

**Sewage Advisory Committee
DRAFT
Minutes of the Meeting
December 18, 2025**

VOTING SEWAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) MEMBERS PRESENT

John Wagman, American Society of Civil Engineers
John Peffer, County Departments of Health and Health Agencies
Brian Chalfant, Governor's Policy Office, Alternate
Robert Bressler, Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists
Laurel Mueller, Pennsylvania Builders Association
William Rehkop, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
Adam Browning, Chair Pennsylvania Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (POWRA)
Joseph Valentine, Pennsylvania Septage Management Association
Patrick Drohan, Pennsylvania State University
Duane Mowery, Vice Chair, Pennsylvania Water Environment Association (PWEA)
John Brady, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Mission

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT

Members of the public were present but not identified.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF PRESENT
(CENTRAL OFFICE ONLY)**

Tomisa Kiskadden, Environmental Group Manager, Planning Section, DMF, BCW
Charles Klinger, Water Program Specialist, Planning Section, DMF, BCW
Annamaria De Sanctis, Environmental Engineer, Planning Section, DMF, BCW
Aspen Weitzel, Water Program Specialist, Planning Section, DMF, BCW
Jay Patel, Assistant Bureau Director, DMF, BCW
Richard Wright, Environmental Program Manager, DMF, BCW
Adam Duh, Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chair Adam Browning at 9:04 A.M. The meeting was conducted both in-person and on-line. No members of the public attended the meeting at the Boyertown location.

A quorum was present.

No meeting minutes were presented for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACTION ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

- Chair Browning read an overview of comments and recommendations from the Committee regarding Chapters 71, 72, and 73. The overview was compiled by SAC members utilizing an AI tool to distill key topics from the dozens of pages of raw notes taken by the SAC notetaker during regular and ad hoc meetings. The overview was used to assist SAC in their discussion of recommendations to forward for DEP consideration in the rulemaking process, which are covered in detail below.
- Chair Browning read a focused list of recommendations that was compiled by the Committee. The following was discussed:
 - Ongoing maintenance and monitoring requirements for conventional and alternative systems - Committee believes the monitoring requirements should be equal for conventional and alternate systems.
 - Isolation distances and testing requirements - Isolation distances should be the same for all systems, not increased distances for shallow limiting zone systems.
 - Definition of “malfunction” and who has authority to determine it - SEO or potentially a role of third-party evaluators in inspections and determinations.
 - Capacity and funding limitations for comprehensive sewage management programs - Population density should be considered. Need for flexibility rather than one-size-fits-all requirements for municipalities.
 - Remove limits for fecal coliform.
 - Incorporate timed dosing into all pressurized systems.
 - Watertight testing of tanks to be done in accordance with ASTM C1227.
 - Potential impacts on rural development and affordable housing.
 - Expansion of permit requirements - Requiring planning when a Clean Streams Law permit was moved from 71.51 to 71.12 to not only include new land development proposals but all proposals that require a permit from DEP.
 - Public notification standards for 71.31(c) - Are there standards for a legal notice to be submitted electronically to social media or website?
- Committee members inquired about the status of the regulatory rewrite and asked what to expect moving forward. Brian Chalfant and Jay Patel outlined the process and explained how the Committee will be involved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SAC REQUESTED ITEMS

None

NEW BUSINESS

- SAC to compile discussion points and comments into a draft submission package and then circulate the draft package to membership for review prior to final submission. The document will be voted on during the January 29, 2026 meeting and formally submitted to the DEP.
- DEP to circulate the updated Infiltrator (Quick 5) alternate listing prior to January 29 meeting for Committee review and comment.
- DEP asked Committee members to assist with the regulatory rewrite process by providing cost estimates (not bids) to help quantify impacts of proposed requirements.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Chair Browning motioned to adjourn the SAC meeting at 10:38 A.M.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is January 29, 2026. Notice of the meeting and meeting materials will be posted on the SAC webpage.