



State Water Plan Update Upper or Middle Susquehanna Regional Committee Meeting

October 23, 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:

Doug Weikel, P.E. (Chair)	Dennis Hameister
Rhonda Manning (Vice-Chair)	Wendy Walter
Patrick Burke	Jennifer Whisner
Andrew Gavin	Cathy Yeakel
Ray Stolas	Thomas Herbert

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

James Horton – DEP	Chad Reisch	Krish Patel
Dave Jostenski – DEP	Heather Empfield	Benjamin Lorson
Erin Rybacki – DEP	Nate Eachus	Rachael Fish
Sabrina Haydt	Zachary Salada	Scott Heidel
Brian Chalfant	Tyler Servose	Kathryn Beats

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 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
Administrative / Quorum Update Quorum: 9 voting members present, quorum not reached. Elections deferred.		

Standing Chair Doug Weikel volunteered to serve as Acting Chair for this meeting and proceeded with the remaining administrative items.

Draft Meeting Summary:

The draft meeting summary from the October 2024 meeting was distributed prior to the meeting. Acting Chair Weikel asked if there were any corrections. No corrections were offered. The meeting minutes are ready for approval at next meeting.

Public Comment:

Acting Chair Weikel opened the floor to verbal and chat comments. James Horton (DEP) explained public comments will be limited to three minutes. No comments received. Acting Chair Weikel announced the floor would be open for comments for the next 15 minutes.

0930	DEP	DEP Update Presentation
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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 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/Middle Susquehanna:** Industrial (1), Horticulture (1), Agriculture (1), Environment and Conservation, 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.

1000	Sabrina Haydt, DEP	Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule and Lead Service Line Replacement Status Update
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. 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. Presentation slides and the recording provide additional detail.

Links:

PADEP PFAS MCL Rule (<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/water/bureau-of-safe-drinking-water/drinking-water-management/drinking-water-regulations/pfas-mcl-rule>)

1030	Scott Heidel/Kathy Beats, DEP	The Chesapeake Bay Strategy
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Kathy Beats (DEP) and Scott Heidel (DEP) presented on the Chesapeake Bay Strategy which summarized statewide partnerships, priorities, and progress under Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP/CAP framework. Highlights included the January 2025 Clean Water Gathering and the "25 Strategies for Success"; broad collaboration across DEP, county CAP teams, and 1,200+ partners; the importance of Clean Water Coordinators; and recent funding. The presentation discussed an overall 2024 Bay Report Card score of 50% (C) with long-term improvement, increasing BMP implementation, and expanded tools (story map, Clean Water Academy, progress tracking, PowerBI dashboards) to guide local action. Slides and the recording provide additional detail.

1100	Andrew Gavin, SRBC	Long Term Water Availability and Data Centers
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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.

Comments/Discussion:

- James Horton (DEP) reminded attendees that public comments will be limited to three minutes.
- Nate Eachus (public attendee) expressed concerns about data centers, water use, air pollution, mining/fracking impacts, water pollution, transparency of information. Mr. Eachus was reminded of elapsing time when one minute remained and was muted after three minutes while listing his qualifications for

membership to the committee. He then proceeded to comment in the chat, was warned by Mr. Horton to keep his comments on topic and within the allotted time. Despite this, Mr. Eachus continued to chat; he was then removed from the meeting by Mr. Horton using Microsoft Teams administrator functions.

1130	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. James explained the time commitment would likely be around 5 hours. Tom Herbert volunteered for the workgroup. Presentation topic recommendations: Microplastics in waterways, PFAS/PFOA in stormwater runoff, new technologies or initiatives for acid mine drainage cleanup, treated sewage water reuse (UAJA)		
1155	DEP	Next Steps
Assemble workgroup meetings in April 2026 Develop webinar series		
1200	Chair	Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM by Mr. Horton, as DEP Liaison to this committee		

ACTION ITEMS:

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