



NEWSLETTER

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IN THIS ISSUE

GREETING

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

EVENT RECAPS

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPONSOR RECOGNITION

It's all about YOU, our SWEP Three Rivers Chapter Members!

Hello and welcome officially to the second half of 2022! Can you believe we're already here? As the last few years have proven, time has seemed to go by quickly and be stopped all in the same breath. With that being said, now that we seem to be out of the thick of COVID, I feel like everything is starting to wake back up and we are all looking for ways to get involved in new things. If that sounds like you, read on find out how you can get more active with your membership at SWEP Three Rivers.

As a starting point for this letter, the Board of Directors would like to personally thank each of you for being a member of the SWEP Three Rivers Chapter. As our community grows, we find it more important than ever to be grateful and have our members engaged, to know you are a value to the larger group. This chapter wouldn't be possible without all of you, our members, our event and annual sponsors, committee members.

Speaking of grateful and thankful, gratitude is such an important practice we can all participate in daily. This positive emotion involves thankfulness and appreciation with several mental and physical health benefits. When you experience gratitude, you feel grateful for something or someone in your life

and respond with feelings of kindness, warmth and other forms of generosity. As a new member of the board on the programs committee, I am grateful to be here with all of you. While in this role I hope to help provide a great experience to all of you. Our goal is to make sure you feel valued as a member of this group and gain additional experience for your professional and personal growth.

We hope you find your membership enriching outside of your day-to-day career. If you're new to SWEP Three Rivers (or even if you're not) and looking to get involved, there are many opportunities/committees that are always looking for help and new ideas to better serve you, our members. With 7 committees that make up the structure of our organization, there is a fit for everyone to be involved. Information on our committees can be found on our website (<https://swep3rivers.org/Committees>). Once you are in this section, you can click on the links and email the board member(s) that are responsible for each committee and start your engagement.

CONT'D ON NEXT PAGE

If you, your coworkers, friends or colleagues are looking for any more of a reason to be a part of a committee or the SWEP Three Rivers Chapter here are a couple benefits of being part of our group.

Inspiration, motivation and inclusiveness: In small communities there is always someone doing something amazing. This can have an effect on the entire group by recognizing those that are doing amazing stuff and can have the effect of inspiring other members to work harder, be more motivated and achieve bigger goals.

Shared lessons: The group can learn together, from each other and through shared experiences. We all have shared in experiences inside and out of the community that is SWEP. These experiences can be translated to our mentoring program or simply by connecting at our events and truly learning together.

Contacts: In life and in business we always find ourselves in need of a particular service or looking for advice on certain subject matter. When you are in a strong community like SWEP Three Rivers, it is highly likely that someone can help make an introduction for you.

Opportunities: Whether looking for opportunities inside of SWEP or outside in the environmental profession, successful people are always doing cool things and when we can associate with each other, we can take each other along for the ride in some cases.

FUN: Humans are social animals and when you are part of a community, there are always aspects involved that can help you have fun and with SWEP usually for a good cause.



Sincerely,
SWEP's new Program Committee Co-Chair

Christina Casanova



@swep3rivers



/swep3rivers



@swep3rivers

Meet a Member



Kaylin McDermott, EIT | Geosyntec

Kaylin McDermott, EIT is a Senior Staff Engineer in Geosyntec's Pittsburgh, PA office with a focus on environmental remediation. She is a graduate of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, with a bachelor's and master's degree in Environmental Engineering. During her undergraduate and master's coursework, Kaylin gained experience in water and wastewater treatment. Kaylin more recently completed her PhD research in Civil Engineering, with an emphasis on PFAS fate and transport. Through this process, Kaylin conducted a series of unique research projects evaluating design and lab-scale deployment of high-resolution passive samplers for measuring PFAS in sediment porewater, bioaccumulation of PFAS in invertebrate tissues following direct consumption of PFAS-contaminated vegetation, and PFAS distribution and accumulation in an agricultural, effluent water re-use scenario.



Q&A

What do you find exciting or challenging about your job?

What I find most interesting/exciting about my job is that it's always changing! There are so many projects and new opportunities out there, and it's always exciting to see what is going on and what might be coming up next. I also get to feel like I play a role in creating a more sustainable and cared for environment.

What aspect of your education have you found most important in your career?

I think the most important aspects from my PhD journey that I've carried with me are the need for patience and perseverance, and also a love of critical thinking. I love learning and seeing new problems to solve has always been exciting for me. This is something I'm very eager to continue in my new career.

What is your favorite thing about Western PA so far?

Being from West Texas, the thing I like most about Pittsburgh is the culture and history and all the fun events the city has to offer! The rain and cooler temperatures help, too!

Tell us about a woman who inspires you.

I'm inspired by every woman in the STEM field! Having a great community of strong, like-minded women is crucial to our success in the industry. I also take a lot of lessons from my Mom, who has always shown strength in the face of challenges.

Have you learned any unexpected lessons since beginning your career?

Something unexpected moving into my new career has been the overall change from academia to the consulting world. There are so many nuances when it comes to client relations and project management, but it is definitely an interesting world to be in! I'm looking forward to embracing the changes and building my career in the industry.

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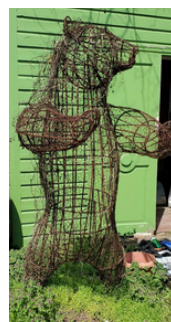
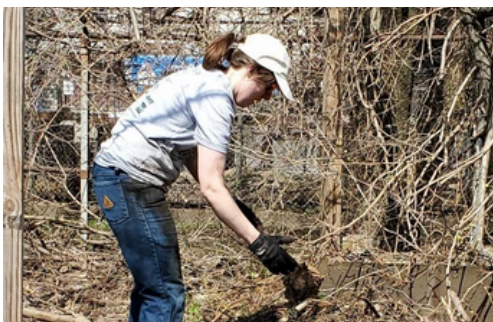


Event Recaps

Earth Day Community Clean Up

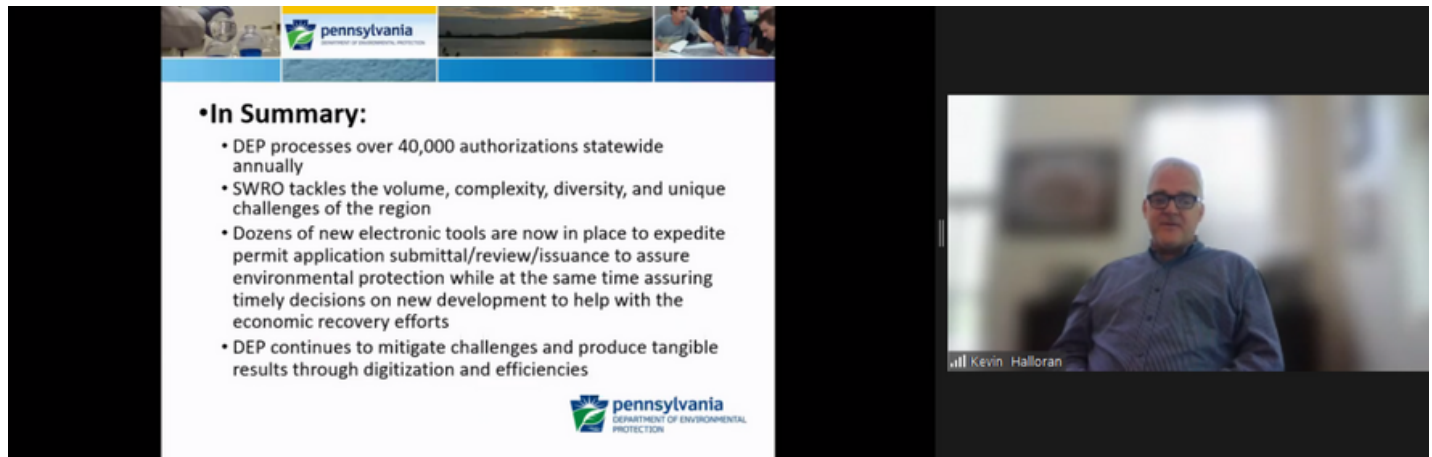
On April 23rd, our SWEPP Three Rivers team participated in Earth Day at the Millvale Library with the Allegheny Land Trust crew! We completed spring cleaning at the Millvale Community Library on a gorgeous sunny morning. Activities included removal of invasive vines/knotweed, and trees; setting up the sand play area; cleaning out and cutting down a large pile of branches/wood that was made from several trees that had fallen; clearing materials and boards from behind the shed and under the deck; and clearing and mulching the rain garden and perennial garden. In over three hours our team loaded up multiple truckloads of debris and garbage with the help of the Millvale Department of Public Works staff ensuring a gorgeous greenspace for Library activities throughout the year.

Afterwards the team enjoyed food and drinks at the library and popped over to Grist House for some fresh beverages!





PA DEP Virtual Brown Bag Lunch



On May 12th, 2022 SWEP Three Rivers programs committee hosted 2022's first virtual event featuring the PADEP's Kevin Halloran who is the Assistant Regional Director at the Southwest Regional Office. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) strives to assist government officials, citizens, organizations, and businesses in understanding environmental issues and regulations. THE PADEP is delegated authority to enforce many state and federal environmental laws and regulations and receives some federal funding allocations.

We had nearly 50 members registered that participated in this event. The goal of this event was to include our group in changes in regulations as well as overall structure to the PADEP's SW regional office. In our conversation, we learned that the PADEP's SW Regional office has 10 environmental programs that it oversees. It was great to have so many members join and find value in this conversation. For our second event with the PADEP this year, we plan on hosting in person if possible. We believe this will bring even more value to our members to become engaged with this regulatory body in our area.

Kevin spoke about several areas that relate to their environmental programs which gave nuance and detail to the conversation. At the end of the virtual presentation, members were presented with an opportunity for a Q&A session. A great overview to the regional and central offices of the PADEP can be found [here](#).

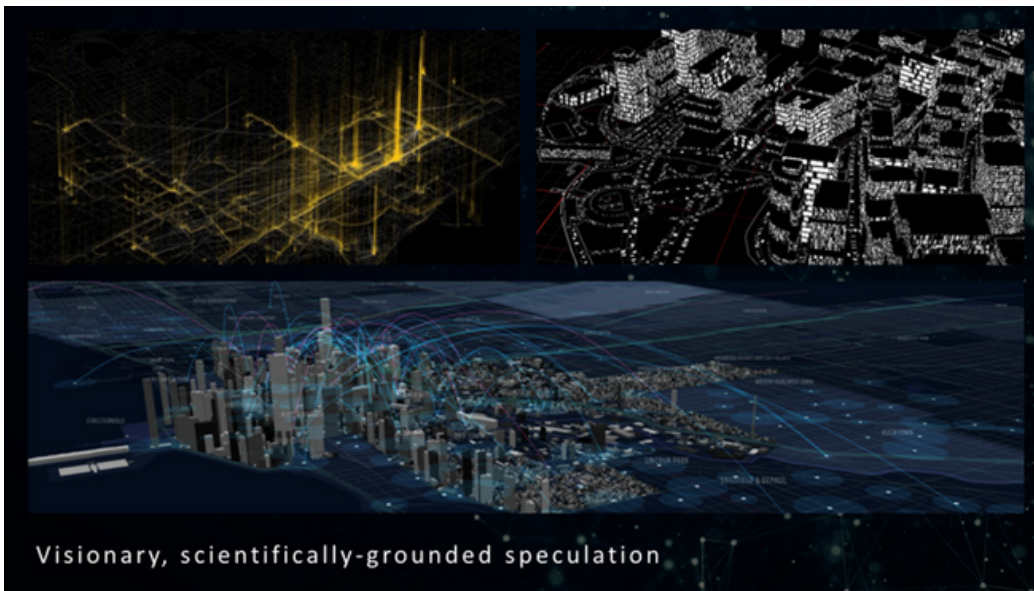
If you'd like to see specific topics related to the PADEP in our next events with this agency, contact Christina Casanova at (412) 260-9878 or christina.casanova@fieldingenv.com



ESWP Technical Society Fair

On April 26, 2022, the Engineering Society of Western Pennsylvania (ESWP) hosted a Technical Society Fair for their affiliated organizations. Like a job fair or college fair, this event was geared towards professional societies. The fair provided the opportunity for all participating groups to promote their organization to the greater engineering community. SWEPP participated in the event as a professional society, and Meredith Welle (Membership Chair) and Amanda Love (Past President) attended on behalf of SWEPP. A booth was set up with all the latest SWEPP swag, including seed coasters and pens. During the fair, event attendees were able to network with fellow professionals, learn about other technical societies in Pittsburgh, and enjoy appetizers.

Additionally, during the networking portion of the event, participants were able to try out a virtual reality experience of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) created FUTURE WORLD. Using Oculus virtual reality goggles, participants were able to walk through what ASCE envisions for a Future City.



The guest speaker at the event was Jerry Buckwalter, ASCE, who presented "Future World Vision: Engineering the Future Built Environment". ASCE decided to launch the Future World Vision project to help meet the infrastructure challenges

of tomorrow. They examined six important sociopolitical, economic, environmental, and technological trends as key drivers of change for future built infrastructure. An amazing virtual reality future world was created because of years of data analysis. ASCE continues to create additional future virtual reality "worlds", including Floating City, Rural City, Frozen, City, and Off Planet City. To learn more about the ASCE Future City project visit [Why Future World Vision | ASCE](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Etna EcoDistrict Tour

Thursday, August 25, 2022

Tour: 2-4pm

Happy Hour: 4-6pm

Details on the event and registration available [here](#).

ALCOSAN Open House

SWEP will be hosting a booth at the ALCOSAN Open House on Saturday, September 10, 2022. If you are interested in volunteering for our booth, please reach out to our [Public Service Committee Chair, Heather Dodson](#) at hdodson@brwncald.com.

Composting Workshop

Details coming soon!

Thank you to our Annual Sponsors!

