

CONNECT Infrastructure and Utilities Launch meeting

Thursday | May 21, 2020 | 1PM

Via Zoom



Municipal Attendees: Patricia DeMarco, Forest Hills; Mary Ellen Ramage, Etna; Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg; Aftyn Giles, Pittsburgh; Sarah Yeager, Pittsburgh; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Kyle Thauvette, Collier; Shawn Alfonso-Wells, Swissvale; Cindy Bahn, Bellevue; Greg Butler, Ingram; Lou Casadei, Green Tree; Manda Gangwar, Pittsburgh; Steve Beuter, Carnegie; Wayne McVicar, Dormont; Phyllis Anderson, Oakmont

Other Attendees: Annie Quinn, 3 Rivers Wet Weather; Adam Kidane, ALCOSAN; Manda Metzger, PWSA; Jackson Stoss, PWSA; Marcos Bernal, PA One Call; Alexis Boytim, Etna Community Organization; An Lewis, Steel Rivers COG; Jennifer Slagle, Gateway Engineers; Kylie Seltzer, University of Pittsburgh; Scott Waitlevertch, Colombia Gas; Shawn McWilliams, ALCOSAN

CONNECT/GSPIA Staff: Lydia Morin, CONNECT; Tess De Jong, CONNECT; Ally Walker, CONNECT; Eric Raabe, CONNECT; Tosan Adoki, CONNECT; Kaleigh Dryden, CONNECT; Sarah Downing, CONNECT

Welcome & Introductions in the Zoom Chat

Working Group Updates & Comments from our I&U Chair

- The Western Pennsylvania Energy Consortium is extending the existing energy contract by a year due to new circumstances with COVID. They will have more time for the procurement process and will put out an RFP for an energy supplier. They will still be moving away from a reverse auction and will keep everyone updated in the process. You can email Sarah at sarah.yeager@pittsburghpa.gov with questions.
 - Their consultant [Enel X](#) is big on education and outreach, so you will likely be hearing from them.
- Brief overview of [guidance](#) and recommendations for parks, pools, and outdoor activities based on the 3 phases or reopening
- 5G conversation is tabled for now until we have more info, but still interesting to members.
- Update on water: how the UPenn Water Center is engaging in a network across PA. They have a similar philosophy as CONNECT in that it is about building relationships, seeing beyond boundaries, and bringing people together working on shared challenges.

Coordinate PA Updates + Q&A

Coordinate PA is another great example of working together to get things done and solve cross boundary problems

- After a brief drop in the number of tickets due to COVID, they are rising again (that is good, it means people are submitting their projects into the software!) 2,600 projects since January 1, 2020.
- They are working to encourage people to still have the pre-construction meeting over the phone the same as they should be doing in person
- Webinars every day on products and services
- [The next Coordinate PA training webinar is May 27 at 2pm.](#) Participation has gone up since they have gone to a remote webinar format! They are as always still available for 1 on 1 assistance.
- PA One Call is working with PennDOT for better coordinating their software together.

ICLEI/DEP/CAP x CONNECT Roundtable

- Officially introducing one of our GSPIA interns to the group, Eric Raabe. He has been working with West Homestead since August. Explanation of ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) and the process of trying to measure, understand, and then reduce emissions.
- Tosan Adoki, another GSPIA intern, has just begun doing the same at the Borough of Munhall.
- How this fits into this working group as well as Economic & Environmental Development – severe rain events, landslides, MS4, energy, are all in the climate action plan.
- The Triboro (Etna, Millvale, Sharpsburg) has had great coordination of this work – good job!
- Feedback from [ICLEI](#) intern supervisors in West Homestead, Etna, Sharpsburg, and Forest Hills. We will be able to see Forest Hills’s PowerPoint on it after it is signed off by their environmental advisory committee.

Priorities & Process Conversations

- We broke up into breakout rooms of 4-5 people just for 3 minutes to wrap up and discuss next steps, things we were thinking about, and creative possibilities.
- Rapid fire recap of the breakout rooms.

Adjourn 3:04pm.