**Manager’s Minute**

**January 2018 Update:**

 Happy New Year!

We look forward to working with you and providing important updates to you throughout 2018. To start off the year, we would like to remind you of an informative **workshop for managers and engineers on Friday, January 12.**

Join ALCOSAN to learn about the USDA’s Loan/Grant Program and how it can benefit your municipality. USDA officials will provide an overview followed by breakout sessions where you can get answers to specific questions about your municipality and potential projects

Municipalities with populations of 10,000 residents or less are eligible for this program and are strongly encouraged to attend.

The workshop begins at 9:00 am at ALCOSAN in the O&M auditorium – RSVP by Monday, January 8. alcosan.mro@alcosan.org

**February 2018:**

As work proceeds on the regionalization of multi-municipal trunk sewers tributary to the ALCOSAN conveyance system, this is a good time to review the draft transfer agreement template with your municipal solicitor and councils.  The agreement can be found on the 3RWW website [here](http://www.3riverswetweather.org/sites/default/files/SRIC%20Form%20Transfer%20Agreement%20%2812-15-2014%29.pdf).  This template was developed by the Sewer Regionalization Implementation Committee (SRIC) and is meant to be a starting point to document the formal legal transfer of these assets to ALCOSAN.

Also, please note ALCOSAN has indicated that municipalities interested in transferring sewers or facilities that did not meet the original transfer guidelines can submit requests for review. For questions or to submit a transfer request, contact Jan Oliver, Jan.Oliver@alcosan.org.

**March 2018:**

As you recall from our November Managers’ Minute, municipalities were provided with a draft resolution, developed in consultation with municipal solicitors by the 3RWW Source Flow Reduction and Flow Target (SFRFT) Subcommittee. Each municipality was asked to use the resolution to formally adopt its municipal Source Reduction Study, which was due to the regulatory agencies on December 1.

More than 70 municipalities and authorities either adopted the resolution or used language in their Source Reduction Studies to indicate their agreement with the process outlined in the SFRFT Interim Report. The Interim Report outlines the work of the SFRFT Subcommittee and proposes adaptive investigative flow target metrics, which are viewed as fair, consistent, and equitable across the communities and systems.

Last week, 3RWW sent a letter and a copy of the signed resolutions to the PA Department of Environmental Protection to emphasize our regional consensus on a cost-effective, affordable, and technically achievable source flow reduction approach. The EPA, ACHD and ALCOSAN were copied on this communication. Thank you for your support of this regional approach. We are confident it will help to lay the groundwork for the next round of municipal consent orders.

**April 2018:**

As you know, the Interim Phase I Municipal Consent Orders end on June 1, and we expect the next municipal consent order in the near future.  The 3 Rivers Wet Weather Working Group (3WG), which meets regularly, discusses many issues, but recently has been particularly focused on the future municipal consent order. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in 3WG meetings previously or found the meetings to be too technical, we encourage you to attend our meeting on April 12 at 9 a.m. at the Greentree Borough Building. We plan to discuss not only consent-order-related issues and the path forward with the regulatory agencies, but also stormwater challenges, regionalization efforts, and other pertinent issues.

**May 2018:**

As you know, the Interim Phase I Consent Orders will end on June 1, 2018. It is anticipated that the next phase of orders will be distributed by the end of 2018. PA DEP indicated municipalities will not be able to self-regulate taps during this interim period and will need to follow steps outlined by the regulatory agency for tap requests anticipated between June 2 and December 31.

The letter (below and attached) gives an overview of a recent meeting between the 3RWW Consent Order Subgroup and the regulatory agencies, and also provides an outline of the necessary steps for municipal interim tap requests that DEP asked us to share with you.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Mark Wolinsky at 412-578-7962 or mwolinsky@3rww.org.

**June 2018:**

The 3 Rivers Wet Weather 2018 Sewer Rate Survey documents are now available [online](http://www.3riverswetweather.org/resources/educational-reference-materials/sewer-rate-survey) on the 3RWW website.

3RWW provides this information so that municipalities can compare their rates to neighboring communities. All municipalities pay the same ALCOSAN charges, which are included in the rate calculations.  These tables compare rates to median household income (MHI) allowing you to measure the current level of burden on your ratepayers.  Environmental Protection Agency guidance suggests that sewer rates in excess of two percent (2.0%) of median household income are considered a hardship. In our region, the current average rate is 1.35% of the MHI, with a low of 0.33% and a high of 2.74% (See Sewer Rate Survey Update with Median Household Income: 2018). The sewer rate survey also contains graphic comparisons of sewer rates by Eastern, North and Southern basins. We encourage you to share this sewer rate information with your council. If you have any questions, contact 3 Rivers Wet Weather at 412-578-8197.

**July 2018:**

Recent storms have highlighted the importance of managing stormwater runoff to improve the region’s water quality and help to protect residential and business properties throughout the county.

Allegheny County’s Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan, which includes a model ordinance, was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection on May 31, 2018.  County municipalities have until **December 1, 2018** to prepare and adopt an ordinance that complies with the county’s plan.  You can view the county’s plan [here](http://www.alleghenycountyswmp.com/approved-phase-2-plan-report).

Grants of up to $2,000 are available to help municipalities with the cost of adopting a Stormwater Management Ordinance compliant with the Allegheny County’s Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan. The funding, offered through Allegheny County Economic Development, requires a 25% cash match and includes funding for activities such as preparation and review by a municipal engineer, review by a municipal solicitor, public hearing advertisement, and ordinance printing and distribution.  For more information or an application, contact Kay Pierce, (412) 350-1030, or  Kay.Pierce@AlleghenyCounty.US.

**August 2018:**As you know, Allegheny County’s Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan and Ordinance have been approved by PA DEP. Now municipalities must enact ordinances or regulations consistent with the County’s plan. As a best practice, municipalities may want to include elements incorporating green infrastructure into their respective stormwater plans and ordinances beyond those already included in the County’s.

3 Rivers Wet Weather, with a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, partnered with the Environmental Law Institute to create a resource that can help municipalities accomplish that goal.

This online resource highlights innovative ordinance language and approaches other municipalities throughout Pennsylvania have used to incorporate green infrastructure into their plans and ordinances. It also contains information on other important tools for municipalities in dealing with stormwater issues. These include: other ways green infrastructure can help **MS4 and CSO communities**, additional examples of land use ordinances where green stormwater management strategies, such as low-impact development and non-structural BMPs, can be advanced, and a section on municipal stormwater fees.

We hope you find this online resource—[Incorporating Green Infrastructure Into Stormwater Management Plans and Ordinances](https://sites.google.com/view/pa-green-stormwater/home)—useful. (You may also access this link on our website under the Stormwater tab.)

Please note that we will discuss this, along with other stormwater management topics, at the next 3WG meeting on August 9 at 9 a.m. at the Greentree Municipal Building.

**September 2018**

September usually means summer vacations are over and school is back in session, so we have focused this Manager’s Minute on two important upcoming educational events municipalities will find useful:

* **Monday, September 24, 2018**

FREE Live Webinar for municipalities, sewer authorities and engineers hosted by ALCOSAN and the American Society of Civil Engineers:

**New ASCE Standard – Design, Construction, and Maintenance of Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavements**

*Learn how to correctly design, construct and maintain permeable pavers*

**11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free lunch included**

**Location: ALCOSAN O&M Auditorium**

1.5 PDHs for licensed professional engineers

Space is limited! RSVP via email to ALCOSAN.MRO@alcosan.org by September 13 to reserve your spot

* **October 17-18, 2018**

**20th Anniversary 3 Rivers Wet Weather Sewer Conference**

*Designed for municipal officials, engineers, managers, public works director, etc. Local, regional and national speakers will present 16 educational sessions on overcoming wet weather challenges, and more than 75 exhibitors will share their products and services.*

**8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. each day**

**Location: Monroeville Convention Center**

Up to 4 CEUS for certified wastewater operators and up to 8.75 PDHs for engineers

Registration: Early bird is $75 until September 21, then $85. Fee includes registration, conference materials, continental breakfast, refreshments and lunch for both days.

**FREE** social and networking event on Oct. 17 at 4:30 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall.

Visit the 3RWW website for more detail on the [conference agenda and to register](http://www.3riverswetweather.org/events/annual-sewer-conference).

**October 2018 Update**

Starting this fall, ALCOSAN will begin the Transfer Agreement process with a series of meetings for municipal elected officials. These meetings will be used to present the final Transfer Agreement template that was approved by the ALCOSAN Board at its September meeting and share the process of negotiation and finalizing the agreements. ALCOSAN will also be discussing the transfer agreements at the October 11 3WG meeting (9 a.m., Greentree Municipal Building) and at the 20th Anniversary 3 Rivers Wet Weather Sewer Conference on October 17-18 at the Monroeville Convention Center. Visit our website for the [full agenda of wet weather topics and to register](http://www.3riverswetweather.org/events/annual-sewer-conference/call-papers).

**November 2018 Update**

In light of the rain that has hit the Pittsburgh region this year (48 inches as of the end of October when the annual average is 38!), we thought we would take a look at the “100-year storm.”  What does it really mean and how does it impact our region?

You may have heard weather reporters refer to a 100-year storm, but what exactly does that mean?  A 100-year storm refers to rainfall totals that have a one percent probability of occurring at that location in any one year expressed as a one-hour or 24-hour period. However, the occurrence of a 100-year storm on one day does not decrease the chance of a second 100-year storm occurring in that same year. In other words, there is a 1 in 100 or 1% chance that a storm will reach this intensity in any given year.

In addition, each region has its own criteria for how much rain must fall within one hour or 24 hours to be classified as a 100-year storm. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), in our region, 2.56 inches of rain needs to fall in one hour or 4.89 inches in a 24-hour period. Here is a link if you want delve a little deeper into the data for designated storm classifications. <https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/> Click on Pennsylvania and then select the location by station: Pittsburgh WB City or for more specific location information, enter longitude and latitude coordinates.

Pittsburgh’s geography can cause widely varied rainfall amounts in different communities on the same day.  One community may experience rainfall that qualifies as a 50-year storm while another community may be completely dry. To find accurate rainfall amounts for a particular Allegheny County location, on a specific date and time, check out our [Calibrated Radar Rainfall System](http://www.3riverswetweather.org/municipalities/calibrated-radar-rainfall-data).

If you have any questions, contact Mark Wolinsky at 412-578-7962.

**December 2018 Update**

As you may recall from the October Manager’s Minute, ALCOSAN planned to hold a series of meetings for municipal elected officials in October and November to update municipalities on the transfer agreement process. However, ALCOSAN staff is focusing on finalizing the Consent Decree, so regionalization transfer meetings will be scheduled early in the new year. Stay tuned for dates and venues for these meetings.

Speaking of meetings, we would like to acknowledge and thank all of you who have supported the efforts of 3 Rivers Wet Weather by providing meeting facilities, attending relevant workgroup meetings and providing municipal input to continue to demonstrate our region’s ongoing commitment to solving wet weather issues.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mark Wolinsky at 412-578-7962. Happy Holidays!