

BasinBriefs



Update of Wet Weather News and Progress throughout the Eastern,
Northern and Southern Basins of Allegheny County

April 2009

Upcoming Elected Officials Survey on Sewer System Consolidation

In late April, Basin Group Elected Officials and Municipal Managers will receive an e-mail and a link to an important survey on the best approach to sewer collection system consolidation. As key leaders in your municipalities, your opinions are very important on this issue. The 20-minute online survey is designed to determine what sewer system management options might work best for municipalities throughout the ALCOSAN service area. We request that you share the survey with your council and encourage them to participate as well. The deadline for completing the survey will be May 31.

3RWW will share the results of the survey at the June Basin Elected Officials meetings.

Regional Flow Monitoring Report to be Submitted on Behalf of Municipalities

As of February 15, the regional flow monitoring program was completed and the data is now available on the 3RWW Municipal Data Support Site (MDS site accessible at www.3riverswetweather.org). According to the municipal consent orders, municipalities are required to submit a summary flow monitoring report within 120 days after completion of the program to the Department of Environmental Protection (CSO Communities) or the Allegheny County Health Department (SSO Communities). These agencies have agreed to accept the flow

monitoring reports on 3RWW's MDS site as meeting the summary report requirement outlined in the consent orders. However, any municipality interested in using the MDS site as the mechanism for reporting their flow monitoring data will need to return their signed letter to 3RWW indicating their desire to do so. Municipalities should have recently received an agreement form letter from the agencies, which requires the signature of the municipal manager *and* an elected municipal official to be valid. The letter is to be returned to 3RWW by May 15. If you do not want the summary flow monitoring report to be submitted on your municipality's behalf, you will need to submit your own flow monitoring report to the appropriate agency by June.15.

Upcoming Basin Group Meetings and Topics

June Topic:

Results of the municipal official survey on sewer system consolidation

October Topic:

Review and discuss the financial asset and liability information to understand the true cost of sewer system consolidation

Eastern Basin Group:

June 29 and October 26

Northern Basin Group:

June 24 and October 28

Southern Basin Group:

June 25 and October 29

The True Cost of Municipal Collection System Management

Those who attended the February Elected Officials Basin Group meetings had the chance to discuss an important topic: the true cost of operating and maintaining a municipal sewer collection system.

Basin members were presented with four critical questions that should be answered for each municipality to determine their true cost:

1. What percentage of your municipal budget is allocated for sewer system operation maintenance, including, labor, contracted services, equipment, responding to backups, consent order compliance, and critical repairs?
2. What is the projected cost for major capital investments that will be required in the future, such as new sewer construction, wet weather facilities, or pump station upgrades?
3. Does current revenue equal or exceed the cost of O&M as outlined in the municipal consent orders? (See answer to Q. 1)
4. Will your future sewer revenues equal or exceed your major capital investments that will be required? (See answer to Q. 2)

Basin Briefs

Produced by: 3 Rivers Wet Weather
3901 Penn Avenue, Building #3
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
www.3riverswetweather.org
412.578.8375

Suggestions or news topics? Contact
Tracy Schubert at tschubert@3rww.org.