

Policy Resolutions for Sixth CONNECT Congress | April 2, 2015

Resolution 15-01

ADOPTED 4.2.15

The Nominating Committee recommends the Congress elect the following officers:

Resolution 15-01A

To elect as chair for a term of one year.

The Nominating Committee recommends **William Peduto, Mayor, City of Pittsburgh.**

Resolution 15-01B

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

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

Resolution 15-01C

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

The Nominating Committee recommends **Marita Garrett, Member of Council, Wilkesburg Borough.**

Resolution 15-01D

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

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

Resolution 15-01E

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

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

Resolution 15-02

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS CONNECT members voted to accept the "Policy on inviting new municipalities to join the Congress of Neighboring Communities" on February 19th 2015; and

WHEREAS the Borough of Forest Hills meets the criteria set forth in said policy.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough of Forest Hills is accepted as a member municipality by the Congress of Neighboring Communities.

Resolution 15-03

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS CONNECT developed a strategic plan that articulates a clear vision and mission for the organization as well as goals, objectives and priorities that are realistic, achievable and measurable.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT endorses the Strategic Plan and is currently working to implement its recommendations.

Resolution 15-04

ADOPTED 4.2.15

A Resolution to amend Resolution 13-02.

BE IT RESOLVED that section two and section seven of Resolution 13-02 be repealed and replaced with the following two sections, respectively, as corrections for accuracy and clarification: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

Resolution 13-02 originally read as follows:

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

(section two) 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 infrastructure 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.

(section seven) 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 15-05

ADOPTED 4.2.15

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 passed resolutions 09-21 and 13-03 that advocated for changes to the composition of the ALCOSAN board to better reflect municipal customer representation 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 ALCOSAN's multijurisdictional interests as part of the ongoing regionalization effort.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT 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.

Resolution 15-06

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS the ALCOSAN Sewer Regionalization Evaluation study published in March 2013 recommended that intermunicipal conveyance lines and wet weather control facilities be transferred to ALCOSAN; and

WHEREAS the report recommended that ALCOSAN and its contributing municipalities should immediately initiate an expeditious process to determine how intermunicipal conveyance lines, other trunk lines and upstream wet weather facilities will be conveyed to ALCOSAN; and

WHEREAS in November 2013 CONNECT, in partnership with 3 Rivers Wet Weather established the Sewer Regionalization Implementation Committee (SRIC) which developed a process for adoption by the involved municipalities and authorities to transfer ownership of multi-municipal trunk lines to ALCOSAN; and

WHEREAS identification of the specific trunk lines for transfer will be a critical element of the due diligence process to be engaged in by the transferring municipalities and ALCOSAN, as identification of the pipes as the corpus and subject of the transfers is a necessary step to closing on a legally enforceable transfer; and

WHEREAS ALCOSAN, through its consultant AECOM, identified approximately 203 miles of intermunicipal conveyance lines, other trunk lines and upstream wet weather facilities to be conveyed to ALCOSAN and a list of the pipes and facilities subject to transfer were identified both by point-of-connection and municipality; and

WHEREAS the committee developed a number of outputs including recommended transfer principals, a form transfer agreement, proposed due diligence process and a municipal outreach process; and

WHEREAS the SRIC passed Resolution 14-01 recommending that the transfer of intermunicipal conveyance lines, other trunk lines and upstream wet weather facilities from the respective municipalities or municipal authorities to ALCOSAN should be preceded by or accompanied by a governance change in the ALCOSAN Board consistent with the recommendation of the IOP ALCOSAN Governance Committee so as to maximize and encourage the support of the various municipalities and municipal authorities for regionalization within the ALCOSAN system.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT member municipalities 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.

Resolution 15-07

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS CONNECT member municipalities recognize that each community is unique and will need to enter into negotiations with ALCOSAN to address those unique needs to transfer their intermunicipal conveyance lines, other trunk lines and upstream wet weather facilities to ALCOSAN.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that 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.

Resolution 15-08

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS in Resolution 09-18 and 09-20 CONNECT encouraged ALCOSAN to implement green initiatives, source reduction and environmental justice before building grey infrastructure; and

WHEREAS in Resolution 10-14 CONNECT resolved to encourage its member municipalities to implement green initiatives; and

WHEREAS green infrastructure installed at the time of site development is both cost effective and efficient.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT 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.

Resolution 15-09

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS CONNECT has embraced public transit to maximize economic development and the quality of life in its member municipalities; and

WHEREAS in Resolution 09-14 CONNECT formally requested that the Port Authority of Allegheny County engage the Congress and its membership; and

WHEREAS CONNECT staff interviewed the leaders of CONNECT municipalities, researched local and national public transportation and collaboration best practices, and created a comprehensive report on the public transportation needs of our member municipalities; and

WHEREAS CONNECT engaged the leadership of the Port Authority during the creation of this report and the development of the recommendations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will implement the findings and recommendations of the Public Transportation Needs Report.

Resolution 15-10

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS many CONNECT municipalities have businesses in their commercial districts that have customers that rely on the access provided by on-street parking; and

WHEREAS many CONNECT municipalities have residential areas where residents rely on on-street parking for their personal vehicles; and

WHEREAS many CONNECT municipalities have experienced parking difficulties ranging from spill over parking caused by commuters using local public transportation stops, to residents with ample driveway and/or garage space choosing instead to use limited street parking for their vehicles; and

WHEREAS well designed and implemented parking policy can increase parking access for businesses and residents, and the availability of designated commuter parking, and could increase revenues from parking and lower traffic congestion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will work with member municipalities, research national best practices, and consult local experts to create a repository of model parking ordinances that will address a range of common parking issues in the urban core.

Resolution 15-11

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS the overwhelming majority of our region's most crucial ground transportation corridors reside in CONNECT member municipalities; and

WHEREAS on November 25, 2013 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania signed Act 89 into law thereby expanding transportation funding in the state by approximately \$2.4 billion; and

WHEREAS the communities of CONNECT seek to maximize the value of our region through improvements in these corridors to improve the public health, economic vitality, and safety of our communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT shall engage numerous partners to develop a comprehensive report on the ground transportation needs of Allegheny County's urban core.

Resolution 15-12

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS new funding for multimodal transportation projects was made available by the Transportation Funding Bill (Act 89) passed on November 25th, 2013; and

WHEREAS in Resolution 11-19 CONNECT resolved to work with PennDOT to develop projects that can take advantage of smart transportation funds; and

WHEREAS the densely populated communities of Allegheny County's urban core are uniquely positioned to successfully take advantage of comprehensive, intermunicipal, and multimodal transportation planning and development options that focus on walkability, bicycle, and transit accessibility; and

WHEREAS a complete streets policy ensures that projects are planned and designed to meet the needs of all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists and transit passengers of all ages and abilities, as well as trucks, buses and automobiles.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT shall work with its municipalities and complete streets advocates and experts such as Bike Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG), Allegheny County and Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC) to create model complete streets ordinances.

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT shall work with said partners to educate municipal leaders and staff on the economic and community benefits of complete streets policies and shall advocate for the adoption of complete streets ordinances in CONNECT member municipalities.

Resolution 15-13

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS CONNECT has selected the legal firm of Goehring, Rutter & Boehm (GRB) to work with our municipalities on issues of blight, abandoned, and vacant properties, with the intent that the selected firm will work with the hiring municipalities and CONNECT to develop a programmatic approach to blight mitigation; and

WHEREAS GRB and CONNECT view data gathering and data sharing as a vital part of quantifying, prioritizing and mitigating the problems of blight; and

WHEREAS significant work to collect, synthesize and analyze blight, vacant and abandoned property data has been done by Allegheny County, the University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR), TriCOG Land Bank, Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania, Growth Through Energy and Community Health (GTECH), and other local organizations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT and GRB will work with those organizations to utilize established blighted, vacant and abandoned property data standards, create standards for relevant data that is not currently collected or standardized, and utilize or develop a process regularly update and share the collected data with all CONNECT municipalities.

Resolution 15-14

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS in Resolution 11-22 CONNECT resolved to explore ways that member municipalities might utilize the enhanced revitalization tools of Act 90 (the Neighborhood Blight Reclamation and Revitalization Act); and

WHEREAS Act 90, allows a municipality to prevent property owners with code violations in Pennsylvania from obtaining building permits; and

WHEREAS CONNECT is working with GRB to create a database of blighted, abandoned and vacant properties, including information about current code violators.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will draft and encourage all members to sign and enforce an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement that would prevent housing code violators from obtaining building permits in cooperating municipalities.

Resolution 15-15

ADOPTED 4.2.15

WHEREAS many CONNECT municipalities participated in Duquesne Light's LED streetlights pilot program in the interest of saving money and using a more energy efficient product; and

WHEREAS Duquesne Light agreed in their settlement with the Pennsylvania Utilities Commission (PUC) to report the financial results of their pilot LED streetlight program to the Citizen for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) by May of 2015, and

WHEREAS any finding from the reported financial data that could be used to advocate for reduced rates and thereby lower the cost of LED street lighting for municipalities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will advocate for the PUC and Duquesne Light to lower the tariff on LED street lighting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CONNECT will work with Duquesne Light to replace all non-LED municipal street lights with LED efficient street lights.

Resolution 15-16 **ADOPTED 4.2.15**

WHEREAS CONNECT municipalities are interested in exploring ways they can decrease energy use and save money through energy efficiency programs and upgrades; and

WHEREAS CONNECT municipalities want to ensure that when existing lighting fixtures or other electric consuming devices need to be replaced, capital improvements are implemented with energy efficiency in mind; and

WHEREAS the Pennsylvania's Treasury Department partnered with the Foundation for Renewable Energy and Environment to create the Pennsylvania Sustainable Energy Finance Program (PennSEF) to provide funding and expertise to help municipalities leverage the services of energy savings companies (ESCOs) for energy efficiency projects; and

WHEREAS PennSEF is focusing on energy savings projects that are larger than most CONNECT municipalities would require.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CONNECT will research funding opportunities and programs for municipalities to implement energy efficiency projects in their communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CONNECT shall request that the Treasurer of Pennsylvania open PennSEF's funding stream to smaller projects that would benefit energy efficiency project creation.

Resolution 15-17 **ADOPTED 4.2.15**

WHEREAS the Allegheny County Emergency Medical Council (ACEMS) has commissioned a study on the state of EMS providers in the county.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CONNECT endorses the process ACEMS is engaging in and will analyze the findings of the study and assist the EMS providers in implementing recommendations that will improve the quality of EMS provision of care in the CONNECT communities.

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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.