



City Council/AlexRenew Board CSO Workgroup Meeting Summary

Meeting No. 18 / April 19, 2023



Meeting Attendees:

CSO Workgroup	City of Alexandria	Alexandria Renew Enterprises
Mayor Justin Wilson	Erin Bevis-Carver	Justin Carl
Vice Mayor Amy Jackson		Caitlin Feehan
AlexRenew Board Chair John Hill		Kelvin Coles
AlexRenew Board Vice Chair James Beall		

The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

The highlights of the presentation included:

- A review of AlexRenew’s proposed FY2024 and FY2025 rate adjustments to support RiverRenew
- An update on RiverRenew Tunnel Project construction activities
- An update on ongoing and upcoming community outreach initiatives

The following is a summary of the questions asked by the Workgroup and the answers provided by staff:

Vice Mayor Amy Jackson asked about the duration of anticipated construction delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Justin Carl, AlexRenew General Manager, explained that AlexRenew anticipates the delays to extend the final project completion date by approximately six to eight months.

John Hill, AlexRenew Board Chair, asked how long it takes for AlexRenew’s construction partners to drive a single pile at the Pendleton Street site.

Kelvin Coles, RiverRenew Program Manager, estimated that, at the team’s current pace, they can drive one pile per day of work at the site.

Vice Mayor Jackson asked if construction on the Hooffs Run Interceptor could impact the cemeteries adjacent to African American Heritage Park.

Mr. Carl explained that a trained archeologist investigates and clears each new area of the Hooffs Run site before construction activity begins. Thus, AlexRenew continues to ensure nearby burial sites have not been and will not be impacted by construction activity.

Vice Mayor Jackson asked if AlexRenew will participate in this year’s Bike to Work Day event.

Mr. Coles confirmed that, in keeping with past years, AlexRenew will have a presence at this year’s event, in partnership with Carlyle Council.

Vice Mayor Jackson asked about the name of the project’s Microtunnel Boring Machine.

Mr. Coles said the Microtunnel Boring Machine was named Marguerite after Marguerite Williams, the namesake with the second most votes from the AlexRenew 2021 TBM naming contest.

Vice Mayor Jackson asked how the RiverRenew tunnel boring machine is able to dig the tunnel significantly faster than expected.

Mr. Coles explained that AlexRenew's construction partners installed a new conveyor to transfer muck excavated from the Waterfront Tunnel to the surface of the site. Due to this new system, Hazel the TBM currently averages 80 feet of tunnel construction per day, rather than the 40 feet she was projected to average.

Mr. Hill asked if the new tunnel conveyor system caused an increase in hauling activity at the AlexRenew site.

Mr. Carl explained that, due to the time-intensive nature of the muck dewatering process, the increased rate of muck removal caused by the new conveyor system should not lead to an increase in truck traffic or hauling activity.

Mayor Justin Wilson asked if the maintenance fee collected by AlexRenew on behalf of the City of Alexandria contributes to RiverRenew funding.

Mr. Carl explained that this fee does not contribute to funding RiverRenew and added that AlexRenew uses 100% of funds collected for that fee to maintain existing sewer infrastructure owned by the City of Alexandria.

Mayor Wilson asked if construction delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will impact the financial projections for RiverRenew.

Mr. Carl explained that AlexRenew does not anticipate that construction delays will impact the program's current financial projections.

Mayor Wilson asked which upcoming construction activities pose the biggest risk of delaying the project's schedule.

Mr. Carl said that mining and other geotechnical activities present the biggest risk to the overall schedule, due to their unpredictable nature. He assured the workgroup that AlexRenew continues to identify and mitigate potential risk factors as work progresses.

Mayor Wilson asked about the potential penalties AlexRenew could face if the tunnel project is not substantially complete by the deadline outlined in the 2018 legislative mandate.

Mr. Carl explained that, while no penalties were outlined in the original mandate, AlexRenew is at risk of incurring penalties associated with permit violations if the mandate cannot be amended by future legislation.

Other discussion points:

- The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.
- The next Council-Board Workgroup meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held in June 2023.