



State Water Plan Update Delaware Regional Committee Meeting

October 7, 2025

1000 – 1230

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting and In-Person
DEP Southeast Regional Office
2 E. Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401

Minutes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chad Pindar, P.E. (Chair)	Seung Ah Byun, Ph.D.	James McCarthy (V)
Ed Boscola (V)	Paula Schuetrum	Jane Rowan (V)
Carol Collier (V)	Stacy Crandell	Nathan Walker
Kate Harper	Dean Ritter (V)	Mark Bowen, P.E.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

James Horton – DEP	Trent Machamer (V)	Tom Herbert (V)
Dave Jostenski – DEP	Joseph Hebelka (V)	Amy Shallcross, P.E.
Erin Rybacki – DEP	Rhonda Manning (V)	Dean Drunkenmiller (V)
Jason Minnich – DEP (V)	George Pomeroy, Ph.D.	Allan Johnson (V)
Lisa Strobridge – DEP	(V)	Kate Hutelmyer
Mark Derham Bowen (V)	Chad Reisch (V)	Michael Thompson
Tali MacArthur (V)	Mark Snyder (V)	
	Timothy Weston (V)	

(V) – Attended Virtually

AGENDA:

Time	Presenter	Topic
1000	DEP	Welcome and Introductions
James Horton (DEP) welcomed all attendees to the meeting, noted that the session was being recorded, and provided guidance on the use of meeting technology as well as housekeeping procedures for the hybrid format. Attendance was documented through the online participants' log and an in-person sign-in sheet. Both virtual and in-person participants introduced themselves.		

1005	DEP/Chair	Administrative Items • Elect Chair/Vice • Finalize Draft Meeting Summary • Public Comment
James Horton (DEP) provided an overview of the Chair and Vice Chair vacancies. The Committee nominated Chad Pindar for Chair and Carol Collier for Vice Chair. There being no opposition or abstentions, the nominations were unanimously approved. Chad Pindar continued with the discussion of Administrative Items. The draft meeting summary from the October 2024 meeting was distributed prior to the meeting. James Horton asked if there were any corrections. No corrections were offered. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented Chair Pindar opened the floor for public comments, inviting participants to share remarks verbally or via the chat box. No public comments were received, either virtually or in person.		
1030	DEP	DEP Update Presentation
Act 220 Requirements • Established committee structure: 6 Regional Committees + 1 Statewide Committee. • Historic inventories/assessments: Extensive work completed in the 1980s. • CWPAs & CARPs: Statewide screening identified areas at risk for water-availability issues; plans exist but are not the focus of this update. • Policies & recommendations: Act 220 enabled policy development but no direct regulatory/enforcement authority (see Chapter 110; no fines or enforcement authority). • Act 220 does not prescribe what the plan must look like. 2009 Update 150-page report, primarily a qualitative assessment. 2027 State Water Plan (SWP) Vision and Outputs • Utility over volume: Avoid producing inventories/assessments that aren't useful or are redundant with existing work. • Forum and Expertise: Regular committee meetings on an annual cycle are products of the SWP (presentations → toolkit updates → refreshed legislative recommendations). Public participation via webinars/meetings is encouraged. A core product of the SWP is bringing people together to identify problems, share expertise, and inform policy; webinars will be posted for broader access. • Data: Regional "Toolkits" that curate high-value water-resources information primarily for use by local governments. Start with a links webpage; may evolve to a story map or a "one stop shop" dashboard for water resources information.		

- Updated Story Map with region-specific sections

Timeline

- October 2025 (now): Vision and outputs introduced to committees.
- April 2026: Form a workgroup in each region to define what belongs in the toolkit. What are important issues in the region and what information/resources would people need. Discuss a webinar series to pull in topic experts.
- October 2026: Reconvene committees to review in-progress toolkits/story map; prepare for public hearing presentation for each regional committee (Act 220 requirement).
- April 2027: Host public hearings; committees vote to advance regional content for the statewide plan.
- October 2027: Vote to approve/disapprove the SWP. Final package will include (1) summaries of presentations/discussions, (2) toolkit updates with links, and (3) refreshed legislative priorities, with signature by the DEP Secretary and the Statewide Committee Chair.

Committee Membership & Recruiting

- Ongoing recruitment; DEP will pursue nominees provided by members.
- Composition (23 volunteers): County government: county planning commission directors (2) or county conservation districts' directors (2), non-county local government (3), agriculture: production (1) and horticulture (1), public water supply (1), public wastewater (1), industrial and commercial enterprises and energy development and production (3), environment and conservation (3), water resources management: Geologist (1), Engineer/Hydrologist/Geologist/Planner/Lawyer/Economist (3), compact or river basin commission representative (1), DEP employee, non-voting (1).
- Nomination process: Interest in position + appropriate vacancy → letter of interest + nominating letter + résumé, addressed to Governor Shapiro; DEP review → oath of office → appointment letter.
- **Open Vacancies for Upper/Delaware:** County Conservation District Director (1), Horticulture (1), and Local Government (non-county) (1).

Immediate Next Steps

April (next spring): ~1-hour regional workgroup meeting (informal; no committee business) to define toolkit components and prioritize presentations. Volunteers requested.

1100	DRBC	DRBC Presentations • Salinity Management • Groundwater Availability
Groundwater Availability: Michael Thompson (DRBC) presented an update on the Commission’s groundwater-availability screening tool. The current tool, built on a 2006 USGS study, uses baseflow as a proxy for groundwater supply and compares withdrawals to estimated baseflow to identify potentially-stressed watersheds. A 2022 assessment identified limitations in the original method, and Michael discussed the 2025 update effort. The update aims to incorporate two decades of new USGS data, apply multiple baseflow-separation methods, shift to probability-based recurrence estimates, add seasonality, evaluate finer geographic scales, and explore approaches for ungaged watersheds. Slides and the recording provide additional detail. Salinity Management: Amy Shallcross, P.E. (DRBC) presented an overview of salinity management in the Delaware River Basin. The 1960s drought pushed the salt front close to Philadelphia’s intakes, affecting users across multiple industries, and led to a basin-wide drought management framework in the DRBC Water Code, including phased flow objectives at Trenton, conservation measures, and coordinated reservoir operations (NYC and USACE) to help repel salinity. The presentation emphasized current and future challenges such as, limited storage, costs of new infrastructure, competing objectives (water supply vs. flood mitigation), sea-level rise, channel dredging, and increasing landscape salinity. Slides and the recording provide additional detail.		
1130	Dr. Seung Ah Byun and Kate Hutelmyer	IWRM Success Story: Chester County
Seung Ah Byun, Ph.D. and Kate Hutelmyer (Chester County Water Resources Authority) presented on Watersheds 2045, an integrated update to county water-resources planning. The update highlighted long-term progress (open-space preservation, BMP implementation), ongoing challenges (population growth, remaining stream impairments), and a watershed-specific approach for all 21 watersheds. Recent actions include outreach, recreation/access projects, conservation and water-quality practices, and support for utilities, which are now in compliance with lead service line inventory requirements. Slides and the recording provide additional detail.		

1200	Committee	Discussion • Establish Workgroup • Presentation Recommendations • Toolkit Ideas
James Horton discussed the objective of the workgroup: Bring stakeholders together to discuss what should be included in a Toolkit and the format it should take. Members advised against a toolkit format that is simply a long list of weblinks. Carol Collier, Jane Rowan, Nathan Walker, Kate Harper, and Dr. Seung Ah Byun volunteered for the workgroup. Kate Harper suggested contacting Becky Bradley for workgroup involvement. Chair Pindar asked for a motion to create a workgroup. Motion: Kate Harper Second: Nathan Walker Motion carries, workgroup created. Toolkit Ideas: • PFAS issues in public wells		
1225	DEP	Next Steps
Assemble workgroup meetings in April 2026 Develop webinar series		
1230	Chair	Adjourn
Chair Pindar asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion: Kate Harper Second: Stacy Crandell Motion carries, meeting adjourned at 1230 by Chair Pindar.		

ACTION ITEMS:

Task	Responsible Party
Follow up with Stacy Crandell about PFAS resources in DEP	DEP
Follow up with Becky Bradley for workgroup involvement	DEP
Follow up regarding workgroup participation, survey, next meetings, and recruiting	DEP
Assemble workgroup meeting in April 2026	DEP

KEY DECISIONS:

1. Chad Pindar elected as Chair
2. Carol Collier elected as Vice Chair
3. Workgroup established