

Buffalo Sewer Stakeholder Advisory Meeting

Date: 3.25.25

Location: Zoom

Time: 4pm - 5pm

Attendees:

- Art Hall (PMT/Hallmark)
- Katie Segarra (PMT/Hallmark)
- Annapurna Nayak (PMT/Hallmark)
- Nadia Mugisha (PMT/Arcadis)
- Rosaleen Nogle (PMT/BSA)
- Cambridge Boyd (PMT/Hallmark)
- Walt Walker (PMT/TYLin)
- Sandy Smith (SAC Member/BNW)
- Jennifer Taylor (SAC Member/Journeys End)
- Asantewa Holley (SAC Member/Northland Workforce Training Center)
- William Siegner (SAC Member/City of Buffalo OSP)

Overview of QCCW Interactive Site

- Art emphasized the importance of the interactive site being an engagement tactic to connect with the community in multiple ways.
- Art presented a tour of the site (multiple language options, virtual community, FAQs, Mission/Vision, survey, share your insights, interactive map, timeline)
- Ansantewa asked if the site is able to be used on a mobile device, Art confirmed it was.
- Sandy commented that having the various types of interactive engagement on the site is ideal, it gives everyone an opportunity to give their opinion and open up dialogue.

Buffalo Sewers 90th Birthday/ Groundbreaking at Florida & Jefferson

- Rosie announced that on April 8th at 1pm there will be an official groundbreaking and press conference for the beginning of the Florida & Jefferson project site to celebrate Buffalo Sewers Birthday.

Overview of Upcoming Public Meetings

- Art shared the upcoming schedule for public meetings.

- 1st public meeting will be on April 17th. Art emphasized that we will be notifying business organizations/associations nearby to the district meetings.
- University District Public Meeting will be held at the Gerard Place.
- Masten District Public Meeting will be held at the Northland Workforce Training Center.
- Art asked that the SAC shares the upcoming public meeting notices within their networks to ensure it reaches as many people as possible.

Updates from SAC

- Jennifer Taylor has been in discussion with the Urban Agriculture Community- there is challenge with water access/barriers to water access in Urban Agriculture.
 - Art asked if we could set aside time for a follow up discussion on this issue and how BSA could support.

Flyer Shared by Jennifer Taylor

Water Access Barriers & Issues

Urban farms provide numerous community, health, and environmental benefits, including reducing storm water run-off. Water is essential for urban food production and is often a limiting factor for urban farms and gardens. Constructing wells is costly for urban farmers and can cost thousands of dollars. Access to water via fire hydrants requires a permit, equipment and installation, and is currently limited to only non-profit community gardens with requirements to utilize an expensive back-flow meter. With temperatures on the rise as a result of climate change, water issues will only increase making it difficult for urban producers to cultivate and sustain their farms successfully.

Recommendations

1. Establish reasonable rates for City Water, through fire hydrant or other means of access for non-profit and for-profit urban farms. As urban farms and community gardens provide many environmental benefits, including storm-water retention mentioned by the City of Buffalo Sewer Authority in Raincheck 2.0, access to lower, more reasonable water rates should be considered.

2. Reduce the cost of water-line installation.

The cost of installing a water line and connecting it to the municipal supply is a huge financial and logistics barrier. This also poses a planning and zoning issue as well as there is no designation for urban farms and community gardens so they are zoned as vacant residential land. San Francisco currently offers a grant designed to help urban agriculture projects and community gardens better manage their irrigation water use. The program offers a one-time waiver up to \$12,000 for the installation of a new dedicated irrigation water service and meter for eligible projects that will be maintained for a minimum 10-year span. One way to credit urban farms for water usage could be based on the square footage of previous surface on the farm.



Wilson Streets Urban Farm well installation 2021

3. Offer a water credit to good neighbors who allow urban growers and community gardeners access to their outside water spigots. The Water Bureau in the City of Rochester will apply a credit of 7,000 gallons (annually) to the water account of a neighbor who supplies water to a community garden.

Relevant Sources

1. San Francisco Irrigation Water Program <https://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=469>
2. City of Rochester Water Credit Program n. <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=214748436>

Action Items:

1. Provide updates on the Community Partnership Program (CPP) for the next SAC Meeting (PMT)
2. Provide event details to the SAC for the 90th Birthday/Groundbreaking at Florida & Jefferson (PMT)
3. Share public meeting info/marketing material with the SAC as it is confirmed. (PMT/Hallmark)
4. Setup a meeting with Jennifer Taylor/Hallmark/TYLin to discuss Water Access & Barriers (PMT/Hallmark)

Next Meeting Date: April 22nd, 2025 at 4pm



QUEEN CITY CLEAN WATERS



HALLMARK
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

QCCW Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Agenda

- 1 Overview of QCCW Interactive Site
- 2 Overview of Upcoming Public Meetings
- 3 Updates from SAC

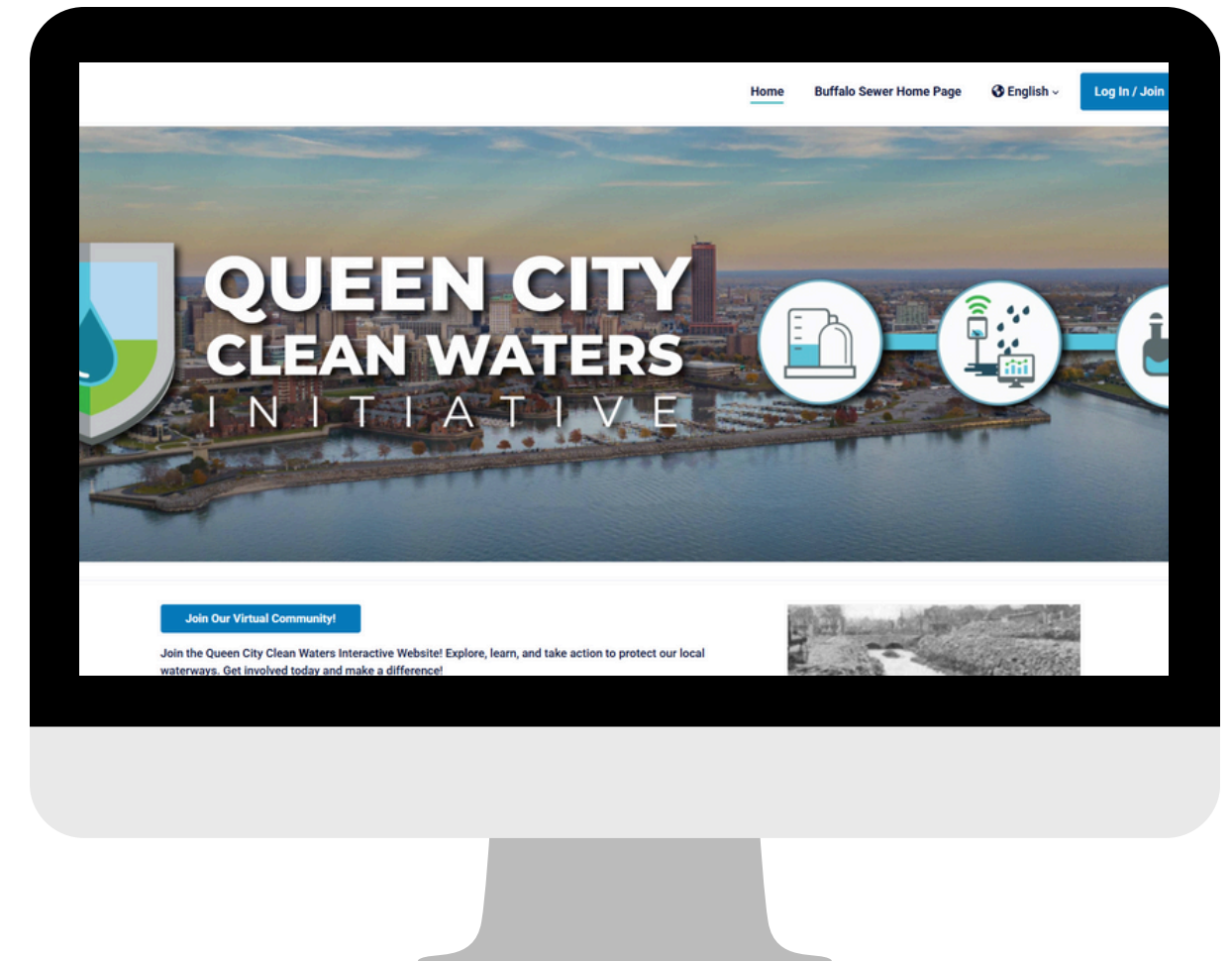
Overview of QCCW Interactive Site

Overview of Queen City Clean Waters Interactive Site

- Link to site: <https://buffaloqccw.org/>

Features of Site

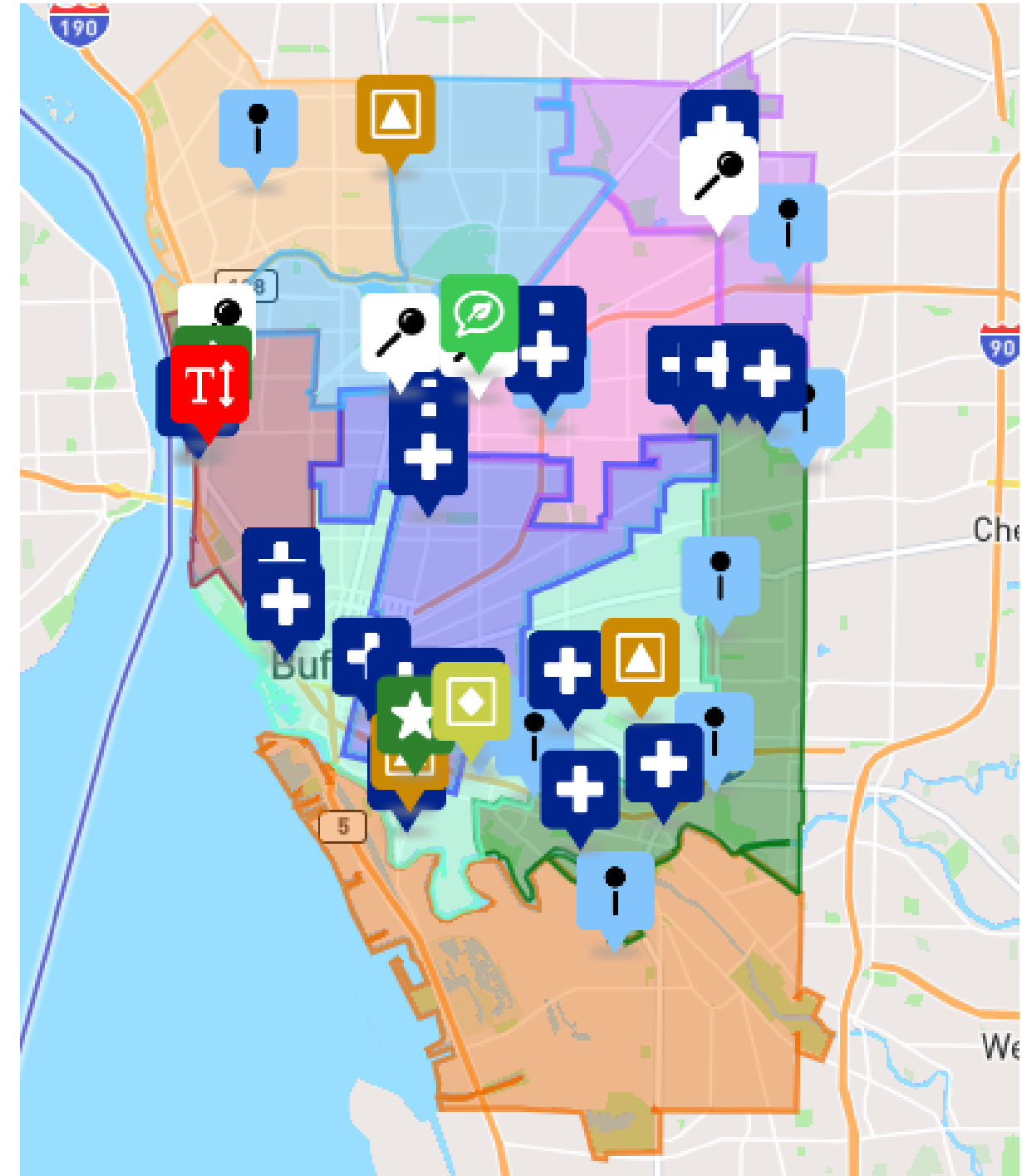
- Ability to View Project Information in Multiple Languages
- Virtual Community Form
- QCCWI Survey
- Open Discussion Forum
- Interactive Map
- Q & A Section
- Timeline of Upcoming Events



Overview of Upcoming Public Meetings

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- **9 In-Person Meetings**
 - 1 per council district
 - Each meeting will highlight projects occurring within their respective districts
- **Tentative Schedule:**
 - **April:** Masten, South, and University District's
 - **May:** Delaware, North, and Niagara District's
 - **June:** Ellicott, Fillmore, and Lovejoy District's
- **1 Overall City Meeting via Zoom**





Questions?



