



## Community Meeting January 16, 2019

### Attendance:

See attached sign in sheet (*Attachment A*).

### Summary

Rebecca Zito, PWSA Communications Project Manager, opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. by thanking the organizations who helped coordinate the meeting, including Hear Corp, Carrick Neighborhood Association, and Councilman Anthony Coghill; introducing the Project Team and referring to the presentation (*Attachment B: PWSA Volunteers Field Public Meeting Presentation*).

Ana Flores, EIT, PWSA Project Manager, provided an overview of the Saw Mill Run Watershed, IWMP, green stormwater infrastructure practices, and the current early action projects within Volunteers Field.

Andrew Birmingham, PE, JMT Project Engineer, provided a detailed summary of the Carrick Neighborhood Master Plan for GSI Implementation and Volunteers Field Early-Action Project including alternative designs and construction timelines.

Attendees were encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback on concept exhibits for the green stormwater infrastructure and water quality improvements within the Carrick Neighborhood and Volunteers Field baseball fields.

The following summarizes the questions raised and discussion held:

1. Who is paying for this?
    - a. Ms. Flores – PWSA is paying for this. The sewer surcharge bill on your PA American water bill is for the sewer fees related to ALCOSAN's WWTP fees, not this project directly.
    - b. Councilman Coghill – Mr. Coghill has been meeting with executive director Weimar regularly about increase in rates. The funds on the water bills will go directly to the clean water program / green infrastructure. Not necessarily drinking water--which the Carrick neighborhood does not receive water distribution service from PWSA.
  2. What is the benefit for doing the smaller “least amount of work” first? Also explain storm drainage patterns to the ballfields?
    - a. Ms. Flores – the future planned projects will not affect the early action project, such as planned storage under the parking lot. The early action project (GSI-1) was selected to get project implementation started within the watershed and begin to partner with the neighborhood and monitor the watershed.
    - b. Ms. Flores – ballfields have the most sediment load benefit for permitting, not flooding. Ballfields pose a significant sediment load directly into the storm drain which goes directly to SMR. The ballfield areas were targeted for early action as a “low hanging” water quality improvement project.
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3. Water comes from another area to Riota and Plateau intersection – there is a major flooding concern.
    - a. Ms. Flores asked resident to mark the areas on the map.
    - b. Sam Huth, resident of 308 Riota Way, provided photos of Oct. 2018 flooding at this intersection.
    - c. A discussion of drainage patterns and flooding concerns in this area ensued after the formal presentation. Residents of 308 Riota Way noted that with recent intense rainfall events, there is a significant amount of water running through the vacant lot from the area of Copperfield Ave. and Mt. Joseph St. This seemed to be a recent issue. House on vacant property recently burned and was demo'd. Manhole coming from area near Mt. Joseph St. observed to surcharge runoff during past rainfall events. Resident at 308 Riota mentioned a sink hole (mine subsidence) was recently filled on his property, noted that runoff issues have been worse since. Standing water observed in vacant lot after rainfall events, recent occurrence.
  4. Where does everything drain to? Do the lines even drain?
    - a. Mr. Birmingham – JMT is investigating storm drain connections associated with the Volunteers Field early action projects to make sure they drain. Additional investigations can occur as part of future project implementation within the watershed.
  5. What are the flags we see in the field now?
    - a. Mr. Birmingham - These are JMT / PA one-call flags for mark-out of the existing utilities.
    - b. Field work ongoing – SUE, Survey and Geotech work
    - c. Resident noted that the entire area is on slag, “100-feet deep”.
  6. Is the drain through the woods one of the lines we are connecting to?
    - a. Mr. Birmingham – asked resident to come and mark it on the map.
    - b. Resident is fed up with water issues and thinks PWSA should extend the storm drains through his property.
  7. Does PWSA have cooperation from the 11 communities upstream?
    - a. Ms. Flores – Yes, they are committed and doing similar green stormwater infrastructure projects on their own.
  8. Bryan Funk, Carrick Youth Athletic Assoc. (CYAA) – The ballfield infield areas are 70% sand and can be converted to other materials that don't runoff. We have \$65,000 to do this work in an account at the City and a Contractor proposal for \$54,000 to do all the work (all 4 fields). Can we do this at the same time?
    - a. Mr. Birmingham – yes, need to follow up and work together.
    - b. Follow-up after formal presentation. Bryan Funk (Pres., CYAA), Brian Maroney (VP, CYAA), Brandi March (Tres., CYAA) discussed the ballfield regrading option and GSI-1 in more
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detail with project team members. Ballfield regrading/playing surface upgrade is something CYAA has been wanting for years. CYAA would love to partner to make this happen. There is money set-aside by the City for this project. Local contractor has already provided CYAA with quote to complete the work, Bryan will forward to Ana. Playing season is from April to August. Fall Ball runs until November. CYAA would coordinate away games in the fall to accommodate construction (if necessary). Location of GSI-1 not a big deal; however, it was noted that this area is used for player warm-ups before games and during tournaments. CYAA mentioned interest in a partnership for recreation/playground area in vacant lot area. Was mentioned that CYAA is one of the only local assoc. without a playground/jungle gym at their fields.

9. What is the cost of this project?
  - a. Mr. Birmingham - GSI #1 is \$250,000-\$300,000. Ballfield regrading and drains is \$150,000 for fields 1 and 2.
10. What is the benefit of doing this work?
  - a. Ms. Flores – sediment reduction and pollutant loading.
11. What is the benefit to SMR Boulevard?
  - a. Ms. Flores – the project will hold stormwater and retain / release it slowly to the downstream system.
12. You are underestimating the amount of water that floods in the corner of Riota and Plateau
  - a. Mr. Birmingham – JMT will be designing a new inlet overflow structure to hopefully alleviate the extended ponding.
13. What is the policy on homeowner downspout disconnection?
  - a. Councilman Coghill responded that you cannot simply disconnect and flood people downstream,
  - b. Ms. Flores discussed the plumbing code or separate vs combined systems.
  - c. 2012 new County ordinance requires disconnection in separated systems.
14. What is the larger plan for Saw Mill Run / Route 51?
  - a. Ms. Flores discussed the Overbrook School site as a potential flood plain reconnection.
  - b. US Army Corps is assisting with the overall study, but ultimately PWSA needs to purchase land.
  - c. Councilman Coghill - Flooding is not from the Saw Mill Run leaving its banks, but from the surrounding hills runoff.

Following the formal question and answer session, the project team met with those interested in discussing the project in more detail (see notes above).

The meeting concluded at 7:30 p.m.

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**Attachments:**

*Attachment A: Sign-in Sheet*

*Attachment B: PWSA Volunteers Field Public Meeting Presentation*