

Allegheny County Council

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Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

*Michael Finnerty, Chair;
Nick Futules,
Amanda Green Hawkins,
Heather Heidelbaugh,
Bob Macey,
Sue Means,
John Palmiere and
Jan Rea
-Members*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03.

Invited Guests:

Arletta Williams-Executive Director, ALCOSAN

William D. McKain, CPA - County Manager or Designee

Mary C. Soroka - Director, Office of Budget and Finance or Designee

Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.

Ms. Soroka was present from the Department of Budget and Finance.

Ms. Williams was present from the ALCOSAN.

Mr. Barker and Mr. Szymanski were present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 6 - Finnerty, Heather Heidelbaugh, Bob Macey, Sue Means, John Palmiere and Jan Rea

Members Absent: 2 - Barbara Danko and Nick Futules

Members Phone: 1 - Amanda Green Hawkins

III. Approval of Minutes

[8922-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee of Allegheny County Council held on April 15, 2015

IV. Agenda Items**Discussion Topic: Allegheny County Sanitary Authority**

Ms. Williams introduced the Authority's executive staff and gave a presentation outlining the Authority's organization, contacts, mission, and activities. Ms. Williams' presentation discussed how the Authority is regulated, noted that municipalities contract with the Authority for waste treatment services, rate structure. Ms. Williams noted that the significant issue for wet weather stormwater management is overflow, which occurs as a means of protecting the treatment plant from being damaged by waste water diluted by rainfall, and which is the key component of the consent decree's provisions. Ms. Williams provided a brief history of the consent decree, and the formulation of the wet weather plan. Ms. Williams discussed how affordable the proposed remedial action will or will not be to the various communities involved, indicating that the cost per customer for the full \$3.6 billion plan was prohibitive, but that the cost of the \$2 billion first stage would be more bearable. Ms. Williams also discussed how green stormwater management practices became a priority for the consent decree remediation activities.

In response to a question from Mr. Macey, Ms. Williams discussed factors that can lead to slightly different waste treatment costs on a municipality-by-municipality basis.

The Chair, Mr. Macey and Ms. Williams discussed mitigation strategies in terms of combined sewer overflow reduction versus sanitary sewer overflow reduction.

Ms. Williams described regionalization efforts aimed at promoting cooperation among the municipalities that contract with ALCOSAN with regard to overflow issues.

In response to a question from Ms. Heidelbaugh, Ms. Williams described ALCOSAN's efforts to avoid conflicts of interest with regard to contracts entered by the Authority.

Mr. Palmiere expressed amazement at the complexities of the Authority's remediation efforts pursuant to the consent decree.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Ms. Williams noted that the majority of the cost of the consent decree remediation activities would be borne by the rate paying customers of the Authority, and that federal funding is not terribly accessible, due to the major cost of similar activities nationwide.

Mr. Macey and Ms. Williams discussed flow reduction strategies like permeable pavement, as well as the Authority's M/W/DBE participation goals.

The Chair and Ms. Williams discussed the four year structured rate increase plan, with Ms. Williams describing how the revenue raised through the rate increases would be handled.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:11.