

Leadership “Breaks Ground on New Water Filtration Plant in Aliquippa”

Leaders from Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa (MWAA), City of Aliquippa, Beaver County, Pennsylvania, and LSSE gathered on February 25, 2021 at a groundbreaking ceremony on MWAA's new 5.76 mgd regional groundwater-source water treatment plant. The existing plant was originally constructed in 1941 and partially renovated over 20 years ago but today is well past its service life. It is located between Hopewell Avenue and the railroad, parallel to the Ohio River. MWAA and City leaders along with the support of the general public acknowledged that a new water treatment plant is a key component of MWAA's plan to address a regulatory Administrative Order and to improve upon and continue to provide regulatory compliant potable water to its regional customer base that includes customers from the City of Aliquippa and portions of Hopewell, Raccoon and Potter Townships. MWAA's raw water source of supply includes five vertical groundwater wells and two radial type collector wells located along the Ohio River bank. The MWAA distribution system consists of six remote finished water storage tanks, three booster pumping stations, approximately 100 miles of water line, and approximately 5,800 connections (residential and commercial) serving approximately 15,400 customers. The new Water Filtration Plant (WFP) will be constructed adjacent from the existing water treatment plant, where the former Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa business office was located. The existing water treatment plant will be demolished upon start-up of the new facility. Additionally, an above ground clearwell storage tank and garage will be constructed in the lot adjacent to the WFP.



Photo 1: Groundbreaking Ceremony featuring LSSE, MWAA & City of Aliquippa on 02/25/2021

Photo 2: Earthwork at new WFP site

Raw water from the well field will be pumped to a new storage tank (above ground storage tank) for chemical injection (chlorine and sodium permanganate) for the physical oxidation of Iron and Manganese. The filtration process is comprised of continuous regeneration catalytic oxidation greensand pressure filtration system primarily for the removal of Iron and Manganese. The plant process also includes chemical feed system. In addition the new WFP will house chemical storage, intermediate pumps, backwash pumping system, distribution pumping system, chemical feed systems, laboratory, bathrooms, operation staff locker rooms, and a plant/distribution control system. Regulatory drivers include source water quality in accordance with the Groundwater Rule (GWR) requirements using chlorine disinfection in the new clear well and secondary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for Iron and Manganese. Provisions are accommodated to achieve a 99.99% (4-Log) removal of viruses for conformance with GWR. Construction on this \$15M WFP was initiated in 2021 and the new WFP is anticipated to be placed on line in early 2024.

Bunda Inducted into NAIOP Hall of Fame

On August 4, 2021 at the NAIOP 28th Annual Awards Banquet, held at Stage AE, Jerry Bunda, President Emeritus of Imperial Land Corporation, was inducted into the NAIOP Pittsburgh Hall of Fame. Citing Jerry's induction speech:

“When I started back in 1991, the Pittsburgh region did not have the employment in the gas industry and the technology industry had not taken off yet and my goal was to get employment out there for our young people so they did not have to leave the region and I think over the years with the employment base we’re developing we have 1,200 employees out there right now and more coming and I think for me personally, it’s great to see that we have employment for a college student, your college age people, as well as kids graduating high school or looking for employment.”



LSSE is proud to be partnered with Imperial Land Corporation on the development of their properties over the past 20 years, mainly Findlay Industrial Park and the Future Fort Cherry Development District. LSSE would like to congratulate Jerry on this award and his esteemed career. We wish him the best in his future endeavors and look forward to continuing our partnership with Imperial Land Corporation.

3RWW 2021 Sewer Conference - A “Reconnecting Success”

Nearly 400 attendees comprised of elected officials, ALCOSAN leadership, municipal managers / engineers / staff, consultants, regulatory agency employees, regional service providers, product vendors and other regional water quality stakeholders convened at the Monroeville Convention Center on November 3-4 for the 22nd Annual 3Rivers Wet Weather Sewer Conference. Attendees were briefed on topics ranging from ALCOSAN Wet Weather Plan Status updates, Multi-Municipal Collaboration, Sewer Lateral Ordinances, modeling methodologies, green infrastructure design techniques as well as other updates / lessons learned from other regional wet weather programs including Cumberland, Maryland; Richmond, Virginia; Wyoming Valley, Pennsylvania and Northeast Ohio (Cleveland). LSSE, the lead firm of the 3RWW Program Management Team, was one of the sponsors of the event.

One of LSSE's Managing Principals, Mr. Jason E. Stanton, P.E. along with Ms. Julia Spicher, ALCOSAN's Regionalization Manager and Mr. Robert T. Firek, P.E. provided a Panel Presentation titled “Crossing Municipal Boundaries” discussing the multi-municipal collaborative effort led by Baldwin Borough with support from ALCOSAN, 3RWW, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, Whitehall Borough, Brentwood Borough and West Mifflin Sanitary Sewer Municipal Authority that developed the Streets Run M-42 Multi-Municipal Sanitary Sewer Improvements project. This \$7.1M Multi-Municipal project driven by source flow (Infiltration/Inflow) reduction attributable to the Phase 2 Allegheny County Health Department Consent Order and Agreement with ALCOSAN Regionalization objectives represents the potential of regional collaboration evidenced by the recently awarded \$5.4M ALCOSAN GROW Grant. It was acknowledged that all of this collaboration occurred during a global pandemic without the benefit of a single “face-to-face” meeting. Discussion focused on roles of various stakeholders, trust in management / administration, healthy relationships with neighboring municipalities, “outside the box” technical approaches with respect to source flow reduction methodologies and a steadfast belief that maximizing the benefits to a rate payer can necessarily involve collaboration outside of the municipal boundary. It's heard a lot in the municipal world (e.g., consolidation / shared resources, economies of scale) however practiced too infrequently. Key take-aways included “dusting off the COVID Cobwebs” by not becoming intellectually and physically complacent even though not physically connected as a team, progress can be made toward a common goal, in the Streets Run case, regional water quality improvement.

During one of the session breaks, a close LSSE colleague commented that “It was refreshing and energizing to re-connect with everyone after not physically ‘seeing’ them for two years, I didn't know that I would miss the 3RWW Conference as much as I did” (during the Pandemic). With due respect to the famed baseball philosopher, Yogi Berra and LSSE's Chief Surveyor, Joe Duganich, Mr. Stanton retorted “Sometimes you won't know that you'll miss something, until you miss it, clearly we did”.

LSSE looks forward to “Connecting” with its clientele and colleagues at the 23rd Conference next year!!!!





LSSE
Civil Engineers and Surveyors

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Grants/Loans and Funding Update



We are pleased to announce recent funding awards totaling **\$10,641,194** to our clients:

ALCOSAN GROW Grant: Baldwin Borough \$5,432,500 Grant – Multi-Municipal Sanitary Sewer RDII Source Flow Reduction (with Whitehall Borough, Brentwood Borough, West Mifflin Sanitary Sewer Municipal Authority and Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)); O'Hara Township \$69,600 Grant - Sanitary Sewer lining (I/I) and Scott Township \$139,400 Grant – Kane Boulevard - Sanitary Sewer RDII Source Flow Reduction (I/I).

Commonwealth Financing Authority Act 13 Programs: Castle Shannon Borough \$50,000 Grant - Hamilton Park Lower Trail Rehabilitation; Collier Township \$20,000 Grant - Municipal Complex Walking Trail Development; Coraopolis Water and Sewer Authority \$125,000 Grant - McCabe Run Stream Restoration; Delmont Borough \$255,000 Grant - Pollutant Reduction Plan Retrofit Project; Fox Chapel Borough \$175,000 Grant - McCahill Park Trail and Multi-Season Courts Improvements and Rosslyn Farms Borough \$40,000 Grant - Edgecliff Trail Rehabilitation.

Local Share Account (LSA): Cecil Township Municipal Authority \$300,000 Grant - Village of Lawrence Sewage Facilities Project and Peters Creek Sanitary Authority \$100,000 Grant - CIPP Repair Program (Project E - West).



Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST):



Coraopolis Water and Sewer Authority \$1,117,000 Grant - Lead Joint Waterline Replacement Project; Linesville Borough \$775,994 Grant - West Erie Street Lead Line Abatement Project; Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa \$2,041,700 Grant - Lead Service Line Replacement; Municipal Water Authority of Aliquippa \$1,217,181 Loan and \$1,911,819 Grant - Lead Service Line Replacement Phase II and Linesville Borough \$417,483 Loan and \$655,737 Grant - Lead Line Replacement.

Please feel free to call Emily A. Palmer, P.E. (epalmer@lsse.com) or Joshua R. Callender, E.I.T. (jcallender@lsse.com) with any questions or for additional information.

What's New? - Online Ticket Management

Excavator/Designer Web Access and Facility Owner Member Web Access has been retired by Pennsylvania One Call Systems as of September 17, 2021. Online Ticket Management (OTM) is for excavators, designers and facility owners. OTM combines historical tickets and response searches, adds searching on a map, and enhances positions responses for facility owners.



Water System Lead and Copper Rule

The final EPA Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) was published in the Federal Register on January 15, 2021. EPA extended the effective date until December 16, 2021 with a compliance deadline of the final rule of September 16, 2024. Information relative to current action regarding the LCR can be obtained from the Federal Register (www.federalregister.gov).

As part of LSSE's support efforts to its clientele, LSSE has developed web-based forms for field data collection associated with the service inventory requirements of the LCR. As the regulations continue to evolve, LSSE will continue developing tools, practices and techniques to support its clients in meeting these regulations.

For water systems containing lead, PENNVEST in 2021 awarded grant funding under the WIFTA (Water Infrastructure Fund Transfer Act) for elimination of lead in water systems via the replacement of lead services as well as the replacement of cast iron pipe with lead joints. LSSE assisted several local water systems in obtaining grants through this program for projects that had documented locations of



Soft Dig Excavation at Curb Box

LSSE's Newborns

There has been a baby boom this year at LSSE with five new additions to the LSSE Family, and they are all boys! We would like to congratulate:



Nathan Matthewson and his wife Kyra, welcomed their son Isaiah Daniel Mark Mathewson on April 25, 2021.



Jon Smith and Lexus Coon, welcomed their son Warner Penn Smith on June 17, 2021.



Caitlin Martin and her husband Timothy, welcomed their son Elijah Timothy Martin on May 28, 2021.



Drew Null and his wife Kylie, welcomed their son Ryan Drew Null on July 19, 2021.



Shawn Wingrove and his wife Allison, welcomed their son Everett James Wingrove on October 4, 2021.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLYWEDS



Mr. Carter Johnson wed in May 2021; Mr. Greg Copelli and his wife were married in June 2021; Mr. Noah Donovan exchanged nuptials in July 2021; and Mr. Josh Kimes and his wife were united in August 2021.

We wish you all the best!



Baldwin Borough Creates Stormwater Authority

Realizing the need to fund stormwater Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) improvements within the 2023 NPDES MS-4 permit cycle as well as to create a stable revenue source for proactive storm sewer operations and maintenance programming into the future, Baldwin Borough Council formed the Baldwin Stormwater Authority in January 2021. The Baldwin Stormwater Authority is comprised of five board members that already serve their community in an elected council person capacity.



Prior to forming the authority, Baldwin Borough Council considered several options to fund PRP improvements including general funds, capital borrowing and other municipal funding mechanisms. Council engaged LSSE to perform a Study in order to develop an equitable, fair, and reasonable Stormwater Management Fee system to establish a dedicated revenue source. This revenue would apply to anticipated PRP expenses and other stormwater management infrastructure improvements and compliance costs associated with the Borough's regulatory requirements imposed by the MS4 NPDES Permit.

The study concluded that a reasonable basis by which to establish the fee system would be on the user's anticipated contribution of stormwater runoff to the MS4 system or surface waters ultimately focusing on the amount of impervious area contained on a parcel or property. When factoring in anticipated annual expenses, a monthly Equivalent Residential User fee of \$8.00 was recommended. This value compared favorably with other ERU values being charged in the south hills of Pittsburgh and will result in annual gross revenues of approximately \$1.1M per year. This fee went into effect in March 2021. This new revenue source will sustainably fund PRP and other stormwater related expenses into the foreseeable future funding projects like a water quality stormwater basin (picture shown).



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

New Hires:
Allegheny County Office (Headquarters):
Joanne L. Shelly, RLA, AICP, LEED BD+C; Jordan A. Martsolf; Allan T. Michelotti; Alexandria J. Maloney; Jared Owens; Adam L. Greathouse; Michael A. Babusci, P.E., PTOE, CPM; Christopher C. McGuire; Vincenzo L. Pugliese; Benjamin M. Johannsen and Arika Steele

Erie County Office (Branch):
Kenneth J. Parks

Franklin County Office (Branch):
Steven M. Lamphear, P.S., P.E.
Blake S. Roberts

NEW CLIENTS
Municipal Engineering Services

Borough of Dormont
Franklin Park Borough
Industry Borough
North Sewickley Township
New Sewickley Township Municipal Authority
Oakmont Borough
Sandy Lake Borough



Thank you to Sandy and Tim for making this festive pumpkin for LSSE!