



State Water Plan Update Great Lakes Regional Committee Meeting

October 22, 2025

0900 – 1130

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting and In-Person

Rachel Carson State Office Building

400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Minutes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Tim Bruno	James Polidori
Tony Foyle, Ph. D	Timothy Wachter
Joe Greco	Matthew Wolford
Craig Palmer	Thomas Cermak (Unconfirmed Member)
Deborah Phillips	Jeannette Schnars (Unconfirmed Member)

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

James Horton – DEP	Chad Reisch	Nageotee R
Dave Jostenski – DEP	Lisa Beatty	Thomas Cermak
Erin Rybacki – DEP	Zachary Salada	Matthew Odonish
Sabrina Haydt – DEP	Kayla Virgone	Matthew Walderon
Anthony Foyle	Krish Patel	Joseph Hebielka
Rachael Fish	Susannah Harris	

AGENDA:

Time	Presenter	Topic
0900	DEP	Welcome and Introductions
Recording began at 09:07		
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 virtual format. Attendance was documented through the online participants' log.		
Both virtual and in-person participants introduced themselves.		

0905	Chair	Administrative Items • Elect Chair/Vice • Finalize Draft Meeting Summary • Public Comment
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Administrative/Quorum Update

- Quorum: 7 voting members were present; quorum not reached. Elections were deferred.
- Standing Chair Craig Palmer volunteered to serve as Acting Chair for this meeting and proceeded with the remaining administrative items. No volunteers were received for Acting Vice Chair.

Draft Meeting Summary:

The draft meeting summary from the October 2024 meeting was distributed prior to the meeting; some members reported not receiving it. James Horton (DEP) asked members to review the meeting summary and email with corrections.

- Matt Wolford suggested simplifying the minutes and omitting presentation slides.

Public Comment

James Horton (DEP) explained public comments will be limited to three minutes. Acting Chair Palmer opened the floor to verbal and chat comments. No comments were received.

0930	DEP	DEP Update Presentation
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DEP Presentation Summary

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 (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 Great Lakes:** County Conservation District Director (2), County Government (1), Public Wastewater (1), Industrial (2), Environment and Conservation (1), Local Government (non-county) (3)

Immediate Next Steps

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

1000	Sabrina Haydt, DEP	Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule and Lead Service Line Replacement Status Update
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Sabrina Haydt (DEP) presented an update on Pennsylvania's PFAS program and PENNVEST lead service line replacement efforts. PFOA/PFOS are regulated in Pennsylvania, and compliance monitoring is underway across public water systems, with a small share exceeding state limits to date. Public water systems are addressing detections through operational changes, interconnections, and treatment. DEP offers technical assistance, and multiple funding programs are available to support projects. The presentation discussed the federal EPA PFAS timeline, initial monitoring followed by compliance, and ongoing federal rule activity. Lead service line replacement progress includes numerous funded projects, with additional funding still available.

Slides and the recording provide additional detail.

1030	Susannah Harris, DEP	Microplastics
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The committee received an overview of microplastics in the environment, covering definitions, key sources and pathways, and a scan of global, Pennsylvania, and Erie datasets. Erie stormwater work included collecting and categorizing litter and microplastics, and indicated higher loads at commercial/industrial sites and distinct trends. Environmental and human-health implications were outlined. Action areas highlighted included ongoing quantification, targeted cleanup, regulatory developments, and behavior change.

Links:

Great Lakes Draft Resolution for Advancing Stormwater ([2025-GLC-AM-Draft-Resolutions.pdf](#))

Slides and the recording provide additional detail.

1100	Committee	Discussion • Establish Workgroup • Presentation Recommendations • Toolkit Ideas
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James Horton gave overview of the workgroup: Meet once in April to discuss toolkit, what DEP is working on, and the format for the tool.

James Horton asked for volunteers for workgroup: James Polidori, Jeannette Schnars, and Timothy Bruno volunteered

Matthew Wolford suggested communicating topics for the workgroup to the members as different members may want to be involved depending on the topic.

Presentation Recommendations: Great Lakes water withdrawals, consumptive uses, how water use is governed; DCED and PENNVEST grants

Toolkit ideas: Grants

1125	DEP	Next Steps
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Follow-up emails and survey Assemble workgroup meetings in April 2026 Develop webinar series
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1130	Chair	Adjourn
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Acting Chair Palmer opened for last comments. Hearing none, meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

ACTION ITEMS:

Task	Responsible Party
Follow up regarding workgroup participation, survey, next meetings, and recruiting	DEP
Assemble workgroup meeting in April 2026	DEP