



2021-2022 RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting Summary

Meeting No. 2/April 15, 2021

Meeting Attendees:

RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)	Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Morgan Babcock	Karen Pallansch
Liz Birnbaum	Caitlin Feehan
Dan Bradfield	Justin Carl
Ailing Bressman	Mike Krulc
Yvonne Callahan	
Mace Carpenter	
Mark McNutt	
Erik Olson	

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

The highlights of the presentation included:

- A report from each SAG member on community feedback received since the last meeting
- A follow-up on SAG member questions received at the February 18, 2021, SAG meeting
- A preview of the new RiverRenew website
- An overview of AlexRenew’s proposed two-year rate adjustment to help fund RiverRenew
- An in-depth look at the proposed RiverRenew tunnel boring machine
- An overview of the pre- and post-construction survey and monitoring process
- An update on ongoing site investigation work
- Updates on upcoming activities at the Holland Lane Lot and AlexRenew
- A six-month Tunnel Project look-ahead and next steps

The following is a summary of the questions asked by the SAG members and the answers provided by the RiverRenew team.

Erik Olson asked where the team would dispose of excavated soil deemed hazardous.

Justin Carl, RiverRenew Program Manager, clarified that any hazardous soil encountered would be handled in accordance with the contract requirements and disposed of at an out-of-state facility.

Yvonne Callahan asked how Alexandria’s water and wastewater rates compare to surrounding regions.

Karen Pallansch, AlexRenew General Manager, confirmed that AlexRenew rates are comparable to rates in surrounding areas, including Fairfax County and Arlington.

Morgan Babcock asked about discrepancies in her residents’ Virginia American Water bills.

Ms. Pallansch clarified that AlexRenew is a wastewater authority and is not affiliated with Virginia American Water. Ms. Pallansch offered to connect Ms. Babcock with a Virginia American Water representative who could be of assistance.

Mr. Olson asked if AlexRenew is eligible for funds from the American Rescue Plan and the 2021 COVID bill distributed to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Ms. Pallansch indicated AlexRenew will work with the City of Alexandria to determine if AlexRenew will be eligible to receive a portion of these funds.

Mr. Olson asked about the payback period for loans acquired through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act and the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund.

Ms. Pallansch explained the loan acquired through the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund has a 30-year payback period, while the loan acquired through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act has a 35-year payback period.

Mr. Olson asked if AlexRenew is still pursuing additional funding from the Virginia General Assembly.

Ms. Pallansch confirmed that AlexRenew is continuing to request additional funding from the Virginia General Assembly.

Mr. Olson asked if AlexRenew is conducting per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) testing at the plant.

Ms. Pallansch explained that AlexRenew is not currently conducting these tests because an approved testing method for wastewater has not been released from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Mr. Olson asked if construction activity beginning September 2021 at Outfall 001 involves shaft construction.

Mr. Carl indicated the first construction activity at Outfall 001 involves sheeting installation to create additional land area at the site, followed by support of excavation work to construct the shaft.

The following is a summary of the questions asked during the Public Comment Period of the meeting and the answers provided by the RiverRenew team.

Eldon Boes, a member of Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission, asked if there was a contingency built into the RiverRenew Tunnel Project contract.

Mr. Carl specified that the Tunnel Project contract includes about a 10% contingency.

Keri Patashnick, a member of the Rosemont Citizens Association, asked how AlexRenew has been making the distinction between the city's flood prevention efforts and a water quality project like RiverRenew.

Caitlin Feehan, RiverRenew Program Director, and Mr. Carl explained that AlexRenew continues to educate the community through several outreach channels, including public meetings, Community Listening Sessions, and presentations to civic and homeowner associations.

Ms. Patashnick also asked how AlexRenew is ensuring that RiverRenew outreach is equitable.

Mr. Carl emphasized that equity is a main focus of RiverRenew's current outreach efforts. He added that AlexRenew continues to seek a SAG member specializing in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Mr. Boes asked if AlexRenew still plans to construct a facility at Jones Point park, and if so, how large the construction footprint is.

Mr. Carl confirmed that AlexRenew will build a diversion facility adjacent to the cul-de-sac at the end of South Royal Street, which is approximately one acre in size and largely centralized in Jones Point Park.

Other discussion points:

- The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.
- The 2021-2022 RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group meets on the third Thursday of every other month. The next meeting will take place on June 17, 2021.
- AlexRenew will host a Community Listening Session to review construction activities at AlexRenew's wastewater treatment plant on May 20, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.