



## State Water Plan Update Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee Meeting

**October 16, 2025**

0900 – 1100

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting and In-Person

Rachel Carson State Office Building

400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

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### Minutes

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#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Joe McNally, P.G. (Chair)<br>(V) | Andrew Gavin<br>Lincoln Kaufman (V) | Justin Spangler, P.E.<br>Jenni Woodworth, P.E. |
| Mike Kyle (Vice-Chair) (V)       | Sean Kenny                          | Duke Adams (DEP Non-<br>Voting)                |
| Tyler Erb                        | George Pomeroy, Ph.D.               | Rachel Stahman                                 |
| Jennifer K. Engle                | Mark S. Snyder, P.E. (V)            |                                                |
| Jennifer Fetter                  |                                     |                                                |

#### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

|                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| James Horton – DEP   | Nate Eachus (V)         |
| Dave Jostenski – DEP | Trent Machamer (V)      |
| Erin Rybacki – DEP   | Tyler Groh (V)          |
| Allyson Gibson       | Dennis Harney (V)       |
| John Balay (SRBC)    | Christopher Santore (V) |

(V) – Attended Virtually

#### AGENDA:

| Time                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Presenter | Topic                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| 0900                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 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 log. |           |                           |
| Both virtual and in-person participants introduced themselves.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |           |                           |
| James Horton introduced new member Rachel Stahman.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |                           |

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| <b>0905</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Chair</b> | <b>Administrative Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elect Chair/Vice</b></li> <li>• <b>Finalize Draft Meeting Summary</b></li> <li>• <b>Public Comment</b></li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Administrative/Quorum Update</b><br/> Quorum: 10 voting members were present; no quorum, so elections were deferred.<br/> Chair discussion: James Horton (DEP) asked whether Joe McNally would serve again as Chair. Joe declined to continue as chair and invited other members to volunteer for the role, rotating the Chair/Vice Chair roles to new members. James outlined Chair duties (run meetings, assist with recruitment, facilitate workgroups). Joe did not offer a nominee and invited members to volunteer.<br/> Andrew Gavin volunteered to serve as Acting Chair for this meeting and proceeded with the remaining administrative items. No volunteers were received for Acting Vice Chair.</p> <p><b>Public Comment</b><br/> Acting Chair Gavin opened the floor to verbal and chat comments. Two comments were received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nate Eachus: expressed concerns about data centers, water use, air pollution, mining/fracking impacts, water pollution, and transparency of information.</li> <li>• Jennifer Engle: raised concerns about data centers in Lancaster County and the lack of information regarding potential pollution issues.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |              |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>0930</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>DEP</b>   | <b>DEP Update Presentation</b>                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><b>Presentation Summary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Act 220 Requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Established committee structure: 6 Regional Committees + 1 Statewide Committee.</li> <li>◦ Historic inventories/assessments: Extensive work completed in the 1980s.</li> <li>◦ CWPAs &amp; CARPs: Statewide screening identified areas at risk for water-availability issues; plans exist but are not the focus of this update.</li> <li>◦ Policies &amp; recommendations: Act 220 enabled policy development but no direct regulatory/enforcement authority (see Chapter 110; no fines or enforcement authority).</li> <li>◦ Act 220 does not prescribe what the plan must look like.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>2009 Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 150-page report, primarily a qualitative assessment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>2027 State Water Plan (SWP) Vision and Outputs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Utility over volume:</b> Avoid producing inventories/assessments that aren't useful or are redundant with existing work.</li> <li>◦ <b>Forum and Expertise:</b> Regular committee meetings on an annual cycle are products of the SWP (presentations → toolkit updates → refreshed legislative recommendations). Public participation via webinars/meetings encouraged; bring experts together to inform policy.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |              |                                                                                                                                                                                           |

- **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 dashboard.
- **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 Lower Susquehanna:** County Conservation District Director (1), Industrial (2), Agriculture (1), Horticulture (1), Engineer/Hydrologist/Geologist/Planner/Lawyer/Economist (1), Local Government (non-county) (2)
- **Immediate Next Steps**
  - April (next spring): ~1-hour regional workgroup meeting (informal; no committee business) to define toolkit components and prioritize presentations. Volunteers requested.

#### **Committee Discussion & Comments:**

- Jennifer Engle expressed concern about accomplishing the work with limited meetings. She requested a member roster with expertise; asked for additional tasks before April and suggested meeting more frequently.

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| <b>1000</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>SRBC</b>           | <b>Long Term Water Availability and Data Centers</b>                                                                                                                            |
| <p>Andrew Gavin, executive director of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC), presented an overview of SRBC’s regulatory role in the Susquehanna River Basin, basin-wide water availability, and data center water use within the Commission’s framework. Water availability screening indicates most watersheds have sufficient water availability, with roughly 10% showing potential concerns and only modest growth projected for public-water-supply demand. The presentation also summarized tools and studies used to inform management and outlined how proposed projects, including data centers, are evaluated under SRBC regulations. Slides and the recording provide additional detail.</p> <p>Comments:<br/>Mr. Gavin invited comments or questions based on his presentation. Mr. Eachus expressed concerns about data centers, water use, air pollution, mining/fracking impacts, water pollution, and transparency of information.</p> |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>1030</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Allyson Gibson</b> | <b>Success Stories: Lancaster Clean Water Partners</b>                                                                                                                          |
| <p>Allyson Gibson (Lancaster Clean Water Partners) gave a presentation about the work of the Lancaster Clean Water Partners. The coalition, a network of 70+ organizations, coordinates through a common agenda and structured planning (partner commitments, data coordination, countywide action plan, watershed report cards). Lessons learned emphasized small catchments for implementation and monitoring, balancing landowner and stream needs, and celebrating wins. Current needs include sponsors and podcast listeners, continued Growing Greener and CAP funding, and support for the Sunnyside Environmental Center &amp; Nature Preserve. Slides and the recording provide additional detail.</p> <p>Links:<br/>Lancaster Clean Water Partners (<a href="#">Home - Lancaster Clean Water Partners</a>)</p>                                                                                                                                        |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>1100</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Committee</b>      | <b>Discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Establish Workgroup</b></li> <li>• <b>Presentation Recommendations</b></li> <li>• <b>Toolkit Ideas</b></li> </ul> |
| <p>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.</p> <p>James Horton asked for volunteers for workgroup. Jennifer Engle volunteered.</p> <p>Committee Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members suggested that the first step could be developing a shared document compiling relevant resources, which can then be refined during the workgroup meeting.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was recommended that representatives from local government be invited to participate in the workgroup.</li> <li>• Andrew Gavin suggested reviewing county plans and water-planning sections as part of the initial resource gathering.</li> </ul> |              |                   |
| <b>1125</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>DEP</b>   | <b>Next Steps</b> |
| Assemble workgroup meetings in April 2026<br>Develop webinar series                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |              |                   |
| <b>1130</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Chair</b> | <b>Adjourn</b>    |
| Meeting adjourned at 11:27 by Acting Chair Gavin.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |              |                   |

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

| <b>Task</b>                                                                        | <b>Responsible Party</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Follow up regarding workgroup participation, survey, next meetings, and recruiting | DEP                      |
| Assemble workgroup meeting in April 2026                                           | DEP                      |