

Regional Policy Advisory Committee

August 28, 2023

2 p.m.



Opening Agenda Items

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Agenda Item 2: Action on the Minutes from June 26, 2023

Update on the Port of Pittsburgh

DJ Ryan, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Policy

Agenda Item 3



Questions?



Water Resource Center and Environmental Planning & Programming, 2023-24

Mason Secreti, Water Resource Specialist
Cathy Tulley, Manager of Environmental Programs

Agenda Item: 4



Water Resource Center



Agenda

- 💧 History
- 💧 WRC Mission:
 - 💧 *Regional Coordination & Cooperation*
 - 💧 *Technical Assistance*
 - 💧 *Information Clearinghouse*
 - 💧 *Education*

WRC History

- 💧 1999 - SPC holds conference on sewage related problems
- 💧 2002 - Three Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW) issues regionalization report
- 💧 2005 –Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University
- 💧 2007 – Task Force recommendation

WRC History, Cont'd

- 💧 2008 – SPC Annual Policy Conference focuses on recommendation
- 💧 2008 – SPC Regional Policy Committee recommendation
- 💧 2008 – SPC Board approves resolution
- 💧 2013 – SPC creates dues-funded Water Resource Center

Staff: New Faces

- 💧 **Catherine Tulley, GISP** – new Environmental Programs Manager (9 years @ SPC) (March 2023)
- 💧 **Mason Secreti** – new Water Resource Specialist (August 2023)
- 💧 Both staff trained & certified as municipal NPDES Stormwater Permit Inspectors by EOY '23;
- 💧 Mason is HAZWOPER certified;
- 💧 Other certifications (ASFPM) will be added as appropriate.

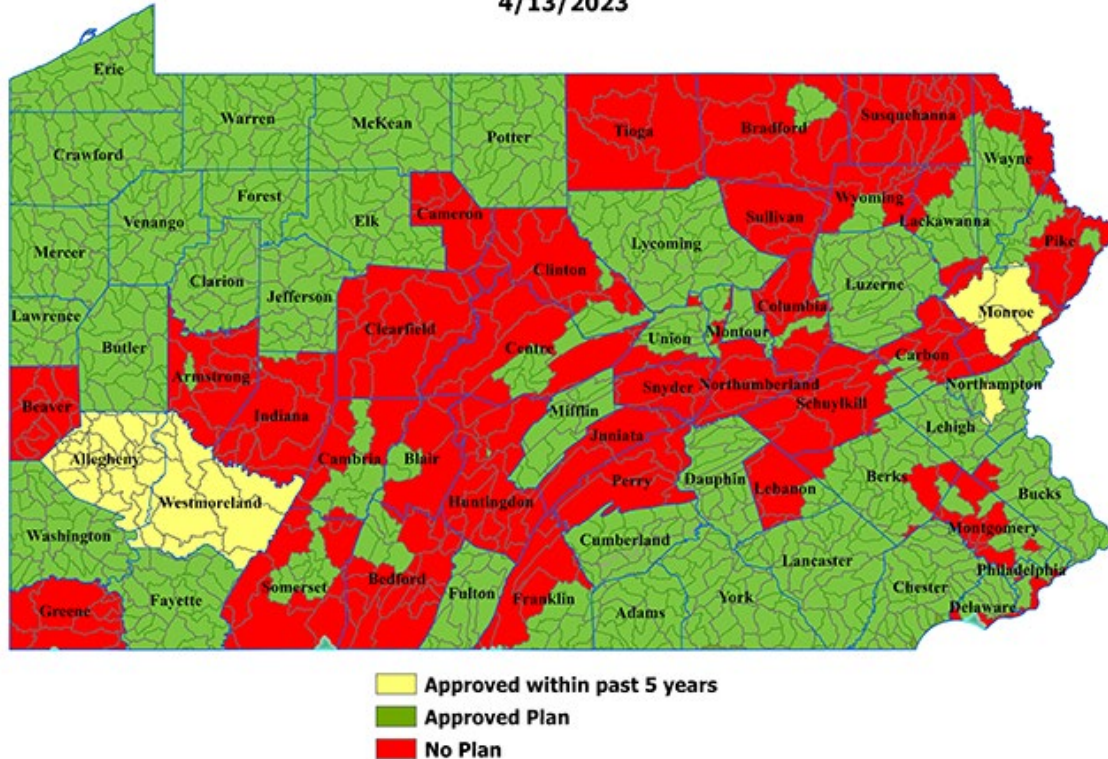
Stormwater: Initial Focus – Here to Stay

- 💧 Initial State \$\$ for Act 167 no longer available
- 💧 Connects many other related infrastructure issues through stormwater planning & programming (flooding, aging infrastructure, resiliency planning & more)



Act 167 SWMPs Status in PA: 4/13/23

Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans Status
4/13/2023




Regional Cooperation & Coordination

- 💧 SPC Regional Policy Advisory Committee
- 💧 County Planning Directors Forum
- 💧 Regional workshops with other expert stakeholders (USACE, DEP, DCNR, PennVEST, municipal authorities, NGOs, etc.)
- 💧 Facilitate regional approach to water planning (LRP strategy)
- 💧 SPC staff to provide updates as-needed to the Commission on regional water issues

Technical Assistance / Regional Clearinghouse

- 💧 WRC website; WRC quarterly newsletter
- 💧 MS4 Best Management Practice (BMPs) guide
- 💧 Existing SWMPs & associated ordinances
- 💧 Model ordinances
- 💧 Funding opportunities
- 💧 Case studies
- 💧 Disseminate Federal & State regulatory information

Education

- 💧 Catalog existing efforts in region & identify potential partners (ex: Audubon Society of W PA)
 - 💧 Identify ongoing educational & outreach priorities
 - 💧 Develop and/or adapt materials to meet the needs of the region (data, education, ordinances, etc.)
 - 💧 Sponsor, develop, & coordinate educational seminars & workshops
 - 💧 Archives  YouTube
- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/@SPCRegion>

Future Focus

- 💧 Restart WRC Quarterly Newsletter – Fall 2023
- 💧 Refresh WRC Website – Fall 2023
- 💧 Resume WRC Webinar Series – Fall 2023
- 💧 DEP Environmental Education grant(s) to produce new or update existing materials
- 💧 Extensive data & mapping updates; field work
- 💧 Exploring future water resource management opportunities within region

Agenda

1. Activities To-Date

2. Technical Assistance Provided

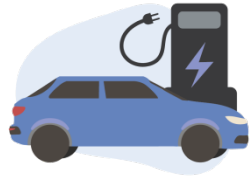
3. Establish Strategic Projects for 2023-24

EP Activities To-Date

- **Renewing Partnerships/Making Strategic Connections:**



- Invited to join the Ohio Region RAB for **PA State Water Plan**; letter and application to Governor's Office due after October committee meeting.
- EPA Climate Pollution Grant; PDOT Carbon Reduction WG; DOE Grants???
- US ACOE, Port of Pgh., PennVEST, DEP, DCNR, DCED, PEMA/FEMA, DOE
- Audubon Society of Western PA (former SPC staffer Sarah Koenig), POWR/Stroud WRC
- USDA Rural Development + State Conserv. Commission + County Conservation Districts
- SWPA Decarbonization Forum + EV events



Technical Assistance Provided

- **SPOC Letters** – Intergovernmental Review letters for Act 537, USDA funding applications
- **Funding Assistance** – City of Connellsville; Greene County water infrastructure funding workshop with SWPA Water Network; municipal solar, municipal EV and others.
 - Indiana, Cambria & Somerset water funding workshop planned for November 28-29 (TBD)
- **DGLVR Program** – SPC will be partnering with the County Conservation Districts and the DGLVR program office to offer FREE low-volume road traffic counts via SPC's HPMS team; also looking into potentially offering LTAP assistance as well.
- **Act 167** – Providing in-kind match to Indiana County for their Act 167 Ph II Plan (funded by PAS grant with US ACOE)
- **HMP** – Discussions with PEMA and State GeoBoard on missing/expired plans; data needs; grants & funding.
- **EV** – provided technical assistance to Ben Avon Borough, Quaker Valley COG and Borough of Sewickley.
 - Invited to speak on EVs at future Allegheny InterCOG Council meeting

Misc.

- **Certified MS4/NPDES Stormwater Permit Inspector + LID-GI module – 5 years**
 - Cathy (June 2023)
 - Mason (October 2023)
- **ESM Certified through Dirt, Gravel & Low-Vol. Roads Program – 5 years (Cathy & Mason)**
- Completed **National Flood Insurance Program** agent training
- Joined the Board of the **Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities**
- Continuing to serve on the **AASHTO ACTS/CTPP Board** – excellent opportunity to connect with national State DOT and MPO staff; cross-pollination with EJ/Justice40 data.
- Continuing to assist with SPC broadband planning & programming
- Attending upcoming conferences: WIFIA/SRFs, PMAA (Cathy); POWR, PSU (Mason)

Establishing Priority Projects

- **Commissioners** – Water, Sewer Infrastructure are KEY areas of focus
 - Resume Regional Sewer Inventory (2021) + Regional Gap/Needs Assessment
 - Building a regional water/sewer data model w/ 3RWW, others
 - Data & mapping assistance to small water & sewer authorities
 - USGS proposed 3D-Hydro Pilot Study
- **County Planning Staff** – cross-collab as needed (Act 167 & HMP, GIS & more)
- **COGs & Municipalities** – in-person & virtual trainings (mostly EV so far)
- **Stakeholders** – Establish a water monitoring technical assistance/gear program similar to the SPC Active Transportation Bike Counting Program
 - Earthviews.net: a “360 ° Google Street View” for rivers – begin mapping in Fall 2023
- **SPC Internal** – Improve enviro GIS data store; departmental cross-collaboration

Let's Continue the Discussion

- How can SPC be a strategic partner for environmental planning?
- Ongoing discussions:
 - Meeting frequency? Format?

Questions?



**Next Meeting Date:
October 23, 2023**

Agenda Item: 5



Adjourn

Agenda Item: 6

