



Pennsylvania  
Department of  
Environmental Protection

**Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) Meeting  
Meeting Minutes | February 5, 2026 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

DEP Southcentral Regional Office, Susquehanna Rooms A/B and Microsoft Teams

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**Welcome & Introductions – Grant Gulibon, Chair**

Bob Haines conducted a roll call of AAB members; 7 of the 10 voting members were present. A quorum was established.

**Members present:**

Chair Grant Gulibon .....PA Farm Bureau  
Lynn Dietrich.....PA State Grange  
Matt Royer..... Penn State University  
Nathan Clark.....Rep. Dan Moul  
Destiny Zeiders.....Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski  
Lily Ott.....Sen. Elder Vogel Jr.  
Bill Evans.....Sen. Judith Schwank  
Jill Whitcomb\*.....PA Dept. of Environmental Protection  
Greg Hostetter\*.....PA Dept. of Agriculture  
James Gillis\*.....USDA, Farm Agency Service  
Pete Vanderstappen (in for Tim Peters\*) .....USDA, NRCS

**Members absent:**

Vice-Chair Jennifer Reed-Harry.....PennAG Industries Assoc.  
Amy Brown..... PACD  
Christopher Uhland.....Ornamental Horticulture

*\*Non-Voting Member*

**Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Action) – Grant Gulibon, Chair**

The December 11, 2025, meeting minutes were approved. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Lynn Dietrich and seconded by Matt Royer. The motion passed unanimously.

**Legislative Update – Destiny Zeiders, Bill Evans, Lily Ott, and Nathan Clark**

Destiny Zeiders informed the Board that the Governor’s budget address was this week. Destiny stated that FPRs (Food-Processing Residuals) have been a prominent topic and FPR-related bills such as Bill 586 has had no movement in the ERE (Environmental Resources) Committee and Bill 587 is now over in the Senate.

Nathan Clark did not have any additional updates other than what was already mentioned.

Lily Ott informed the Board that the budget hearings will start the last week of this month/first week of March and then the Senate is back in session on March 16.

Bill Evans did not have any additional updates.

### **Public Comment – Grant Gulibon, Chair**

No public comments.

### **Chapter 102 Fee Report – Krystal Bloom, Environmental Group Manager, Bureau of Clean Water**

Krystal presented a summary of the required three-year fee report for Chapter 102, which evaluates permit application fees and program expenses from prior fiscal years. Krystal and Sean Furjanic responded to Board questions and comments following the presentation.

Chair Grant Gulibon asked whether the Department has a timeframe for drafting proposed rulemaking. Krystal stated that no formal timeframe has been established. Sean added that the previous fee-increase package took approximately seven years to complete and, while the current effort is expected to take less time, it will likely require at least two or more years.

Chair Gulibon asked how close the Department is to providing a pre-draft or outline of recommendations to the Board or stakeholder groups. Krystal responded that the draft fee report will first be presented to the Environmental Quality Board in June, after which the Department would likely begin drafting the rulemaking.

Jill Whitcomb commented that the Department is still at the very early stage of the process, noting that the Department will typically return to the Board multiple times throughout regulatory development.

Pete Vanderstappen noted differences between the agriculture and building sectors and asked whether a dual fee schedule could be considered in the future. Chair Gulibon emphasized the importance of accounting for the economic structures of different industries.

Chair Gulibon thanked Krystal and Sean for the presentation and discussion.

### **Bio-Security Overview – Dr. John Boney and Dr. Gino Lorenzoni of Penn State University**

Drs. Boney and Lorenzoni provided a high-level overview of agricultural biosecurity practices. The presentation addressed the importance of biosecurity, key risk-reduction measures, practical

steps for implementation, and potential impacts of failing to follow protocols. Dr. Boney and Dr. Lorenzoni addressed questions and comments from the Board.

Chair Grant Gulibon asked about trends or research supporting the possibility of a future free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). Dr. Lorenzoni responded that available tools, combined with enhanced biosecurity, disease-resistant birds, and vaccines used in certain regions, support progress toward that goal. Chair Gulibon noted that policy changes related to vaccination may be needed but described the goal as worthwhile.

Chair Gulibon asked about advancements in emergency management over the past four years. Dr. Lorenzoni stated that emergency management teams are now established in advance rather than formed ad hoc, with dedicated equipment, additional training, and consultants available to improve coordination and response.

Chair Gulibon asked what actions industry and government can take to better address endemic diseases such as Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) and reduce associated losses. Dr. Lorenzoni emphasized the need for cultural shifts among producers, noting that high-density animal production increases the risk of rapid disease spread. Dr. Lorenzoni identified the importance of increased awareness of biosecurity practices to protect livestock and reduce zoonotic risk. Dr. Boney added that a stronger biosecurity culture would help address endemic disease challenges.

Pete Vanderstappen commented that beef and dairy operations may lag behind other sectors in biosecurity practices and asked about the potential for disease spread from manure application. Dr. Lorenzoni stated that movement between sites can increase disease transmission risk and noted that training programs, including those at Penn State, address proper manure handling and composting practices. Existing protocols and increased awareness were emphasized, along with the importance of cooperative practices among producers. Dr. Lorenzoni indicated that additional regulations may be considered in the future.

Pete Vanderstappen also raised concerns about disease spread via wildlife and vehicles. Chair Gulibon asked about mitigation efforts related to wild birds. Dr. Boney described collaboration between USDA Wildlife Services and the agricultural community, including on-farm biosecurity risk assessments and assistance with managing wild bird risks. Dr. Lorenzoni noted that some mitigation measures are simple, such as maintaining dedicated footwear for animal areas, given the difficulty of controlling wild bird populations.

Chair Gulibon asked whether outreach has occurred with non-agricultural government agencies that visit farms. Dr. Lorenzoni responded that outreach efforts are ongoing, but resource limitations exist due to the large number and variety of farms in Pennsylvania. Dr. Boney noted that USDA materials and guidance are provided when applicable, though most outreach is directed to producers.

Chair Gulibon asked Department representatives about protocols for farm inspections and visits. Greg Hostetter stated that inspection responsibilities generally fall to the Department of

Agriculture and that routine inspections may be suspended within control and surveillance areas during disease events, with exceptions for certain ongoing commerce activities.

Chair Gulibon thanked Drs. Boney and Lorenzo for their presentation, research, and expertise.

### **General Discussion/Agenda Topics Request – Grant Gulibon, Chair**

No discussion occurred or agenda topics requested. Chair Gulibon reminded Board members to contact Bob Haines with any agenda requests. Bob reviewed coordination efforts for various agenda item requests from Board members from the past few meetings.

### **Adjourn – Grant Gulibon, Chair**

Grant called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Nate Clark, seconded by Destiny Zeiders. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 1 p.m.