**Manager’s Minute Content**

**January 2019 Update**

As we prepare for the New Year, we reflect on the progress that ALCOSAN and its customer municipalities have made toward regionalization of the multi-municipal trunk sewers. Much has been done, but there is still work to do. ALCOSAN has scheduled basin meetings for January to discuss the transfer of the sewers with your elected officials, a schedule of which you have received. We encourage all municipal managers and council/board members to attend these important meetings.

Through the transfer agreement process, ALCOSAN has provided options to help municipalities both accomplish and finance repairs of defects in the sewer lines; repair of these defects is a critical element to the transfer process, and we encourage you to take advantage of the assistance being offered by ALCOSAN.  As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Mark Wolinsky at 412-578-7962. Happy New Year!

**February 2019 Update**

As you know, ALCOSAN held transfer agreement meetings in each of the three basins—eastern, northern and southern—during the last two weeks of January.  You may have attended one of these important meetings, during which ALCOSAN reviewed the benefits of regionalization and process for transferring multi-municipal trunk sewers from municipal ownership to ALCOSAN ownership. ALCOSAN reviewed the current tasks it has completed including updates to the transfer agreement template, the release of sewer repair contracts for municipal use, and the development of an alternative sewer repair funding mechanism to assist municipalities in making significant repairs.

ALCOSAN also highlighted the next steps and responsibilities for municipalities, which include:

* Reviewing transfer agreement template with decision makers and communicate questions/concern to ALCOSAN
* Meeting with ALCOSAN to discuss agreement as needed
* Providing Repair Plan and/or complete required repairs prior to executing transfer agreement
* Preparing and assembling required documentation and/or exhibits as part of the transfer agreement
* Securing required Board/Council approval of transfer(s) and the transfer agreement

In ALCOSAN’s draft modified consent decree, the Authority has committed to “make best faith efforts to take responsibility for at least 200 miles of sewers and associated facilities by January 31, 2020,” so it is critical that the transfer process proceeds as quickly as possible.

If you were unable to attend one of the meetings and have questions or would like more information, please contact Jan Oliver, ALCOSAN’s Director of Regional Conveyance (jan.oliver@alcosan.org or 412-734-8351) or Alexis Meier, E. Holdings, Inc. (alexis.meier@consultant.aecom.com or 412-297-4502).

**March 2019 Update**

While winter is still upon us, spring planning has likely begun for your municipality. A great project for those warmer months is marking storm drains throughout your community, which helps to educate residents about the importance of protecting our water resources and also meets MS4 public outreach and public involvement requirements.

3RWW, with funding from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, recently ordered a new supply of storm drain markers to provide them free of charge to municipalities. The storm drain marker kits will include UV- and abrasion-resistant polyethylene markers, tubes of epoxy, installation instructions and educational postcards (with refrigerator magnets) for distribution to homeowners. These types of markers last much longer than more traditional painted stencils; studies have shown they can last more than a decade. The marker installation is even simple enough for student and adult community groups to implement.

If your community is interested in receiving a storm drain marker kit, please complete this quick [survey](http://www.3riverswetweather.org/storm-drain-marker-request) with your request. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Tracy Schubert at tschubert@3rww.org or 412-578-8197.

**April 2019 Update**

It’s no secret that 2018 went into the record books as the wettest year in Pittsburgh history. A total of 57.8” fell in those 12 months—more than 20 inches over our average of about 37”—causing myriad issues for the region, including sewer overflows, flooding and landslides. Local engineer and Wilkinsburg resident, Tom Batroney, decided to study the region’s 2018 rainfall statistics in order to better understand the weather patterns that occurred and to prepare for similar trends in the coming years as predicted by climate experts. Using the [3 Rivers Wet Weather Calibrated Radar Rainfall Data](http://www.3riverswetweather.org/municipalities/calibrated-radar-rainfall-data) (funded and supported by ALCOSAN), Tom developed a story map, narrated with text, news stories and videos that summarizes the 2018 rainfall in the local Pittsburgh area (The story map works best on a desktop/laptop rather than a mobile device). Check it out: [2018 Rainfall Story Map.](https://tinyurl.com/PGH2018RAIN) Feel free to contact Tom with any comments or questions about the story map at thomas.batroney@mottmac.com

If you have any questions about the 3RWW Calibrated Radar Rainfall System, please contact Mark Wolinsky at 412-578-7962 or mwolinksy@3rww.org.

**May 2019 Update**

The 3 Rivers Wet Weather 2019 Sewer Rate Survey results are now publicly available [online](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.3riverswetweather.org%2fresources%2feducational-reference-materials%2fsewer-rate-survey&c=E,1,BB2aledr5VmvCmclakvvJqyoHHCiaUnI6cQMTrCGhc5A9mpxOX1Ym00itMQAEnnw807i6r6RrEh_LjuU2qX2gL1uNdmCQMdZHyavN8A5F6X8neugywM,&typo=1). 3RWW completes this annual survey as a tool for communities to examine the trends of residential municipal sewer rates throughout the ALCOSAN service area and to use the results in their planning and budgeting efforts.  Many different billing cycles and rate structures are used throughout the 83 communities polled. To make the results comparable, 3RWW standardized the rates by calculating a quarterly bill for an average usage of 13,000 gallons. The Sewer Rate Tabulation Spreadsheet gives an overview of each community’s charges along with ALCOSAN’s quarterly fees, which are the same for each customer municipality.

In addition, the survey includes bar charts for the Eastern, Southern and Northern basins highlighting the municipal rates in those communities.  Finally, basin-specific tables compare overall sewer rates to median household income (MHI).

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.