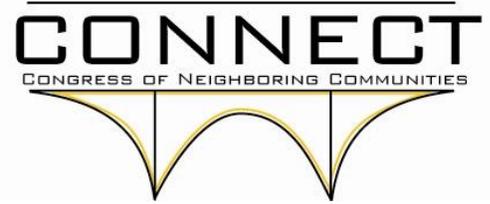


CONNECT Infrastructure and Utilities Launch meeting

Thursday | January 9, 2020 | 1PM
Wilkinsburg Borough Building
605 Ross Ave



Municipal Attendees: Patricia DeMarco, Forest Hills; Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna; Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg; Aftyn Giles, Pittsburgh; Sarah Yeager, Pittsburgh; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Eric Parrish, Wilkinsburg; Brenda Joyce-May, Wilkinsburg; Donn Henderson, Wilkinsburg; Kyle Thauvette, Collier; Darla Cravotta, Allegheny County; Denise Edwards, Wilkinsburg; Tim Rogers, Shaler; Flore Marion, Pittsburgh; Betsy Monroe, Fox Chapel; Mandy Steele, Fox Chapel; Bill Stout, Millvale

Other Attendees: Douglas DuScheid, Peoples Gas; Kenneth Lyle, Peoples Gas; John Walko, Peoples Gas; Heather Manzo, ACCD; Talor Musil, Women for a Healthy Environment; Tom Morse, Columbia Gas; Mark Wolinsky, 3 Rivers Wet Weather; Annie Quinn, 3 Rivers Wet Weather; Rebecca Zeyzus, Allegheny County Conservation District; Ben Reynolds, ALCOSAN; Adam Kidane, ALCOSAN; Manda Metzger, PWSA; Jackson Stoss, PWSA; Ruby Velasco, PCRG; Jim Sloss, Duquesne Light; Jeff Garofalo, T&F Exploration; Steve Garofalo, T&F Exploration; Marcos Bernal, PA One Call; Michelle Acitelli, PennDOT; Meghan Sexton, ACDPW; Heather Manzo, Allegheny County Conservation District

CONNECT/GSPIA Staff: Lydia Morin, CONNECT; Dave Miller, CONNECT; Tess De Jong, CONNECT

Fall GSPIA Projects Reports, Recommendations, Discussion & Proposed Actions

Coordinate PA

- We have \$10,000 from PA One Call to give a blueprint of what it's like to fully implement and activate full potential of CoordinatePA in CONNECT
- The software is being used for planning, but more by utility companies than municipalities
- Entering good data is not required by law, CONNECT is just presenting the opportunity to potentially save money. You may enter in all your projects and never find an opportunity to coordinate with another company. Or you may enter your plans well in advance, and someone still goes ahead and does their project right before anyways. It's not guaranteed you'll be able to share projects with someone else, but as it stands currently, roads are being ripped up way too often. All of this data entry is on the hope and assumption that robust data will in fact present these opportunities.
- Re-emphasize the time and cost savings, training availability, what is and isn't public and/or subject to right to know
- Does there need to be a paid person dedicated to being the CoordinatePA liaison between municipalities and CONNECT? (nods yes)
- You can extend your bid date so it's not public until you're ready
- A template of a resolution started for us by the GSPIA CONNECT capstone group

WPEC Presentation with Q&A from City of Pittsburgh

- In the past, there has been a reverse auction – aggregate all our electricity load, and because it's so large we can get lower prices
- Now we're reversing that with a sub account. Because we have such a large load we can get wholesale pricing instead of retail, which is even lower than in the past.
- Working directly with the grid for the east coast now, we'll have more flexibility and the time commitment is in smaller intervals. We can be more reactive to the market. We can drop in and out as you see fit. We also get more say in where our energy comes from – we can be more renewable
- You can choose the variable prices (lock in what percentage of a load you want for what timespan) or you can still with a fixed price if you like that for budgeting reasons. Municipalities can work with NLX to help search out the best prices
- The current consortium supply contract ends May 2020. Current members and new members can join this new auction
- Discussion around how municipalities knew they benefitted with WPEC before and assume they will benefit from this new model too, but still need to understand it better. City staff is happy to meet to discuss!

Natural Gas Auction Updates

- Pricing based on load profiles of a consortium or individual company, prices are better that way than as a single municipality/customer
- T&F Exploration will work with you to predict the market of gas prices and incorporate some risk. Most institutions prefer the set price option.

Fall GSPIA Projects Reports, Recommendations, Discussion & Proposed Actions

Stormwater Management

- The difficulty in defining what it even means to regionalize stormwater. What geography does it require?
- We discussed this topic years ago, but (CONNECT) having grown older and done the project of transferring sewer pipe ownership, it feels like time to bring everyone back together again
- The recurring question of 'who died and made you boss?' CONNECT wouldn't necessarily have ownership but could serve as catalyst
- This is different than pipes transferring ownership as we are fundamentally talking political jurisdiction issues and land use laws
- Laws don't recognize watersheds. Someone bigger would need to ensure watershed level policy. While at the same time we need to recognize that in the end it will come down to governments, as municipalities are most affected cost wise
- It's an easier conversation when it's centered on budgets and landslides rather than land use but fact is it's land use
- Examples of how what some municipalities can do, legally, that severely hurts other municipalities. Municipalities don't coordinate projects because they don't have to. Developers' pressures on local governments

- Do state legislators need to be here? Walking the fine line between saying no one but the state can do anything, and trying to solve the whole region's problem on our own. If we invite state legislators here, we need some sort of platform prepared in which to invite them into. Have requests for them
- Create stronger ties with Pitt and ACCD
- This conversation will need to be continued at our Executive Committee meeting next week

Motion to adjourn – Tim Rogers, Shaler

Second – Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna

Adjourned 3:09pm