

## Proposed Resolutions for the Fifth CONNECT Congress | November 21, 2013

### Resolution 13-01      **Adopted 11.21.13**

The Nominating Committee recommends the Congress elect the following officers:

#### *Resolution 13-01A*

To elect as chair for a term of one year.

The Nominating Committee recommends **Kathy Coder, Member of Council, Bellevue Borough.**

#### *Resolution 13-01B*

To elect as first vice chair for a term of one year.

The Nominating Committee recommends **Bill Peduto, Mayor-Elect, City of Pittsburgh.**

#### *Resolution 13-01C*

To elect as second vice chair for a term of one year.

The Nominating Committee recommends **Mark Sampogna, President of Council, Green Tree Borough.**

#### *Resolution 13-01D*

To elect as secretary/treasurer for a term of one year.

The Nominating Committee recommends **Mary Ellen Ramage, Manager, Etna Borough.**

#### *Resolution 13-01E*

To appoint as immediate past chair for a term of one year.

The Nominating Committee recommends **Dan DeMarco, Member of Council, Ross Township.**

### Resolution 13-02      **Adopted 11.21.13**

WHEREAS ALCOSAN operates a major wastewater treatment plant and approximately 90 miles of lines that intercept and convey flow from municipal collection systems to the treatment plant; and

WHEREAS many lines from municipal collection systems to the ALCOSAN interceptors convey flow from multiple municipalities and these lines often are not appropriately sized to meet current flow conditions and are not subject to specific multi-municipal agreements that delineate necessary operational, maintenance, and capital costs; and

WHEREAS a mismatch arises between the amount of flow that downstream communities produce and their shares of maintenance budgets for intermunicipal conveyance lines; and

WHEREAS ALCOSAN has the necessary resources to maintain these large, intermunicipal conveyance lines; and

WHEREAS some municipalities also currently maintain and operate wet weather control facilities and ALCOSAN has no control over the timing of the conveyance of the flow from these holding facilities to its plant.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT 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.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CONNECT 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.

**Resolution 13-03      Adopted 11.21.13**

WHEREAS CONNECT has been an active partner in a variety of efforts to improve the governance of our regional sewage and storm water collection system to ensure the affordable, comprehensive and cost-effective responses to regulatory municipal consent orders; and

WHEREAS CONNECT has previously advocated for changes to the composition of the ALCOSAN board that reflects communities' waste flow contribution and promotes a more cooperative relationship between municipalities and ALCOSAN; and

WHEREAS adequate municipal representation on the ALCOSAN board is crucial to the willingness of the 83 municipalities to take regionalization actions.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CONNECT 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*).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that CONNECT also endorses the process that the Institute of Politics has begun to ensure that all discussions regarding ALCOSAN governance changes are inclusive and transparent.

**Resolution 13-04      Adopted 11.21.13**

WHEREAS leadership at the regional level is needed to coordinate long-term, cost-effective and sustainable approach to wastewater management; and

WHEREAS a coordinating point between available technical, legal, financial and educational resources at all levels would be of great service to our region.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CONNECT 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.

**Resolution 13-05      Adopted 11.21.13**

WHEREAS CONNECT communities submitted their wet weather plans in compliance with consent orders at the state and county levels that mandate a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP); and

WHEREAS our municipalities recognize the continuous emergence of new, more cost-effective technologies that can assist in source reduction, including green infrastructure.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT municipalities will focus their compliance efforts on improving water quality at the lowest possible cost with the highest possible return on investment.**

**Resolution 13-06      Adopted 11.21.13**

WHEREAS state enabling legislation for the incorporation of a land bank, Pennsylvania Act 153, became effective December 24, 2012; and

WHEREAS a land bank is a public authority or nonprofit organization created to efficiently acquire, hold, manage and develop foreclosed property as well as other vacant and abandoned properties; and

WHEREAS the land bank will have the authority of property acquisition and disposition, as well as borrow money and issue bonds and notes and be involved in income generating activities.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT recognizes Act 153 and will, with our partners research land bank best practices, develop a protocol for a land bank and conduct necessary outreach to bring together all of the partners needed to develop a multi-municipal land bank that will meet the needs of our member communities.**

**Resolution 13-07      Adopted 11.21.13**

WHEREAS foreclosed and bank owned properties that remain vacant can have serious negative impacts on communities, especially if they are not properly maintained or secured by owners or lenders; and

WHEREAS significant incidences of miscommunication and misunderstanding about the foreclosure process are evident in CONNECT communities, including homeowners prematurely abandoning property before the foreclosure process is completed by the lender leaving the property with unclear ownership and in disrepair; and

WHEREAS some lenders are conducting improper foreclosure protocol by failing to record deeds or gain legal ownership on foreclosed properties.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT municipalities will investigate the frequency and severity of foreclosure miscommunication and improper recordings of deeds.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT municipalities will explore opportunities for educating homeowners and municipalities of the foreclosure process, and will bring the issue to the attention of state legislators if deemed necessary.**

**Resolution 13-08      Adopted 11.21.13**

WHEREAS CONNECT communities have identified the need for a designated solicitor with experience in tax delinquency, abandonment, blight, vacancy and other related issues separate from the work of their individual solicitors; and

WHEREAS our communities wish to collectively identify, select and hire a firm or individual to ensure quality and receive advice and counsel at affordable, fair rates.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will develop an RFP and provide the municipalities the support they need to retain professional assistance to help communities with specific issues related to blighted, abandoned and/or tax-delinquent property.**

**Resolution 13-09      Adopted 11.21.13**

WHEREAS CONNECT has sought a partnership with Duquesne Light to provide more cost-effective and energy-efficient street lighting for municipalities, and

WHEREAS Duquesne Light filed a tariff on August 2, 2013 with the Public Utilities Commission to offer LED street lights throughout their service territory, and

WHEREAS a substantial number of street lights and fixtures within the urban core are due for replacement regardless of the lighting technology installed, and

WHEREAS any tariff that reduces the cost of street lighting for municipalities would have substantial benefits to the taxpayers of the Duquesne Light service area.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED CONNECT calls upon the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission to review thoroughly, but as expeditiously as possible, Duquesne Light filings that would have substantial savings to municipalities in our region.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED CONNECT calls upon the Public Utilities Commission to ensure the capital costs of replacement for street lights and fixtures are shouldered fairly by utilities and municipalities, accounting for the relative age and value of existing assets.**

**Resolution 13-10      Adopted 11.21.13**

WHEREAS the communities of CONNECT represent the overwhelming majority of our region's most crucial ground transportation corridors across all modes; and

WHEREAS the communities of CONNECT seek to maximize the value of our regional investments in these corridors to improve the public health, economic vitality, and safety of our communities; and

WHEREAS the Active Allegheny report, the findings of the County Executive's vision teams, PCRG's study of Transit-Oriented Development, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission's FIT tool for Transit-Oriented Development and efforts to expand Bike Pittsburgh's maps and other amenities into first-ring suburban communities offer a wealth of models and recommendations on ways to improve these corridors; and

WHEREAS the decreases to federal transportation alternatives funding under MAP 21 leaves mature, densely built communities with even fewer resources to improve and maintain access to these corridors for pedestrians, cyclists, transit users and motorists.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT encourages its members to develop and redevelop its corridors in ways that utilize mode share to ensure the safety of all users, as appropriate.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT seeks new, creative funding opportunities for low-investment, high-return mode share and transit access projects that maximize public health, economic development and safety for our communities.**

**Resolution 13-11      **Adopted 11.21.13****

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has substantial deferred maintenance and necessary improvements on transportation assets at the state, county and municipal level; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's local and county governments lack the resources and operational capacity to adequately serve its citizens' and businesses' transportation needs in roads, bridges, and public transportation.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT calls upon state legislators and the governor to ensure that the liquid fuels allocations, at minimum, remain at current levels and any increases to liquid fuels funding apply a formula that accounts for measures of traffic volume, not just population and road mileage.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT calls upon state legislators and the governor to ensure a statewide funding solution for all forms of transportation that provides adequate funding and local authority in the use of that funding to ensure a comprehensive network that allows the safe, efficient movement of people and goods throughout our state.**

**Resolution 13-12      **Adopted 11.21.13****

WHEREAS the first-ring suburban municipalities and the City of Pittsburgh have the highest ridership, unique assets, and unmet needs in the provision of its public transportation; and

WHEREAS CONNECT has seen great strides in its partnership with the Port Authority of Allegheny County; and

WHEREAS many of these unmet needs require additional quantitative and qualitative data to better understand the concerns and identify appropriate solutions.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT shall complete a comprehensive report for submission to the County Executive on the specific public transportation needs of the urban core.**

**Resolution 13-13      **Adopted 11.21.13****

WHEREAS the CONNECT Community Paramedic Pilot Program represents a landmark opportunity for EMS agencies, health insurance providers, hospitals and municipalities to collaborate in innovative ways that advance our region, and

WHEREAS the CONNECT Community Paramedic Pilot Program provides \$100,000 to municipalities and EMS agencies that wish to evaluate and develop implementation strategies that will merge and strengthen our region's provision of paramedic services, and

WHEREAS the elected and appointed officials of CONNECT seek to promote the highest quality emergency care in affordable ways for municipal taxpayers.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT member communities are encouraged to pursue new, more efficient models of emergency medical service administration, oversight and funding that maintain our region's high quality of care.**

**NOTE:**

1. *Member*– A member is a municipality.
2. *Representative* – A representative is an individual duly appointed by a member.
3. *Participant* – A participant represents an organization that has been invited to participate in CONNECT, and may or may not have voting privileges.