

CONNECT Water and Sewer Resolutions

CONNECT First Congress, 2009:

Submitted by the planning subcommittee on operations: These resolutions formally recognize clean water as a resource foundationally important to CONNECT member communities. They also recognize the monumental challenge and cost inherent to rehabilitating the region's sewage collection and treatment systems and the degree to which meaningful cooperation across geographic boundaries will be necessary to minimize the burden on ratepayers in years to come.

09-15 The 36 communities represented by CONNECT understand the importance of clean water to public health, recreation, economic development and the quality of life in our region. Therefore, **CONNECT commits to the principle of eliminating sewage overflows by rehabilitating the sewage collection and conveyance systems connected through its member municipalities.** Additionally, CONNECT communities recognize the benefits of working collaboratively on this issue and resolve to do so.

09-16 CONNECT municipalities agree that it is in their best interest to pursue a joint planning process, specifically the development of a CONNECT-wide feasibility study, to fulfill the requirements of the municipal consent orders relative to ALCOSAN. This process would have both an internal component, **as CONNECT municipalities and the city resolve issues concerning the city sewershed, and an external component, as CONNECT municipalities address issues relating to the other borders they share.**

09-17 **CONNECT encourages ALCOSAN to utilize standardized cost calculations so that projects can be more easily compared across jurisdictions and watersheds.** These tools should be provided to the communities to assure uniform analysis throughout the development of the regional wet weather plan.

09-18 CONNECT encourages ALCOSAN to make all facility planning decisions with emphasis on the lowest possible cost to the ratepayer.

09-19 **CONNECT encourages ALCOSAN to evaluate and implement green initiatives and source reduction before designing and constructing grey infrastructure.** Where new "grey" facilities are required, they should be owned by a regional entity so that the costs and benefits of construction and operation are fairly shared.

09-20 **CONNECT encourages ALCOSAN to consider environmental justice in its long-term wet weather control plans.** This refers to the equitable distribution of environmental burdens and access to resources across all communities and individuals.

09-21 **The composition of the ALCOSAN board of directors should reflect the degree to which the Authority serves urban core communities.** The board should include members from CONNECT communities to achieve at least a comparable geographic representation. Additionally, the composition of the board should be demographically representative of the communities it serves.

09-22 To the degree that federal stimulus funding is available, it should be used to support or incentivize regional cooperation and cost-effectiveness on major sanitary infrastructure projects.

CONNECT Second Congress 2010

10-13 Whereas the members of CONNECT continue to recognize the importance of clean water to public health, recreation, economic development and the quality of life in our region; and whereas CONNECT believes that inter-municipal partnerships will create cost-effective solutions to regional watershed problems. **Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT commits to establishing a dialogue with its member municipalities and working with Three Rivers Wet Weather to develop a regional approach to address wet weather issues.**

10-14 Whereas CONNECT continues to commit to the principal of eliminating sewage overflows by rehabilitating the sewage collection and conveyance system connected through its member municipalities; and whereas CONNECT calls on ALCOSAN to demonstrate to CONNECT that ALCOSAN is working to implement green initiatives to create alternatives to source reduction before designing and constructing grey infrastructure. "Grey infrastructure" refers to new brick and mortar facilities built to store or treat flows in wet weather; and whereas CONNECT believes that where new "grey" facilities are required, in the interest of environmental justice, they should be owned by a regional entity so that the costs and benefits of construction and operation are fairly shared. **Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT will continue to work inter-municipally and with ALCOSAN to implement green initiatives which will result in money saved and less infrastructure to manage, and will help rehabilitate the sewage collection system.**

CONNECT Third Congress 2011:

Resolution 11-03 ADOPTED 6.17.11 Whereas CONNECT received funding from 3 Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW) for a Multijurisdictional Sewer Connection Management Study in December 2010 that reviewed and evaluated alternative models for managing and financing improvements to the multijurisdictional (or trunk) sewers located in 18 CONNECT municipalities that have a direct flow connection with the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA); and whereas upon receipt of the funding, CONNECT's water/sewer policy working group developed a request for proposals, solicited responses and selected Eckert Seamans to implement the study; and whereas Eckert Seamans has issued the report "Multijurisdictional Sewer Management Study" that identifies the following options for CONNECT's consideration:

- Use of existing municipal authorities or the creation of new, joint municipal authority to manage, operate and finance one or more trunk sewers.
- Formation of Environmental Improvement Compacts pursuant to state law.
- Continued use of intergovernmental cooperation agreements among municipalities sharing a particular trunk sewer.

Therefore, be it resolved that CONNECT:

- Accepts the report issued by Eckert Seamans.
- Authorizes the water/sewer policy working group to review the options and make recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding implementation of one or a combination of options.

CONNECT Fifth Congress, 2013:

13-02 Endorses the transfer of this conveyance and wet weather control structures to ALCOSAN thereby creating a more precise and practical division of responsibility between ALCOSAN's role as a provider of regional wastewater conveyance and treatment, and of the municipalities as local collection providers for their residential and business customers; requests these transfers expeditiously to facilitate compliance with the environmental regulations and orders as it is in the best interest of both ALCOSAN and the municipalities and the terms of these transfers should be based on considerations (e.g. debt assumption, debt service reimbursement, rate adjustment, etc.) mutually agreed to by ALCOSAN and the municipalities pursuant to system upgrades and expansions related to the Wet Weather Plans.

13-03 Endorses governance changes to reflect the multijurisdictional interests in ALCOSAN's decision-making and performance (finding A of the Sewer Regionalization Evaluation Report released March 2013). Also endorses the process that the Institute of Politics has begun to ensure that all discussions regarding ALCOSAN governance changes are inclusive and transparent.

13-04 Endorses the ALCOSAN Sewer Regionalization Evaluation Study recommendation for the Allegheny County Executive to establish the position of a Wastewater Coordinator and to charge that office, at minimum, to assist in the facilitation of the transfer of multi-municipal trunk lines and wet weather facilities to ALCOSAN.

13-05 Will focus their compliance efforts on improving water quality at the lowest possible cost with the highest possible return on investment.

CONNECT Sixth Congress, 2015:

15-04 A Resolution to amend Resolution 13-02.

Section two and section seven of Resolution 13-02 be repealed and replaced with the following two sections, respectively, as corrections for accuracy and clarification:

(section two) WHEREAS many sanitary sewer lines from municipal collection systems convey flow from multiple municipalities to the ALCOSAN interceptors, and these lines were not designed to meet current wet weather flow conditions and are not subject to specific multi-municipal agreements that delineate necessary operational, maintenance, and capital costs;

(section seven) BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT requests these transfers to be completed expeditiously to facilitate compliance with the environmental regulations and consent orders, in the best interest of both ALCOSAN and the municipalities.

15-05 Endorses governance changes to reflect ALCOSAN's multijurisdictional interests as part of the ongoing regionalization effort; also endorses the findings of the Institute of Politics (IOP) report which calls for an expanding the number of board members to ensure regional representation, the creation of a re-formatted advisory committee, the creation of a code of ethics and a revised committee structure.

15-06 Endorse the findings of the Sewer Regionalization Implementation Committee; and will work with ALCOSAN to facilitate the transfer of their municipality's intermunicipal conveyance lines, other trunk lines and upstream wet weather facilities to ALCOSAN.

15-07 Each member municipality in cooperation with ALCOSAN will utilize the appropriate legal mechanism for their community and will to the best of their ability utilize the due diligence check list established by the Sewer Regionalization Implementation Committee to expedite the transfer of their intermunicipal conveyance lines, other trunk lines and upstream wet weather facilities to ALCOSAN.

15-08 Will work with member municipalities and other experts to create a model ordinance requiring that new land development or redevelopment utilizes low impact green infiltration facilities; will work with our members to educate elected leaders and municipal staff on the economic and environmental benefits of low impact green infiltration facilities and shall advocate for the adoption of the model ordinance.

CONNECT Seventh Congress, 2016:

16-04 Establishes the conveyance and governance changes as our highest priority initiative; reiterates our commitment to working with stakeholders and partners, and calls on all parties to move as expeditiously as possible towards regionalization in coordination with the facilitation of a change to the composition of the ALCOSAN board to better represent its municipal customer base.

CONNECT Eighth Congress, 2017:

17-05 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT endorses ALCOSAN's GROW program and commends the Authority for their continued commitment and support of their customer municipalities; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT commits to assisting in the promotion of the GROW program and encourages its expansion in future funding cycles.