

*Tell me and I'll forget. ■ Show me and I may not remember.*

*Tell me*  
*Native American Saying*  
*Involve me and I will understand.*



*Improving our region's water quality*

## **Outreach Initiative: Basin Groups**

The 3 Rivers Wet Weather Demonstration Program embarked on a grass roots outreach initiative to develop coalitions in sewershed-based planning basins throughout Allegheny County. The communities in each of these basins were grouped together because in many cases, they share the same watersheds and/or sewersheds, and their sewer collection systems flow into the same segment of the ALCOSAN interceptor system. As a result, these communities will have much the same flow reduction and control goals.

In January 2001, 3RWWD created three pilot basin groups of elected officials, environmental organizations and Councils of Government, involving 56 communities in Allegheny County. The groups were so successful that 3 Rivers Wet Weather quickly expanded the basin groups--the Northern, Eastern and Southern Basin Groups--to include all 83 communities in the ALCOSAN service area.

Throughout the last two years, basin group members have:

- learned about new regulations
- shared information, such as sewer rates and resources for sewer rehabilitation
- embarked on a basin-wide integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping project to take inventory of the sewer system on a regional basis
- interacted with the EPA
- discussed regionalization issues and ways to build consensus on one regional approach
- convened engineers and solicitors to develop alternative language and engineering protocols for the EPA Administrative Consent Orders distributed in late February 2002.

### **Goals of the Basin Groups**

- Develop strategies for cost-effective basin-wide solutions to sewer system rehabilitation
- Attract funding for multi-municipal projects
- Educate municipalities
- Help identify and overcome barriers to regional cooperation
- Provide feedback and information to 3RWWD

### **Basin Group Members**

- Two representatives from each municipality in the basin
- Resource & conservation groups active in the basin
- Businesses & engineers, as appropriate
- COG representatives
- Local elected officials

*Involve me and I will understand.*  
*Native American Saying*  
*Tell me*

*and I will forget ■ Show me and I may not remember.*