



# 2021-2022 RiverRenew Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting Summary

Meeting No. 5: November 18, 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	Nicole Bushnell
Yvonne Callahan	Jean-Marc Wehrli
Mace Carpenter	
Mark McNutt	City of Alexandria
Michelle Millben	Erin Bevis-Carver

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 review of a new AlexRenew and RiverRenew informational flyer requested by the SAG
- A discussion on topics raised by the SAG Chair
- A Tunnel Project construction update and six-month look ahead
- An update on community outreach initiatives

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

### ***Ailing Bressman asked if the turbidity curtain at the Pendleton Street site would trap fish.***

Justin Carl, RiverRenew Program Manager, explained that the area where the curtain is installed is not very hospitable for fish due to its proximity to the existing combined sewer outfall and the shallow depth of water.

Additionally, the installation of the turbidity curtain is a slow-moving process that starts at one shoreline and moves to the other, and likely to scare off any fish from being inside the curtain.

### ***Liz Birnbaum asked if there was a nonprofit system in place to support community members feeling financial stress from sewer rate impacts.***

Karen Pallansch, AlexRenew CEO and General Manager, answered that this is not currently an avenue available to AlexRenew, but AlexRenew would continue to explore its options.

### ***Ms. Birnbaum asked if AlexRenew has a plan in place if the \$40 million promised from the General Assembly does not come to fruition.***

Ms. Pallansch explained that AlexRenew’s projected rates do not include anticipated grant funds. Only grant funds that have been received to date are included in rate projections.

***Yvonne Callahan asked if AlexRenew's debt ceiling was in any way related to the renovation of City Hall or other City capital projects.***

Ms. Pallansch clarified that, as an independent public authority, AlexRenew and the financing of RiverRenew are in no way tied to the City of Alexandria and its planned projects.

***Ms. Bressman asked if AlexRenew has sought funding from the Army Corps of Engineers.***

Ms. Pallansch explained that AlexRenew spent almost a year working with the Corps on potential funding solutions, but the specificity and timeline of their programs did not align with the needs of RiverRenew.

***Ms. Callahan asked how many clamshell crane loads it would take to fill a single dump truck.***

Jean-Marc Wehrli, Project Manager for the RiverRenew Tunnel Project, stated that it would take roughly 9 loads for the clamshell crane to fill the truck.

**Action items from the meeting included:**

- SAG members to inform AlexRenew if they would like to retain their positions for the SAG's 2022-2023 iteration by December 16, 2021
- SAG members to provide feedback on AlexRenew and RiverRenew informational flyer
- SAG members to inform their networks on January 26 community listening session

**No comments or questions were submitted during the Public Comment period.**

**Other discussion points:**

- The meeting adjourned at 8:45 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 January 20, 2022.