

Message

From: Jim Turner, PE [jturner@pgh2o.com]
Sent: 3/23/2020 9:48:14 PM
To: Gavin White [GWhite@pittsburghparks.org]; Erin Copeland(ecopeland@pittsburghparks.org) [ecopeland@pittsburghparks.org]
CC: Alex Sciulli [ASciulli@pgh2o.com]
Subject: FW: Four Mile Run update

Erin / Gavin,

We wanted to pass along a 4MR email sent from Alex to Chief Gilman earlier today. This provides a high-level summary of current project status and the latest project developments. We'll be discussing this in more detail later.

Thanks,



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From: Alex Sciulli <ASciulli@pgh2o.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 10:39 AM
To: Daniel Gilman <daniel.gilman@pittsburghpa.gov>
Cc: Robert Weimar <RWeimar@pgh2o.com>; Barry King, PE <BKing@pgh2o.com>; Kate Mechler, PE <KMechler@pgh2o.com>; Jim Turner, PE <jturner@pgh2o.com>; Beth Dutton <BDutton@pgh2o.com>; Jim W. Turner <jwturner7@gmail.com>; Paul Leger <paulleger3000@gmail.com>; Margaret Ianier <margaret.lanier@pittsburghpa.gov>; Ricks, Karina <karina.ricks@pittsburghpa.gov>; Alex Sciulli <ASciulli@pgh2o.com>
Subject: Fw: Four Mile Run update

Chief Gilman,

First, I'm passing along my thanks to you, the Mayor and your executive team for your leadership during this trying period. These are unprecedented times and we need leadership to pull us through this pandemic, and we all have a responsibility to make the best decisions for our community.

It has been awhile since we had an update meeting regarding Four Mile Run, so I'm taking this opportunity to give a short summary of where we are in the process. At a high level, we have made significant progress on the project. Some of the highlights include the near completion of the early action projects in Schenley Park along Overbrook Drive and the Bridle Trail, which has provided some relief to the residents of the Run.

We have significantly enhanced the modeling capabilities for the watershed going from the basic ALCOSAN model to a more sophisticated dual drainage model with more than 8000 nodes of connection that not only takes in the pipe network, but also includes the overland stormwater flow and topographical features for better predictability of what actually happens during a flood event. With the enhanced modeling, we have also been able to create "flood inundation" maps that clearly depict the extent of flooding such that we have from seven to forty homes that lie in the "flood zone" for any given storm.

We have also made some progress with our myriad of permits that are needed, and we have received approval from the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office that no further archaeological work is necessary.

We have continued to coordinate closely with DOMI, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, DPW, and the ALMONO partners new management team to keep everyone apprised of our progress and where the challenges are ahead.

We have also recently been made aware of a new consolidated FEMA grant program called "BRIC by BRIC" that will be rolled out in October of this year, which provides a substantial (75/25 and 90/10) financial match for initiatives that include flood studies, structure mitigation and reconstruction, and property acquisition funds to name a few. We may need to collaborate on this one as we get closer to the roll out period.

However, despite this progress and encouraging collaboration, we need more time to evaluate all of the alternatives that have been uncovered during our design process. The enhanced modeling that I mentioned has indicated that with the completion of portions of our proposed design, we may be actually making conditions somewhat worse in the Big Jim's area for larger storm events. This of course is unacceptable.

The separation of the stormwater from Junction Hollow to the Mon River through a consolidated storm sewer is a major engineering challenge with all the infrastructure that needs to be navigated and work under Second Avenue and all of it coming together on one parcel on the ALMONO site that needs to accommodate the M-29 outfall, the Four Mile discharge and the potential ALCOSAN shaft to connect to the proposed CSO mitigation tunnel.

In light of all this work, we decided to pull our Joint Permit Application (JPA) which gets reviewed by the PADEP and the Army Corps of Engineers, because our design will need to change to accommodate the new information from our modeling effort and our alternative analyses that is underway. You will recall the review period is 6-9 months. This means that in all likelihood, we will miss the 2020 construction season, although it would have been slowed anyway with the pandemic. In a recent collaboration call with DOMI representatives, I have made it known to them that our schedule will slip, which means the Mon-Oakland Connector may follow the same fate. Although we may be able to use the extended time for a more consolidated project and contractor approach.

I still have a lot of confidence in the team that we have assembled to come up with the best possible solutions to the stormwater issues that have plagued these neighborhoods for decades, but we made need to go further with the discussion regarding property acquisition and other discussions that will not be widely popular. Again, it comes down to leadership. We need to make the best decisions for this community and ensure that what we build will be money worth spending to address the challenges. For that reason, we need more time to study the problem and determine the best alternatives. Thanks.



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