

Meeting Minutes
Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board
Hybrid Virtual (Microsoft Teams) & In-Person Meeting (RCSOB Room 105)
July 15, 2026

Cleanup Standards Scientific Advisory Board (CSSAB) Members Present

Joel Bolstein
Colleen Costello
Donald Wagner
Neil Ketchum (Alternate)
Craig Robertson
Mark Urbassik
Mark Smith
Michael Penzone
Emily Strake

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Staff Present

Kris Shiffer*
Michael Maddigan*
John Gross*
Brie Sterling*
Yumi Creason*
Dana Marshall*
Lindsay Williamson*
Josh Neyhart*
Andrew Furman*
Megan Specht*

Members of the Public Present

Aaron Yingling
Brian Evans
Evan Franzese
Jeffrey Ivicic
Mary Beth Peters
Rich Lake
Sean Fullmer
William Hitchcock
Trent Machamer*

* Attended meeting in person. If no asterisk, then attendance was virtual.

Open Meeting

Ms. Colleen Costello opened meeting at 0930. Ms. Costello led this meeting in the absence of CSSAB chairman Mr. Charles Campbell.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Costello proposed two edits to the minutes from the March 31, 2026 meeting.

Mr. Joel Bolstein moved to approve the March 31 minutes with the two suggested revisions, seconded by Mr. Donald Wagner. The revised minutes were approved.

Administrative Issues

Discussion of administrative issues was postponed to the October 21, 2026 meeting due to the absence of Mr. Campbell.

Membership

- New members: Michael Penzone (Delaware DNREC) and Emily Strake (Bluestone Environmental Group).

Mr. Michael Penzone has joined the advisory board. Mr. Penzone works for the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and specializes in PFAS investigations, cleanups, and state response. He is a licensed professional geologist in both Delaware and Pennsylvania and has over 20 years of experience in environmental cleanup work.

Ms. Emily Strake has joined the advisory board. Ms. Strake is a technical director with Bluestone Environmental Group and has 26 years of experience as a consultant in the environmental industry with a background in chemistry and risk assessment.

Land Recycling Program Staffing Update

Ms. Deborah Miller, one of the Land Recycling Program (LRP)'s Environmental Chemists, retired in June. LRP is in the process of filling her now-vacant position.

Program Statistics and Updates

- 8,951 Act 2 site completions; 1,947 active sites.
- 96 NIRs submitted YTD (avg. 234/year).
- Report approvals generally rebounding; new training and One Cleanup guidance in place.
- Discussion on Act 2–RCRA mismatch; new guidance aims to clarify the two programs.

As of June 1, 2026, there have been 8,951 sites completed through the Act 2 program, and 1,947 are currently in progress. As of June 1, there have been 96 Notices of Intent to Remediate (NIR) submitted; the 3-year mean is 234 NIRs per year.

Overall, report approval rates have rebounded since the March CSSAB meeting. LRP provided numerous training opportunities over the first half of 2026, including the Brownfields Conference, which is expected to help approval rates increase.

Staff from EPA Region 3 and LRP participated in joint RCRA and TSCA trainings as part of the One Cleanup Program revision process. LRP also posted two new guidance handouts for the One Cleanup Program, one that highlights the major differences between the Act 2 and RCRA programs and one that covers the milestones for each program. They are also developing a One Cleanup Program toolkit for EPA's Regional Project Managers and LRP's Project Officers as a guidebook they can follow for new One Cleanup sites.

Mr. Joel Bolstein expressed frustration with the disconnect between the Act 2 and RCRA programs. Mr. Bolstein offered for the board to send a letter to EPA Administrator Zeldin to explain the issues caused by this disconnect and to ask him to consider allowing risk-based RCRA cleanups. Mr. Maddigan declined the offer to send a letter to the EPA administrator and assured the board that he talks with EPA on these issues regularly and stands up for the Act 2 program when necessary.

Mr. Maddigan shared that the updates to Chapter 250 have been adopted by the Environmental Quality Board and can now move forward to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission and other entities that must issue approval. The updates include changes to lead values, PAHs, and updates to PFAS values.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

- Act 2 webinar series completed; recordings forthcoming.
- Risk assessment and Environmental Covenant trainings planned for Fall 2026.
- Brownfields Basics repackaged into webinar + tours.

The live offerings of the Act 2 webinar series developed in partnership with the Pennsylvania Council of Professional Geologists (PCPG) have all been completed. The four webinars provided an overview of Act 2 and specific discussions of the Statewide Health Standard, the Site-Specific Standard, and the Background Standard and Special Industrial Areas. Each of the webinars saw between 200 and 300 participants, including DEP staff, which ensures that there is a consistent message for both staff and consultants. Recordings and slide decks for each webinar will be posted to the LRP website once the training webpage has been developed. Two in-person technical trainings are planned for the end of the year as a follow-up to the webinars.

LRP has developed risk assessment training that will likely be hosted in Fall 2026. The training will explain what risk is, what risk assessments are, and what report reviewers at DEP are looking for in a risk assessment.

LRP is developing an Environmental Covenant (EC) training to improve EC submissions and reviews. They are also developing an updated UECA webpage that will include suggestions for developing EC language. Mr. Maddigan stated that any training that is developed will go through DEP's legal team before it is offered to the public.

LRP continues to partner with Mid-Atlantic TAB to offer funding webinars to potential EPA grant applicants. The webinars usually take place in the fall before the year's grant applications open.

LRP repackaged their Brownfields Basics training as a webinar followed by site tours for networking. The next full run of the webinar and site tours will take place in Winter 2026/Spring 2027.

HSCA Funding

- HSCA facing \$19M deficit; Governor proposed \$20M transfer for FY26.
- DEP conducting major outreach campaign; board asked to assist spreading awareness

Mr. Kris Shiffer shared with the board the history of the HSCA program and the ongoing efforts to secure funding for the program.

As funding continues to dwindle, the HSCA program faces a \$19M deficit for FY2026. Governor Shapiro proposed a \$20M general fund transfer that will allow the program to remain solvent for the next fiscal year, but general fund transfers are not guaranteed, and even if additional transfers are granted, the program still faces deficits in future fiscal years.

Mr. Shiffer and members of the DEP executive staff have been promoting the need for a long-term, dedicated funding source to legislators and to the public. There is a concerted effort to make the legislators and citizens of Pennsylvania aware of HSCA sites and the Act 2 program and to emphasize that without funding, no more work can be done. Each piece of outreach stresses the importance of cooperation with communities, local groups, and the private sector. Mr. Shiffer requested that the board assist with spreading the word and said that anyone with ideas or desire to assist in this effort should reach out to Mr. Maddigan or Mr. John Gross.

PFAS Action Team Update

- Permit updates proposed to address PFAS in biosolids; 60-day comment period open.
- Exploring support for impacted farmers; working on PFAS in NPDES, oil & gas, private wells, and air.
- EPA launched PFAS OUT outreach program.

Mr. Andrew Furman provided an update on the PFAS Action Team.

The action team has been discussing how to handle PFAS values in NPDES permitting. Ms. Costello asked to speak with Mr. Furman about this issue at a later date to ensure that the Action Team and the CSSAB PFAS Workgroup share their findings to ensure consistency.

PFAS Workgroup Update

- Subgroups progressing on research, modeling, and white paper development.
- Modeling subgroup exploring new PFAS partitioning coefficients (Koc, Kaw); early results show conservatism for Act 2 soil types.
- Review of fate & transport tools indicates limitations around PFAS behavior; more research needed.
- Changes may require Chapter 250 updates; white paper expected March 2027.

Ms. Costello provided an update on the PFAS Workgroup. The workgroup consists of about 30 people and meets monthly, with subgroups meeting more frequently. Ms. Costello clarified that the workgroup is open to anyone, not just members of the board, and urged anyone interested in joining to reach out to her or Mr. Maddigan.

Each subgroup has made progress on their work.

Mr. Sean Fullmer provided a presentation to the board covering the current findings and recommendations of the modeling subgroup.

Subgroup 5 conducted a review of the Act 2 fate and transport tools that are listed in the Technical Guidance Manual (TGM) and on the Act 2 website to determine advice on the applicability of those models to PFAS.

Ms. Costello explained that the workgroup's goal is to figure out what additions to the generic soil-to-groundwater equation would need to be made to account for PFAS, how different types of PFAS would be accounted for, and to make sure the solution is applicable to Pennsylvania. She clarified that the workgroup is only considering PFAS compounds with MSCs. The workgroup will have two subgroups with PFAS expertise to examine the proposed parameters to verify that the suggested modifications to the generic equation are appropriate and sensible. The workgroup aims to develop a method the regulated community can follow that is also consistent and easy to review for DEP.

Based on current progress, the workgroup thinks adding the air-water interface term will be the solution, but they want to first do their due diligence to ensure that the results are conservative and could be approved by DEP in Act 2 reports.

Mr. Penzone asked whether this change would require an update to Chapter 250.308. Ms. Costello confirmed that any change to the equation would include an update to the regulations. The workgroup recognizes that any changes will take years to be implemented, due to the process for updating regulations.

The workgroup hopes to have a preview of their conclusions for the October board meeting, a draft of the white paper in January 2027, and the finalized document in March 2027 .

Board Comments

There were no board comments.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Next Meeting

The next CSSAB meeting is scheduled for October 21st, 2026.

Closing

Mr. Wagner motioned to adjourn the meeting, with Mr. Penzone seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 1115.