

Oakland-Wide Community Meeting

Minutes: May 25, 2021

University of Pittsburgh: Campus-wide Stormwater Management and Reuse Plan

Presenting: Mary Beth McGrew, Associate Vice Chancellor for Planning, Design and Real Estate

The University of Pittsburgh is underway with its hillside redevelopment between upper and lower campus to make it more usable, accessible, and sustainable. They have completed a stormwater master plan to conceptualize existing and future sewage sheds and opportunities for water capture. With this, they have developed the Posvar Stormwater Reuse Project to help capture run-off water from the hillside via an underground storage tank (210,000 gallons). This will help divert run-off, mitigate flooding that currently occurs during rain events, and provide water for reuse at Posvar's cooling towers.

Q: Can you speak about options about location and any safety or noise concerns?

A: Want to locate it downhill; it will control water from going into combined sewer during storm events. There will be entry and exit valves to control flow and there will be an alarm if there are any issues. There is no real danger of flooding because it is connected to pipelines. There is currently a humming noise from the chilled water plant.

Q: Is this project a part of the IMP or will it just go through regular city approval process?

A: It will go through regular city approval process.

Q: Who on the city-level oversees this type of project and its approval?

A: PWSA needs to approve it, and the Planning Commission will have to give a final approval as well.

Q: What is the overall timeline of the project?

A: It is about halfway through the design process. Pitt has met with PWSA and have received positive response thus far. They still need to finalize location. There is not concrete end-time for completion of project.

Q: Have other locations been considered?

A: It needs to be in lower campus near sewage/water lines and at a location that won't be too disruptive too existing infrastructure.

Q: Are there existing examples of a project like this?

A: There are examples in older cities like Cincinnati.

Q: If Pitt is planning other new buildings, can tanks be built with those as well?

A: There will be such infrastructure on the hillside as those buildings are constructed.

Q: If this is approved, how long is construction?

A: The large tank will be installed first, and it should not be too lengthy compared to building construction.