 BRENDA SMITH - SAM HENS-GRECO

13: 02: 20 2 restoration as much less stormwater would be
13: 02: 22 3 rushing into the stream when it rains. And
13: 02: 24 4 what does reach it would be less polluted. Our
13: 02: 28 5 watershed residents would no longer be
13: 02: 30 6 replacing furnaces and water heaters on a
13: 02: 32 7 regular basis due to basement backups. And the
13: 02: 34 8 trees and green roofs would be cleaning the air
13: 02: 36 9 to help lessen the severity of asthma for our
13: 02: 40 10 children while keeping our communities cooler
13: 02: 42 11 in the summer relieving the burden on our low
13: 02: 44 12 income seniors.

13: 02: 46 13 We can't afford to move forward with
13: 02: 48 14 the current plan, so we call on ALCOSAN to
13: 02: 50 15 petition the EPA to reopen the Consent Decree
13: 02: 54 16 for the expressed purpose of taking the time to
13: 02: 56 17 do a real plan for green before we start
13: 03: 00 18 designing or building gray. Thank you.

13: 03: 00 19 MR. HENS-GRECO: Hi. My name
13: 03: 16 20 is Sam Hens-Greco. Sam, S-A-M. Last name is
13: 03: 18 21 Hens-Greco, H-E-N-S-G-R-E-C-O. I know you're
13: 03: 26 22 hearing a lot of words today, so I thought I
13: 03: 28 23 would bring a visual aid to print on my
13: 03: 32 24 testimony. But before I get to my testimony, I
13: 03: 36 25 would actually ask on behalf of the people who

1

SAM HENS-GRECO

13: 03: 38

2

are remaining here that maybe they could get a

13: 03: 42

3

glass of water from our hosts. It's hot in the

13: 03: 46

4

room. I think that your staff has gotten you a

13: 03: 48

5

glass of some water. So it would be nice --

13: 03: 50

6

and testimony about water -- if you can give

13: 03: 54

7

some people who are remaining a glass of water.

13: 03: 58

8

I'm here -- I have read the summary

13: 04: 00

9

and I have looked at the report. I'm here to

13: 04: 04

10

talk about the lack of analysis in the report

13: 04: 08

11

and I think it's a little dangerous also in the

13: 04: 10

12

report to sort of give lip service to

13: 04: 14

13

considering green technologies and stuff and

13: 04: 18

14

not doing a good analysis.

13: 04: 20

15

So what I did before I came, I did a

13: 04: 24

16

little bit using your numbers. I looked and

13: 04: 26

17

found that there are about 312,000 units or

13: 04: 30

18

facilities that you service. Recently we

13: 04: 36

19

installed rain barrels in our property. And so

13: 04: 38

20

I took that price for the installation of the

13: 04: 40

21

rain barrels, just for our property, and

13: 04: 44

22

calculated what it would cost if everybody,

13: 04: 46

23

312,000 units were given a rain barrel. And

13: 04: 50

24

that number came to 170 million dollars which

13: 04: 54

25

comes to only 4 percent of the entire cost of

1

SAM HENS-GRECO

13: 04: 58

2

what the plan is that you're submitting under

13: 05: 02

3

this plan.

13: 05: 02

4

What I think is real dangerous is to

13: 05: 04

5

go ahead with the plan without telling us what

13: 05: 06

6

type of impact that has. I'm not any type of

13: 05: 12

7

engineer at all, but within 10 minutes I'm able

13: 05: 14

8

to come up with a number. I don't know if it's

13: 05: 18

9

realistic, but the bigger part is I don't know

13: 05: 20

10

what impact it has. If you can take 4 percent

13: 05: 24

11

of the budget and have an impact of 20 percent

13: 05: 26

12

or 30 percent on what's going in, then that's a

13: 05: 30

13

number that the public should know. That's a

13: 05: 32

14

number that should be in the report. Without

13: 05: 34

15

that number, then it seems to me that it's

13: 05: 38

16

become extremely sort of suspect and, as I

13: 05: 42

17

said, it just lacks the ability to do analysis

13: 05: 46

18

with that.

13: 05: 46

19

I know and I agree with the other

13: 05: 48

20

speakers that rain barrels in and of themselves

13: 05: 52

21

or other green technology will not solve the

13: 05: 54

22

problem, but it's the low hanging fruit. And

13: 05: 58

23

anybody who does any analysis or any planning

13: 06: 00

24

on any budget looks first to the low hanging

13: 06: 04

25

fruit, which brings me to the picture. I am --

1

SAM HENS-GRECO

13:06:08

2

by just coincidence I just happen to have this

13:06:10

3

with me today. It's a painting that was

13:06:12

4

hanging in a galleria and I have to return it.

13:06:16

5

This painting was done by Harry

13:06:18

6

Ameredes in 1939. He was a 17-year-old student

13:06:22

7

at Weirton High School. At that point in time

13:06:24

8

Weirton was a really gritty little town, but he

13:06:28

9

won an award out of this painting. He won a

13:06:30

10

\$30 award in the National Scholastic Arts

13:06:32

11

Program out of this painting. It's a great

13:06:36

12

painting, but what's really great about the

13:06:36

13

painting and the part that's relevant is

13:06:38

14

there's a rain barrel in the painting. It's

13:06:44

15

there. And the reason obviously probably is

13:06:46

16

not because of runoff. It's probably because

13:06:48

17

they needed water. They probably needed water

13:06:52

18

in their house. They probably didn't have

13:06:54

19

running water. So what did they do? They went

13:06:56

20

to the low hanging fruit. They went and said

13:06:58

21

let's put a barrel outside our house so we can

13:07:02

22

collect the water off of our house to cook and

13:07:04

23

to clean. It's the same thing we're looking at

13:07:06

24

today; what's the low hanging fruit? The low

13:07:10

25

hanging fruit is green technology. It's rain

1

SAM HENS-GRECO

13:07:12

2

barrels. It's permeable ground. It's the

13:07:14

3

things we can employ people and get things done

13:07:18

4

quickly.

13:07:20

5

Our rain barrels have been there for

13:07:22

6

now two months. I've been absolutely shocked

13:07:24

7

at how much water goes into those barrels.

13:07:26

8

They are the biggest barrels we could get. And

13:07:30

9

we have an average Pittsburgh house. In fact,

13:07:32

10

I would say probably a smaller modest house,

13:07:34

11

but the amount of water that we aren't putting

13:07:36

12

into the lines going to our sewer or going to

13:07:38

13

the sewer was absolutely shocking. I've had to

13:07:42

14

drain it twice now within the last 30 days.

13:07:44

15

So.

13:07:44

16

I appreciate you having the hearing.

13:07:46

17

I appreciate you allowing us to speak. I hope,

13:07:50

18

I hope, my dearest hope is that you will take

13:07:52

19

these comments and that ALCOSAN will revise

13:07:56

20

your plan to incorporate green technologies.

13:08:00

21

Thank you very much.

13:08:52

22

MR. POPOVICH: My name is Ted

13:08:52

23

Popovich. I'm a ratepayer from Ben Avon.

13:08:58

24

Popovich P-O-P-O-V-I-C-H. Exactly as it

13:09:02

25

sounds. And I'm at 6606 Virginia Avenue,

1 TED POPOVICH

13: 09: 06 2 Pittsburgh 15202.

13: 09: 10 3 The first thing I'm disappointed
13: 09: 10 4 that we don't have coffee and bagels today.
13: 09: 14 5 Every other one of these things you've had
13: 09: 18 6 something for us, but I'll get to that
13: 09: 20 7 afterwards.

13: 09: 20 8 I'm going to repeat myself from
13: 09: 22 9 being outside earlier. It's good to practice
13: 09: 26 10 and repetition is good. Today I'm here to
13: 09: 32 11 emphasize green solutions over gray ones. As
13: 09: 34 12 an engineer by training, I could be in awe of
13: 09: 42 13 the enormity and complexity of the ALCOSAN
13: 09: 42 14 proposal to eliminate the discharge of raw
13: 09: 46 15 sewage into our streams and rivers. Perhaps
13: 09: 48 16 the Roman empire builders of aqueducts and
13: 09: 52 17 cisterns would be. I am not.

13: 09: 56 18 Let me give you more incite. In
13: 09: 58 19 early 1990 the Borough of Ben Avon enacted
13: 10: 02 20 Ordinance No. 902 prohibiting the discharge of
13: 10: 06 21 stormwater or ground water into its sanitary
13: 10: 10 22 sewers. As a result my downspouts were
13: 10: 12 23 redirected into the yard, a rain barrel, and
13: 10: 16 24 the driveway. In addition, water runoff was
13: 10: 20 25 slowed even more by partially replacing the

1

TED POPOVICH

13: 10: 22

2

asphalt driveway with gravel. So we are doing

13: 10: 24

3

our part.

13: 10: 26

4

Prior to the ordinance a terrace

13: 10: 30

5

backyard was put into place that had flowering

13: 10: 32

6

plants, shrubs, and trees admittedly for

13: 10: 36

7

esthetic reasons, but nevertheless, this made a

13: 10: 38

8

huge difference in slowing gray water runoff.

13: 10: 42

9

No compensation there. Okay. But a

13: 10: 44

10

contribution to slowing water, rain runoff.

13: 10: 48

11

Okay.

13: 10: 48

12

As you can see, ratepayers like me

13: 10: 52

13

can be an integral solution to the problem. We

13: 10: 54

14

want a workable plan in which we are partners

13: 10: 58

15

and that we all can afford. A green plan is

13: 11: 02

16

the best answer. How do we do that? Let me

13: 11: 06

17

give you some examples which I'm sure you

13: 11: 08

18

already know about. Impervious surfaces such

13: 11: 12

19

as rooftops, paved driveways, patios, and

13: 11: 14

20

parking lots are major contributors to rain

13: 11: 16

21

water runoff.

13: 11: 18

22

The District of Columbia Water and

13: 11: 20

23

Sewer Authority has established an impervious

13: 11: 24

24

area charge based upon the amount of impervious

13: 11: 28

25

area on a property. What a great incentive for

1

TED POPOVICH

13: 11: 30

2

a property owner to hold and insure rain water

13: 11: 34

3

where it falls. Sign me up.

13: 11: 40

4

Lancaster, Pennsylvania -- I

13: 11: 40

5

understand ALCOSAN did a tour there and

13: 11: 42

6

investigated that as well -- has a plan to use

13: 11: 44

7

rain gardens, porous pavements, green roofs,

13: 11: 48

8

and wetlands to prevent large amounts of water

13: 11: 52

9

from getting to its sanitary systems. An

13: 11: 54

10

original gray plan consisted of storage tanks

13: 11: 56

11

which would have cost 280 million dollars. The

13: 12: 02

12

EPA approved its subsequent 100 million dollar

13: 12: 06

13

green plan. That's almost one-third of the

13: 12: 08

14

gray plan cost.

13: 12: 10

15

So if we extend it out to the

13: 12: 14

16

ALCOSAN plan, I would love to pay one-third or

13: 12: 18

17

have you have a budget that's one-third of the

13: 12: 20

18

original 2 billion dollar budget plan.

13: 12: 24

19

Wouldn't that be great? So I think the

13: 12: 26

20

ratepayers have voted. I'm one of them. The

13: 12: 26

21

votes have been counted and I think the winner

13: 12: 30

22

is green. Thank you.

13: 12: 40

23

MR. ZURAWSKY: Thanks for the

13: 12: 40

24

opportunity. I'll just be very brief speaking

13: 12: 42

25

here. My name is Chris Zurawsky, Z as in zebra

1

CHRIS ZURAWSKY

13: 12: 48

2

U-R-A-W-S-K-Y. And I'm here representing the

13: 12: 50

3

Squirrel Hill Urban Coalition. The Coalition

13: 12: 54

4

celebrated its 40th anniversary this year. And

13: 12: 58

5

as you know, we encompass both Schenley Park

13: 13: 04

6

and Frick Park. Our water runs into Four Mile

13: 13: 04

7

Run, Nine Mile Run, Panther Hollow Watershed.

13: 13: 08

8

Just last night at our annual

13: 13: 10

9

dinner, our president, Ray Baum, identified

13: 13: 12

10

stormwater flooding crisis in our neighborhood

13: 13: 14

11

as the primary focus of the Coalition for the

13: 13: 18

12

coming here. Earlier this year the Coalition

13: 13: 22

13

circulated a survey to homeowners and business

13: 13: 24

14

owners and many of them reported \$10,000 or

13: 13: 28

15

more in damages from stormwater flooding.

13: 13: 36

16

There's an immediate urgency to solving the

13: 13: 38

17

problem there. We're working with both our

13: 13: 40

18

City Councilmen, Bill Peduto and Corey

13: 13: 42

19

O'Connor, to find green solutions as well as

13: 13: 44

20

working with the Water and Sewer Authority, but

13: 13: 46

21

there's a great interest now in Squirrel Hill

13: 13: 52

22

for green solutions that will be long term and

13: 13: 54

23

will guarantee the continued viability of the

13: 13: 56

24

neighborhood. That's it. Thank you very much.

13: 14: 10

25

MS. BOAG: My name is Sharon

1

SHARON BOAG

13: 14: 16

2

Boag. That's B-O-A-G. And like the one lady

13: 14: 16

3

who spoke, I'm not a native Pittsburgher. I'm

13: 14: 20

4

from upstate New York, upstate where they don't

13: 14: 22

5

talk funny. Pittsburgh is home to me and one

13: 14: 28

6

of the reasons it is home is things like our

13: 14: 30

7

green conference center that drew that current

13: 14: 36

8

group that's here, the young people. That was

13: 14: 38

9

one of the reasons they chose Pittsburgh,

13: 14: 40

10

because of that conference convention center.

13: 14: 44

11

So green is really working. People here are

13: 14: 50

12

the best assets.

13: 14: 50

13

(Discussion held off the

13: 14: 50

14

record.)

13: 14: 52

15

MS. BOAG: We need to

13: 15: 10

16

encourage the young people that come here to

13: 15: 12

17

college to stay and sort of things like green

13: 15: 16

18

structure and that sort of challenge.

13: 15: 20

19

And I know engineers are different.

13: 15: 24

20

I've known a lot of them. They think

13: 15: 26

21

differently. They talk differently. They're

13: 15: 28

22

in their own minds sometimes. Consider this

13: 15: 32

23

green thing a challenge. Getting it integrated

13: 15: 36

24

into some of the plans you already have I think

13: 15: 38

25

would be a great challenge for you to attack.

1 SHARON BOAG - RACHEL MARTIN

13: 15: 44 2 I'm going to stimulate another part of you to
13: 15: 46 3 look at this, but as I said I've made
13: 15: 52 4 Pittsburgh home. I thought about going back
13: 15: 52 5 home when I retired and one of the things that
13: 15: 56 6 kept me here was the best paramedics in the
13: 16: 02 7 Country and that sort of thing, being close to
13: 16: 04 8 a hospital. I grew up on a farm and you're not
13: 16: 06 9 real close to hospitals when you're on a farm.
13: 16: 08 10 I'll have my ashes go back there. Thank you.

13: 16: 22 11 MS. MARTIN: My name is Rachel
13: 16: 24 12 Martin and I live in Wilkinsburg. Hi, I'm
13: 16: 26 13 Rachel Martin. I'm a senior organizing manager
13: 16: 30 14 of the Sierra Club and today I have a statement
13: 16: 32 15 on behalf of Allison Chin, the national
13: 16: 34 16 president of the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club
13: 16: 38 17 is the oldest and largest grassroots
13: 16: 40 18 environmental organization in the nation, and
13: 16: 42 19 on behalf of our 2 billions members and
13: 16: 44 20 supporters we want to thank ALCOSAN for
13: 16: 46 21 drafting their Wet Weather Plan and for this
13: 16: 48 22 opportunity to comment on that plan.

13: 16: 50 23 The Sierra Club is a partner in the
13: 16: 50 24 Clean Rivers Campaign and supports the
13: 16: 54 25 Campaign's position that green infrastructure

1 RACHEL MARTIN

13: 16: 54 2 on scale must be part of the ALCOSAN plan.
13: 16: 58 3 Implementation of green solutions will not only
13: 16: 58 4 clean our water but will create
13: 17: 02 5 family-sustaining jobs, rebuild our
13: 17: 02 6 neighborhoods, clean our air and result in the
13: 17: 04 7 most benefit for the least cost to our
13: 17: 04 8 community.

13: 17: 06 9 We are particularly proud that the
13: 17: 08 10 Clean Rivers Campaign has received enthusiastic
13: 17: 10 11 endorsement from a diverse array of community
13: 17: 14 12 business and environmental organizations.
13: 17: 16 13 Certainly solving the problem of sewage
13: 17: 18 14 overflows in the ALCOSAN service area will
13: 17: 20 15 require some gray facilities, but we strongly
13: 17: 22 16 believe that this is an historic,
13: 17: 24 17 once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a
13: 17: 26 18 substantial investment in green infrastructure
13: 17: 28 19 that will benefit public health and clean
13: 17: 32 20 water, create community amenities, and save
13: 17: 32 21 ratepayers' money.

13: 17: 34 22 We understand that embracing green
13: 17: 36 23 infrastructure represents a fundamental shift
13: 17: 38 24 in thinking and practice. Traditional but
13: 17: 40 25 outdated thinking has been to use extensive

1

RACHEL MARTIN

13: 17: 44

2

concrete piping and collection systems to move

13: 17: 46

3

stormwater as far away as quickly as possible.

13: 17: 50

4

Green solutions use nature's natural

13: 17: 52

5

filters, plants, trees, soils and their

13: 17: 52

6

contours to manage stormwater where it falls

13: 17: 56

7

before inflow and infiltration overloads local

13: 17: 58

8

sewer systems. Unlike buried gray

13: 17: 58

9

infrastructure, the benefits of green

13: 18: 02

10

investment are quite visible in the community.

13: 18: 02

11

Green investment creates

13: 18: 08

12

neighborhood amenities and recreational

13: 18: 08

13

opportunities, increases property values,

13: 18: 10

14

sparks neighborhood revitalization, and

13: 18: 14

15

enhances local business development by

13: 18: 16

16

potentially creating new short and long-term

13: 18: 18

17

jobs. Green investment also reduces flooding,

13: 18: 20

18

reduces energy use, and improves air and water

13: 18: 22

19

quality.

13: 18: 22

20

Additionally, pursuing green

13: 18: 24

21

solutions to stormwater overflows can open up

13: 18: 28

22

significant public project financing options

13: 18: 30

23

that aren't available for green infrastructure.

13: 18: 32

24

The US EPA is currently investing significant

13: 18: 36

25

resources to help communities implement green

1

RACHEL MARTIN

13: 18: 38

2

solutions into their Wet Weather Plans. We

13: 18: 40

3

believe that all of these added benefits of

13: 18: 42

4

green infrastructure need to be part of the

13: 18: 44

5

equation when considering an overall approach

13: 18: 46

6

that will best serve Pittsburgh residents and

13: 18: 48

7

ratepayers.

13: 18: 48

8

We understand that the Pittsburgh

13: 18: 50

9

area is unique. There are steep slopes, clay

13: 18: 54

10

soils, multiple jurisdictions, numerous

13: 18: 54

11

rainfall events, and the system treatment

13: 18: 58

12

facilities are located at the, quote, end of

13: 18: 58

13

the pipe. But every region has barriers, and

13: 19: 02

14

many share some of the same barriers as the

13: 19: 02

15

ALCOSAN service area. Progressive sanitation

13: 19: 06

16

districts treat these barriers as challenges

13: 19: 08

17

and opportunities pursuing smart new

13: 19: 10

18

partnerships and embracing new funding and

13: 19: 12

19

financing initiatives with creativity. They've

13: 19: 14

20

developed a different culture, a different

13: 19: 16

21

ethic and mindset about how to creatively

13: 19: 18

22

address stormwater management.

13: 19: 22

23

At the Sierra Club we see many

13: 19: 22

24

jurisdictions around the United States

13: 19: 24

25

struggling to manage overflows. We're seeing

1 RACHEL MARTIN

13: 19: 26 2 sanitary districts not so different from your
13: 19: 28 3 agency explore and implement Wet Weather Plans
13: 19: 30 4 that include both strong green and gray
13: 19: 32 5 components. Many are choosing to maximize
13: 19: 36 6 green infrastructure for stormwater control
13: 19: 36 7 first and then looking at the gray facilities
13: 19: 38 8 required to complete the project. Many of
13: 19: 42 9 these have been previously referenced by other
13: 19: 44 10 speakers. But many districts have determined
13: 19: 46 11 that green approaches will save the ratepayers
13: 19: 50 12 money.

13: 19: 50 13 But whatever you spend, whether
13: 19: 52 14 green cost the same amount as a gray system or
13: 19: 54 15 less, if we are going to spend millions of
13: 19: 56 16 dollars to solve a water quality, a public
13: 19: 58 17 health problem, why not do so in ways that have
13: 20: 00 18 so many added benefits for our communities?
13: 20: 02 19 Why not approach this massive project as an
13: 20: 06 20 opportunity and an investment in the future
13: 20: 06 21 instead of as a cost?

13: 20: 08 22 We hope that all future negotiations
13: 20: 10 23 with the agencies are truly creative and
13: 20: 12 24 collaborative processes. We offer the services
13: 20: 14 25 of the National Sierra Club in helping with

1 RACHEL MARTIN - MERRITT BUSSIERE

13: 20: 16 2 those negotiations to find the best solution
13: 20: 18 3 for Pittsburgh. Thank you.

13: 20: 20 4 I also have written testimony here
13: 20: 22 5 from the chair of the local Allegheny Group of
13: 20: 24 6 the Sierra Club which I'll submit. Thanks.

13: 20: 24 7 (Discussion held off the
13: 20: 24 8 record.)

13: 21: 10 9 MR. BUSSIERE: So my name is
13: 21: 10 10 Merritt Bussiere. M-E-double R-I-double T
13: 21: 16 11 B-U-S-S-I-E-R-E. I live at 3001 Marshal Road,
13: 21: 20 12 Apartment 305, Pittsburgh, 15214.

13: 21: 28 13 I'm with the Clean Rivers Campaign.
13: 21: 28 14 I'm their research director. As you may have
13: 21: 28 15 noticed, for the Grassroots Campaign we're
13: 21: 34 16 still pushing for the yet still unexplored
13: 21: 36 17 opportunity to realize substantial green
13: 21: 38 18 infrastructure investment throughout the
13: 21: 40 19 ALCOSAN service area.

13: 21: 40 20 We thank you for your work and your
13: 21: 42 21 effort. We know you're working hard to meet
13: 21: 44 22 the tough terms of the Consent Decree. We also
13: 21: 46 23 know that the big fix for the ALCOSAN service
13: 21: 50 24 area cannot be accomplished without gray
13: 21: 54 25 facilities of some kind. And we also

MERRITT BUSSIERE

1
2 understand that green infrastructure is just
3 one important form of source reduction.

4 Having said that, we strongly
5 believe this is an historic, literally once in
6 all of our lifetime's opportunity to make a
7 significant investment in green infrastructure.

8 We further believe that serious
9 green investment must happen first then any
10 gray facilities needed to meet the Federal
11 Consent Decree requirements can be designed and
12 constructed. Billions of dollars will be
13 provided by area ratepayers to underwrite the
14 big fix. Let's invest this money first in
15 revitalizing those ratepayers' communities
16 while reducing system flows.

17 This is a story about a rustbelt
18 river town. It's a brief story. Thanks for
19 the water, by the way. It makes it easier for
20 me to yak at you folks, but let's think for a
21 moment about a city characterized by steep
22 slopes, clay soils, brown fields, many brown
23 fields, many small rainfall events each year.
24 And it has an NFL franchise. It's a rustbelt
25 river town that suffered severely with the

MERRITT BUSSIERE

1
2 decline of old line manufacturing, but has
3 smartly reorganized and diversified its economy
4 in recent decades emphasizing higher education
5 and financial services. The region's sanitary
6 district which has numerous municipal customers
7 is under a Federal Consent Decree to meet the
8 standards established by the Clean Water Act
9 and is about to embark on a once-in-a-lifetime
10 investment of public dollars. The city, of
11 course, is Cincinnati, Ohio. And although
12 their initial Wet Weather Plan was rejected by
13 regulators, the Metropolitan Sewer District of
14 Greater Cincinnati today is pursuing a Wet
15 Weather Improvement Plan that has two parallel
16 tracks. One offers a big gray solution. The
17 other is a request for three additional years
18 to develop an alternative plan that blends
19 source reduction including green infrastructure
20 with gray consolidation and conveyance.
21 They'll have another six years to implement
22 this alternative with the goal of removing 2
23 billion gallons of water per year in just the
24 first phase. December 2012 the alternative
25 plan will be submitted.

1

MERRITT BUSSIERE

13: 24: 06

2

The MSD of Greater Cincinnati is a

13: 24: 10

3

recognized leader and a catalyst in community

13: 24: 12

4

revitalization working through partnerships

13: 24: 14

5

that show visible results in and around the

13: 24: 18

6

city. The District has launched such programs

13: 24: 20

7

as Project Groundwork which targets cleaner

13: 24: 24

8

streams, improved protection of public health,

13: 24: 24

9

and enhancements to the communities where

13: 24: 26

10

ratepayers work, live, and play, sustainable

13: 24: 30

11

infrastructure in the city.

13: 24: 32

12

Another project looks to optimize

13: 24: 34

13

CSO reduction and community benefit including

13: 24: 36

14

green jobs. The Community of the Future

13: 24: 40

15

Program utilizes triple bottom line analysis

13: 24: 42

16

and outcomes to guide watershed planning and

13: 24: 44

17

project development. What's happening in

13: 24: 48

18

Cincinnati that can't happen here, that can't

13: 24: 50

19

happen in this service area? They're showing

13: 24: 54

20

initiative, innovation, a more wholistic

13: 24: 58

21

approach that sees and acts on the links

13: 24: 58

22

between source reduction, neighborhood

13: 25: 00

23

development, and community quality of life.

13: 25: 02

24

And above all, a problem solving approach that

13: 25: 04

25

uses all the tools in the Wet Weather toolbox

1 MERRITT BUSSIERE - LLOYD CUNNINGHAM

13: 25: 08 2 resulting already in dozens and dozens of green
13: 25: 10 3 infrastructure projects that are reducing water
13: 25: 16 4 at its source.

13: 25: 16 5 That's my question. If Cincinnati
13: 25: 18 6 can do this, why not Pittsburgh? Thank you.

13: 25: 22 7 I have also somebody who couldn't
13: 25: 24 8 stay, this is from the Mt. Lebanon
13: 25: 28 9 Environmental Sustainability Board, so it's a
13: 25: 28 10 letter that can go into the record. Thanks.

13: 25: 56 11 MR. CUNNINGHAM: My name is
13: 25: 56 12 Lloyd Cunningham, L-L-O-Y-D
13: 26: 02 13 C-U-N-N-I-N-G-H-A-M. I'm a council person for
13: 26: 04 14 the Borough of Homestead and Chairman of the
13: 26: 06 15 Planing Commission Borough of Homestead.

13: 26: 06 16 I live at 311 11th Avenue,
13: 26: 10 17 Homestead. I'm not from Pittsburgh either. As
13: 26: 12 18 close as you can be. We share the river with
13: 26: 14 19 Pittsburgh which we vitally depend on. Mills
13: 26: 14 20 were built there because of the rivers, and so
13: 26: 22 21 our town is in existence because of the river.

13: 26: 26 22 The Clean Rivers Campaign needs to
13: 26: 28 23 be allotted for on account of all these people
13: 26: 30 24 and inquiring so much expertise, but the
13: 26: 32 25 Borough of Homestead, we have rain gardens. We

1

LLOYD CUNNINGHAM

13: 26: 36

2

have water barrels. We have rooftop gardens.

13: 26: 38

3

We have community flower gardens that are

13: 26: 42

4

maintained with rain water runoff from rain

13: 26: 44

5

barrels. We have done many things through the

13: 26: 48

6

years.

13: 26: 48

7

Our next development coming into

13: 26: 50

8

town is going to be a Bottom Dollar Supermarket

13: 26: 54

9

which will have containment tanks under the

13: 26: 54

10

parking lot so that no stormwater will leave

13: 26: 58

11

their premises. We are ahead of the game in

13: 27: 02

12

trying to contain stormwater runoff.

13: 27: 06

13

You as an authority have no

13: 27: 10

14

legislative power to force communities to

13: 27: 12

15

participate with you, but all of the

13: 27: 14

16

communities are forced to participate under the

13: 27: 18

17

Consent Decree which certainly could be

13: 27: 20

18

renegotiated to add new clauses which force all

13: 27: 26

19

the municipalities to comply with design

13: 27: 30

20

criteria, green infrastructure, and anything

13: 27: 34

21

else that a good study comes up with. I'm

13: 27: 36

22

familiar with your study and I've been

13: 27: 38

23

following it for years. We've been complying

13: 27: 38

24

with your Consent Decrees for years. We have

13: 27: 44

25

flow meters. We have street sweeping to reduce

1 LLOYD CUNNINGHAM - KATHRYN WESTMAN

13: 27: 46 2 the surface pollution that goes into the
13: 27: 48 3 stormwater that are all mandated by the Consent
13: 27: 50 4 Decree. So you don't have the legislative
13: 27: 54 5 power and the authority, but the Federal
13: 27: 56 6 Consent Decree certainly mandates what each
13: 28: 00 7 town must do. Thank you for your time.

13: 28: 00 8 MS. WESTMAN: Hi. My name is
13: 28: 18 9 Kathryn Westman. I'm from Ross Township.
13: 28: 20 10 15237 is the zip.

13: 28: 20 11 MS. SCOTT WILLIAMS: Would you
13: 28: 20 12 spell your name, please.

13: 28: 20 13 MS. WESTMAN: K-A-T-H-R-Y-N
13: 28: 20 14 W-E-S-T-M-A-N.

13: 28: 28 15 Quickly, I'm not a representative
13: 28: 30 16 from any group. I'm just here as a concerned
13: 28: 34 17 citizen. I'm a retired RN, mother, grandmother
13: 28: 38 18 and consider myself a steward of God's
13: 28: 40 19 creation. And I just ask that the 2 billion
13: 28: 44 20 dollars be spent wisely exploring all green
13: 28: 48 21 options first and 21st Century solutions, not
13: 28: 52 22 outdated. Thank you.

13: 29: 10 23 MR. KENNEDY: My name is Jason
13: 29: 10 24 Kennedy. J-A-S-O-N K-E-N-N-E-D-Y. Address is
13: 29: 16 25 6364 Phillips Avenue. I live in Pittsburgh,

1 JASON KENNEDY

13: 29: 18 2 City of Pittsburgh. I'm here today as a
13: 29: 22 3 ratepayer and as a biomedical engineer. My
13: 29: 24 4 background is in public health, water quality
13: 29: 28 5 assessment. This is the third public meeting
13: 29: 30 6 I've attended. I chose to speak today because
13: 29: 34 7 looking at our plan from the big picture,
13: 29: 38 8 engineering perspective, I think that we're
13: 29: 38 9 taking the wrong approach to the sewer problem.

13: 29: 40 10 The first step in designing any
13: 29: 42 11 engineering solution is to define the problem.
13: 29: 44 12 And I don't believe our problem is CSOs. I
13: 29: 48 13 don't believe it's insufficient handling
13: 29: 50 14 capacity at ALCOSAN. I don't think that it's
13: 29: 52 15 actually the EPA Consent Decree. I think our
13: 29: 54 16 problem is water quality and I think that in my
13: 29: 58 17 opinion our problem is leadership in that area.

13: 30: 00 18 Our current system pollutes our
13: 30: 04 19 rivers and streams nearly every time it rains.
13: 30: 06 20 Our current Wet Weather Plan doesn't solve this
13: 30: 08 21 problem because an all gray solution is not
13: 30: 10 22 affordable. However, the current plan is also
13: 30: 12 23 not the most effective approach to the problem.
13: 30: 16 24 Our current plan looks only at how we can
13: 30: 18 25 modify the existing sewer system and not the

JASON KENNEDY

1
13: 30: 20 2 surface systems.

13: 30: 22 3 There was an April 2012 report
13: 30: 26 4 conducted by the American Rivers. It's a
13: 30: 28 5 partnership organization that looked at 479
13: 30: 32 6 case studies in 43 different states around the
13: 30: 34 7 Country and found that in 75.5 percent of these
13: 30: 38 8 projects the green solutions were either cost
13: 30: 40 9 controlled or more cost effective than in
13: 30: 44 10 comparable gray solutions. However, these
13: 30: 46 11 solutions remain largely unexplored by ALCOSAN.

13: 30: 50 12 Representatives from ALCOSAN itself
13: 30: 52 13 have said that reducing the volume entering the
13: 30: 54 14 stormwater system is crucial to solving our
13: 30: 56 15 water quality problems yet has provided very
13: 31: 00 16 little analysis or leadership in this area.
13: 31: 04 17 There have been numerous studies by American
13: 31: 08 18 Rivers, The Water Environment Federation, the
13: 31: 12 19 American Society of Landscape Architects, and
13: 31: 14 20 other professional bodies as well as numerous
13: 31: 16 21 publications and stormwater hydrology and other
13: 31: 20 22 water quality journals that suggest green
13: 31: 22 23 solutions are more cost effective, produce more
13: 31: 24 24 jobs, and provide tremendous benefits for the
13: 31: 24 25 community.

1

JASON KENNEDY

13: 31: 28

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Numerous speakers today have

13: 31: 28

3

attested to our strong support for a better,

13: 31: 30

4

greener solution. Our problem is water quality

13: 31: 34

5

and our problem is leadership. ALCOSAN's

13: 31: 36

6

leadership has not fully explored green options

13: 31: 38

7

and has only provided tired excuses that

13: 31: 42

8

insufficient evidence exists that green

13: 31: 44

9

solutions could represent a viable alternative

13: 31: 46

10

to gray storage tunnels. In the words of our

13: 31: 48

11

Vice President, I think that that is a bunch of

13: 31: 52

12

malarkey. ALCOSAN dismisses green solutions as

13: 32: 00

13

something to be handled by local governments

13: 32: 00

14

and really holds hostage our most centralized

13: 32: 04

15

body capable of leading a charge for innovative

13: 32: 08

16

solutions to our water quality problem.

13: 32: 10

17

Arletta, you said before that you'll treat

13: 32: 10

18

whatever we send to you. What we're asking for

13: 32: 12

19

is some help in sending a little bit less.

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20

I urge you to be leaders in solving

13: 32: 18

21

our water quality problems, to be more

13: 32: 22

22

creative, and to look more deeply at how we can

13: 32: 24

23

implement green into solving our water quality

13: 32: 26

24

problems. We're the city of champions and we

13: 32: 28

25

won't accept malarkey as a solution. Thanks.

1 JASON KENNEDY - JENNIFER RAFANAN-KENNEDY

13: 32: 46 2 MS. RAFANAN-KENNEDY: My name
13: 32: 48 3 is Jennifer Rafanan-Kennedy. J-E-N-N-I-F-E-R
13: 32: 56 4 R-A-F-A-N-A-N K-E-N-N-E-D-Y. My address is
13: 32: 58 5 6364 Phillips Avenue, 15217. And I'm the
13: 33: 02 6 Campaign Director for the Clean Rivers
13: 33: 04 7 Campaign.

13: 33: 04 8 Throughout the public comment period
13: 33: 06 9 we have thanked ALCOSAN for their extensive
13: 33: 08 10 work on the region's Wet Weather Plan; however,
13: 33: 10 11 the plan that ALCOSAN's presented is not what
13: 33: 14 12 ratepayers want. Ratepayers want a plan that
13: 33: 18 13 solves the problem not just Phase 1 of a
13: 33: 20 14 decade's long project that will take even
13: 33: 22 15 longer to solve the problem and for which 2
13: 33: 24 16 billion dollars is merely a down payment. It
13: 33: 26 17 is a disservice to ratepayers that more
13: 33: 28 18 affordable green options that bring additional
13: 33: 32 19 benefits to our neighborhoods were never
13: 33: 32 20 addressed in a meaningful way. No service area
13: 33: 36 21 wide study was conducted. No creative thinking
13: 33: 38 22 following the leads of other cities was
13: 33: 40 23 applied.

13: 33: 42 24 Cities and regions all over the US
13: 33: 42 25 and the world are using green technologies to

1 JENNIFER RAFANAN-KENNEDY

13: 33: 46 2 solve stormwater runoff issues. In doing that,
13: 33: 48 3 they've reaped extensive community benefits
13: 33: 52 4 that their ratepayers deserve, cleaner air and
13: 33: 54 5 water, but also jobs, economically vibrant
13: 33: 58 6 neighborhoods, and increased property values.
13: 34: 00 7 Just to name a few.

13: 34: 02 8 While ALCOSAN and our region face
13: 34: 06 9 challenges, especially the multi jurisdictional
13: 34: 08 10 nature of our service area, ALCOSAN has the
13: 34: 10 11 unique opportunity to step up. Like similar
13: 34: 12 12 sewer authorities across the Country, ALCOSAN
13: 34: 16 13 could change its mindset and become a leader
13: 34: 18 14 and innovator that incentivizes new and
13: 34: 20 15 creative thinking rather than consistently
13: 34: 22 16 maintaining the status quo.

13: 34: 24 17 We have a once-in-a-lifetime
13: 34: 26 18 opportunity to invest in sustainable solutions
13: 34: 28 19 that bring the most benefits to ratepayers and
13: 34: 30 20 future generations. We can retain and attract
13: 34: 34 21 residents who want to live in a region ahead of
13: 34: 38 22 the curve. We can give ratepayers like us the
13: 34: 40 23 best, most affordable deal rather than burying
13: 34: 42 24 our money under the river. Ratepayers have
13: 34: 46 25 shared their concerns and can no longer be

1 RAFANAN-KENNEDY - BARYLAK - WOODWELL

13: 34: 48 2 ignored in I think everyone who testified
13: 34: 50 3 today. We want green solutions for our
13: 34: 52 4 neighborhoods, our families, and for the
13: 34: 54 5 future. Thank you.

13: 35: 12 6 MS. BARYLAK: Is there anyone
13: 35: 12 7 else who would like to come up and give
13: 35: 16 8 testimony at this time?

13: 35: 16 9 (No response.)

13: 35: 18 10 MS. BARYLAK: Well, we're
13: 35: 20 11 going to be here until 5:00, so you may not
13: 35: 22 12 want to give it now, but in a couple hours,
13: 35: 26 13 we're still here, you're welcome to do so.

13: 35: 30 14 (Short recess taken.)

13: 35: 30 15 (At this juncture, there was a
13: 35: 30 16 change of court reporters.)

14: 51: 42 17 MR. WOODWELL: My name is
14: 51: 44 18 Davitt Woodwell, D-A-V-I-T-T W-O-O-D-W-E-L-L,
14: 51: 50 19 Executive Vice President of the Pennsylvania
14: 51: 52 20 Environmental Council. We're a statewide
14: 51: 54 21 nonprofit and have been dealing with
14: 51: 58 22 environmental issues in Pennsylvania for 42
14: 52: 00 23 years, and a lot of those have been water
14: 52: 02 24 related over that time, and over the last seven
14: 52: 08 25 or eight years a lot of it has also been

1 DAVITT WOODWELL

14: 52: 10 2 stormwater related.

14: 52: 10 3 We also worked on abandoned mine
14: 52: 14 4 drainage environmental issues, and we worked on
14: 52: 16 5 Philadelphia on stormwater issues with the
14: 52: 20 6 Philadelphia Water Department, working
14: 52: 20 7 northeastern Pennsylvania where we've done some
14: 52: 22 8 167 planning. We've put in green streets
14: 52: 26 9 programs in -- the green street program in
14: 52: 28 10 Ohio and stormwater projects in Meadville,
14: 52: 32 11 working with the DEP.

14: 52: 36 12 I wanted to thank ALCOSAN for this
14: 52: 40 13 opportunity to comment on the draft wet weather
14: 52: 42 14 plan. We commend ALCOSAN for a thorough
14: 52: 46 15 response to the specific requirements of the
14: 52: 50 16 Consent Decree. The technical merits of the
14: 52: 52 17 data collection flow monitoring system
14: 52: 54 18 engineering are of great value for stormwater
14: 52: 56 19 planning in the region. We also think that out
14: 53: 00 20 of all of this, just to start out, that the
14: 53: 02 21 expansion of the primary treatment facility
14: 53: 04 22 here is something that should go forward no
14: 53: 06 23 matter what, that that's part of the
14: 53: 10 24 recommended plan that we really do need to do
14: 53: 12 25 as a region.

1

DAVITT WOODWELL

14: 53: 14

2

We do believe, however, that the

14: 53: 16

3

plan is constrained by the parameters of the

14: 53: 20

4

Consent Decree, the sequencing, and primarily

14: 53: 24

5

that's the sequencing of the municipal consent

14: 53: 26

6

orders versus the Consent Decree that ALCOSAN

14: 53: 28

7

is under, that really, to use the term, puts

14: 53: 32

8

the cart before the horse. That really sets up

14: 53: 36

9

ALCOSAN to almost treat everything that's sent

14: 53: 38

10

to it and sent at it and plan for that with a

14: 53: 42

11

primarily gray infrastructure tunnel approach

14: 53: 46

12

rather than to be able to look at the region,

14: 53: 48

13

the ALCOSAN region service territory,

14: 53: 50

14

holistically and work with municipalities ahead

14: 53: 56

15

of time with their feasibility studies.

14: 53: 58

16

We also are concerned with the

14: 54: 02

17

conclusions reached in the analysis that

14: 54: 04

18

ALCOSAN has done that call for the selected

14: 54: 08

19

plan, including especially the tunnels. And we

14: 54: 12

20

understand that ALCOSAN acknowledges that the

14: 54: 14

21

selected wet weather plan will not meet water

14: 54: 16

22

quality guidelines that are called for in the

14: 54: 20

23

Consent Decree, and that to get to that level

14: 54: 22

24

would cause an excessive burden on the

14: 54: 26

25

ratepayers, as shown by the affordability

1 DAVITT WOODWELL

14: 54: 28 2 study.

14: 54: 30 3 We think a number of fundamental
14: 54: 32 4 issues are failed in this plan that would be
14: 54: 36 5 successful to achieving compliance with the
14: 54: 38 6 water quality, that there are other ways to do
14: 54: 42 7 this; and we think, based on all this, that
14: 54: 44 8 there are four primary structural deficiencies
14: 54: 46 9 with the draft plan as presented.

14: 54: 50 10 The first is source reduction, that
14: 54: 52 11 the plan, because of the sequencing, doesn't
14: 54: 56 12 allow for an in-depth analysis of what source
14: 54: 58 13 reduction in the up-sewershed communities would
14: 55: 04 14 do to the need for ALCOSAN to size its
14: 55: 06 15 facilities, not just here at the plant but also
14: 55: 08 16 at the proposed tunnels.

14: 55: 12 17 Second, that there is an
14: 55: 16 18 inconsistent process through this, and that's,
14: 55: 20 19 again, based on the timing of this. But the
14: 55: 22 20 other inconsistency is one with the EPA,
14: 55: 24 21 frankly, that EPA has been allowing other
14: 55: 28 22 communities to use innovative approaches to wet
14: 55: 32 23 weather issues. And there are a number of
14: 55: 34 24 examples that ALCOSAN knows well, whether it's
14: 55: 36 25 Philadelphia, New York, Cleveland, which is

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DAVITT WOODWELL

14: 55: 38

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hard for a Pittsburgher to say, but that they

14: 55: 42

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have been given these opportunities to include

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4

other methods and take some more time.

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We also think that to achieve this

14: 55: 48

6

that as part of source reduction, service fee

14: 55: 52

7

revenue model under which ALCOSAN operates is

14: 55: 56

8

ineffective to encourage reduction of upshed

14: 56: 02

9

flow given the way it's currently set up in the

14: 56: 08

10

Z agreements, and that being able to address

14: 56: 10

11

that payment -- the fee structure would allow

14: 56: 14

12

the upshed municipalities to have more

14: 56: 16

13

incentive to reduce their flow that's coming to

14: 56: 20

14

ALCOSAN.

14: 56: 20

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As part of this, we also think that

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another part of source reduction in this whole

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approach is green infrastructure. I think

14: 56: 28

18

you've heard a lot about that from a number of

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19

folks. We have been working with a number of

14: 56: 32

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other groups, the Green Infrastructure Network,

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21

which ALCOSAN is, I believe, a member, the

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22

Three Rivers Wet Weather, to look at

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demonstrations and other possibilities for the

14: 56: 40

24

region, how that would work.

14: 56: 40

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It is not necessarily a panacea. We

1 DAVITT WOODWELL

14: 56: 44 2 understand that there are major issues at work
14: 56: 46 3 here but believe that by looking at the Consent
14: 56: 52 4 Decree in another way that that could really be
14: 56: 54 5 done.

14: 56: 56 6 So the following changes, very
14: 56: 56 7 quickly. We join ALCOSAN in urging that the
14: 57: 00 8 federal Consent Decree be reopened, revised,
14: 57: 04 9 and would like the following changes:

14: 57: 06 10 Authorize the expansion of the
14: 57: 08 11 treatment capacity here at Woods Run, adjust
14: 57: 10 12 the sequence of the completion of the
14: 57: 14 13 municipality feasibility studies to occur prior
14: 57: 14 14 to the development of a revised ALCOSAN wet
14: 57: 18 15 weather plan, require green infrastructure as a
14: 57: 20 16 significant element in any wet weather plan,
14: 57: 22 17 require source reduction be required at the
14: 57: 24 18 municipal level, and provide ALCOSAN with
14: 57: 26 19 additional time to complete a revised wet
14: 57: 26 20 weather plan incorporating these and other
14: 57: 32 21 changes; however, that the 2026 deadline for
14: 57: 34 22 completion of all gray infrastructure
14: 57: 36 23 construction should remain unchanged.

14: 57: 38 24 I want to thank you for the
14: 57: 40 25 opportunity to present these comments. I have

1

ERIC AUTENREITH

14: 57: 42

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got a full copy of them. Thank you.

15: 11: 28

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MR. AUTENREITH: E-R-I-C

15: 11: 32

4

A-U-T-H-E-N-R-E-I-T-H.

15: 11: 58

5

It seems like there's been so much

15: 12: 00

6

interest in some sort of green solution to

15: 12: 06

7

these overflows. I understand there's been a

15: 12: 12

8

good deal of contact with the municipalities in

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9

trying to get them to reduce the liquids coming

15: 12: 26

10

from their systems into the ALCOSAN system, but

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it also seems that there's not much mention in

15: 12: 40

12

the plan about green solutions, and I think --

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13

I think it would be helpful to

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14

include some language in there about what

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15

efforts have been made to use some green

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16

solutions and what are the barriers to

15: 13: 02

17

implementing those. I understand that land

15: 13: 08

18

use, whoever has jurisdiction of the land,

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19

needs to be a partner in implementing green

15: 13: 16

20

solutions. It seems that the public doesn't

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21

really understand that; and, consequently, I

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22

don't think that some of the big municipalities

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23

understand that they are holding a key to a

15: 13: 38

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major possibility for addressing this problem.

15: 13: 42

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So I would like to see ALCOSAN

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SUZY MEYER

15: 13: 48

2

describe that a little bit better, why they're

15: 13: 50

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not including that as an option, and have them

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4

just talk frankly about the barriers and what

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it would take for more green treatment

15: 14: 02

6

solution. I think it would help inform the

15: 14: 06

7

public and would give the other municipalities

15: 14: 08

8

a chance to consider the possibilities.

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9

And what goes along with that is a

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cost-benefit analysis. I understand that it

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would take -- it may take a lot of land to

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implement treatment solutions, but

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municipalities with land use ordinances should

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take that into account as they revisit their

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community comprehensive plans. That's it.

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THE REPORTER: Your address,

15: 14: 38

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too.

15: 14: 52

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MR. AUTENREITH: 556 Wolf

15: 14: 54

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Creek Road, Fayetteville, West Virginia 25840.

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MR. BORNEMAN: What brings you

15: 14: 54

21

up here?

15: 15: 16

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MR. AUTENREITH: I'm here as a

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23

graduate student at Chatham University in the

15: 15: 20

24

School of Sustainability. That's why I'm here.

15: 15: 28

25

Thank you.

1

SUZY MEYER

15: 15: 28

2

MS. MEYER: My name is Suzy

16: 10: 32

3

Meyer, S-U-Z-Y M-E-Y-E-R, 1137 Cornell Street,

16: 10: 36

4

Pittsburgh, 15212, a mile away.

16: 10: 42

5

I'm just going to keep it simple. I

16: 10: 44

6

just want to say that I think ALCOSAN has had a

16: 10: 46

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sole focus on green tunnels -- I'm sorry -- has

16: 10: 52

8

had a sole focus on gray tunnel solutions, and

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I think that shows a lack of imagination, which

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in itself I think is an institutional failure

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of public resources.

16: 11: 02

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ALCOSAN has consistently not worked

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with planning groups in a cooperative way, such

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as the Allegheny Riverfront planning the new

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corridor. I went to a couple of those

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meetings, and everybody was wondering where

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ALCOSAN was. And I think ALCOSAN doesn't have

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a good track record in really working with

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municipalities. They work with municipal

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engineers in the group, the seven planning

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basins, but I fail to see like sort of a

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cooperative outreaching to the municipalities

16: 11: 34

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for the purpose of source reduction.

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I personally, as a landscape

16: 11: 40

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architect, would like to see water caught in

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SUZY MEYER

16: 11: 42

2

the upper watersheds in ways that people may

16: 11: 46

3

not even see. I'm talking about level

16: 11: 48

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spreaders and capturing -- maybe stormwater

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wetlands, capturing water in ways that the

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people don't see it, but you're capturing the

16: 11: 58

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water, you're intercepting it, you're detaining

16: 12: 00

8

it, you're retaining it before it hits the

16: 12: 02

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pipes. If it hits the pipes, it's too late.

16: 12: 06

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I understand that there is a need

16: 12: 06

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for a gray tunnel solution. I understand that

16: 12: 08

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there are needs for green infrastructure, which

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are consistently, I think, dismissed by

16: 12: 16

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ALCOSAN. I just would like to see more of a

16: 12: 22

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creative exploration process with the

16: 12: 24

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municipalities, with other planning groups, and

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even within the ALCOSAN institution itself,

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beginning to think outside the gray box, if you

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19

will.

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As a ratepayer and a taxpayer, I'm

16: 12: 36

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very concerned about a doubling of the rates

16: 12: 40

22

from ALCOSAN. And I know that PWSA will be

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instituting a stormwater utility and another

16: 12: 46

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tax, and I just don't see how effective that's

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going to be towards ultimate reduction of CSOs.

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SUZY MEYER

And again, as a designer and a landscape architect, I really would like to see stormwater solutions be a win-win solution, so that when you do the more expensive green infrastructure solutions like the vegetative sidewalks down in the Cultural District or places like that, that kind of green infrastructure is almost a little too much too late. It is certainly very expensive, but there are less expensive ways to do it that would retain the water, green up our environment, create more jobs, different kinds of jobs than we've had before, but I think it could be a win-win solution.

So I would just ask ALCOSAN to think differently about source reduction, to work creatively and cooperatively with other groups. We need gray, we need green infrastructure, and WE need a lot more creativity and cooperation. Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the
proceedings and evidence are contained
fully and accurately in the
stenographic notes taken by me on the
hearing of the within cause and that
this is a correct transcript of the
same.

S/TRICIA CLEGG

S/LEE ANN REID

S/SANDRA J. MASTAY
