

Minutes of the January 28, 2021 Meeting
Public Water System Technical Assistance Center (TAC) Board

A virtual, regular meeting of the TAC Board was called to order by Chairperson Serena DiMagno at 9:06 AM. The purpose of the meeting was to receive updates from the subcommittee reviewing the TAC Bylaws and to discuss revisions to the bylaws.

The following Board members were present:

Amy Batdorf, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA)
Doug Crawshaw, American Water Works Association, Pennsylvania Chapter (AWWA)
Serena DiMagno, Water Works Operators Association of Pennsylvania (WWOAP)
Roger Hadsall, Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA)
Clint McKinley, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Mary Roland, State Board for Certification of Sewage Treatment Plant & Waterworks Operators (SBCSTPWWO)
Sukhwindar Singh, RCAP Solutions, Inc.
James Steele, Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA)

The following Alternate members were present:

Dennis Beck, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. (PACD)
Chip Bilger, Water Works Operators Association of Pennsylvania (WWOAP)
John Brady, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) – not yet an official appointee (non-voting representative)
Jennifer Case, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA)
Christine Caldara Piatos, Center for Rural Pennsylvania (CRP)
Lisa Daniels, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Sharon Fillmann, American Water Works Association, Pennsylvania Chapter (AWWA)
Mary Gaiski, Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association (PMHA)
Erin Gannon, Office of Consumer Advocate
Joel Jordan, Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA)
Matt Lamb, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Larry Miller, Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA)
Tesra Schlupp, Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PIIA)

The following Organizations were not represented:

County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP)
Department Community and Economic Development (DCED)
League of Women Voters, Pennsylvania (LWVPa)
Pennsylvania Association of Realtors (PAR)
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS)

Members/alternates from 14 organizations were present; therefore, a quorum was achieved.

The following Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff were present:

Jeff Allgyer, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	Dawn Hissner, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
Angie Anderson, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	Bill King, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
Dave Grube, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	Brian Chalfant, Policy Office
Sabrina Haydt, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	

Non-Members present at the meeting:

Erik Ross, Milliron & Goodman Gov't Relations, LLC	Christine Swailes, Suez
Dennis O'Connor, Phila. Water Department (PWD)	Matt Walborn, Western Berks Water Authority (WBWA)

General Advisory Board business:

Three items of general business were discussed:

- The draft minutes from the November 10, 2020 TAC Board meeting were presented for discussion. No edits were noted. Mary Gaiski (PMHA) made a motion to approve the November 10, 2020 minutes as presented; Doug Crawshaw (AWWA) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- Report from subcommittee on revising TAC Board Bylaws
 - The second meeting of the subcommittee was held on November 10, 2020 (after the last TAC Board meeting). Ideas were presented and discussion continued, but no final decisions/recommendations made during this meeting.
 - The final meeting of the group was on January 13, 2021. Suggested revisions to the bylaws were compiled to be presented at this full TAC Board meeting.
 - The suggested revisions were captured in an edited version of the bylaws (showing both the existing language and the proposed revisions for comparison); this document was shared with all TAC members & alternates on January 22, 2021.

Discussion – Revisions to Bylaws

- Article I. Name: *Small Water Systems Technical Assistance Center Board*
The subcommittee proposes changing the name to the *Public Water System Technical Assistance Center Board*
 - Some members questioned the reason for the change because the Act specifically references small water systems.
 - The purpose for the proposed name change is to identify that all regulated public water systems (PWS) are represented by the Board while maintaining the focus on impacts to small water systems (as stated in Article III).
 - The statute does not dictate the name of the Board.
- Article III. Purpose: *The Board is to direct the administration of the Technical Assistance Center. The role of the Technical Assistance Center is to give the Department of Environmental Protection advice on developing the small water systems technical and management assistance program; to act as a clearinghouse to coordinate ongoing training between state agencies, local governments and authorities, and water industry associations; and to comment on policies and regulations as they may affect small water systems.*

The subcommittee proposes changing the purpose to:

The role of the Public Water System Technical Assistance Center Board (“TAC” Board) is to provide direction and advice to the Department of Environmental Protection on water systems technical and management assistance programs; and to comment on policies, guidance and regulations as they may affect all public water systems, ~~including~~ with an emphasis on the unique effects on small public water systems.

Specifically, the purpose of the Board is to provide technical, operational, managerial and financial guidance and advice to the Department of Environmental Protection to enhance Pennsylvania’s Drinking Water Program and to protect public health as impacted by drinking water. The objectives of the Board include supporting the Department of Environmental Protection ~~and include~~ as follows:

- *Review and advise on draft proposed drinking water regulations*
- *Discuss the impact of proposed rules on public water systems prior to drafting in final form*
- *Participate in a mutually beneficial rule-making process*
- *Evaluate the management, operational and implementation impact of drinking water regulations and provide input*
- *Provide input on training and technical assistance program needs to assist ~~PWSs~~ public water systems with implementation*
- *Provide input regarding financial assistance to ~~PWSs~~ public water systems*
- *Provide input specific to the impact and needs of small and rural public water systems*
- The TAC Board is the only advisory committee for PWS issues, so the purpose needs to reflect that all PWS need to be aware of and involved with TAC as the drinking water advisory committee.
- Large systems do not have a greater voice with DEP – all are equally represented on TAC. The majority of the ~8,400 PWS in PA are noncommunity water systems.
- A few word changes were requested and made (deleted text in strikethrough font, added text is underlined)
- Article IV. Membership
 - Only recommending 1 additional member – the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC); need to revise this edit to specify the Pennsylvania Chapter of NAWC.
 - Initially NAWC was added as a new paragraph (f), but during the discussion, the Board determined that NAWC could be added to paragraph (a).
 - An edit was also made to update the name for Rural Housing Improvement in paragraph (a) to include “also known as RCAP Solutions, Inc.”
- Articles V- XI. No changes were proposed to these sections.
- Article XII. Amendments: *These bylaws may be amended, repealed, or suspended at any meeting of the Board by a two-thirds vote of the Board present at that meeting provided that written notice of such amendment, repeal, or suspension shall have been sent by the secretary of the Board to each member at least one week prior to said meeting; or without notice, they can be amended, repealed, or suspended at any regular meeting by vote of a majority of the entire membership*

The subcommittee proposes changing the amendments section to:

These bylaws may be amended, repealed, or suspended at any meeting of the Board by a two-thirds vote of the Board present at that meeting provided that written notice of such amendment, repeal, or suspension shall have been sent by the secretary of the Board to each member at least four (4) weeks prior to said meeting; they can be amended, repealed, or suspended at any regular meeting by vote of a majority of the entire membership.

- The Board agreed with this proposed change.
- The subcommittee recommended NOT putting term limits on organization representatives.
 - Term limits were added as a discussion for the subcommittee because some identified representatives are not attending TAC meetings and some organizations may not be giving all members an opportunity to volunteer to serve as organization's representative.
 - However, some organizations have small memberships so term limits may cause problems for these groups to find new volunteers to serve on TAC if term limits were applied.
 - TAC recommendations:
 - Each member organization is encouraged to routinely ask their members if anyone wants to serve on TAC.
 - Attendance be reviewed annually as an agenda item during the first meeting each year and addressed with those organizations whose representatives have missed meetings as stated in Article IV, paragraph (e).
- A motion was made by Larry Miller (PBA) to adopt all the revisions to the bylaws as proposed (including the additional edits noted by the Board during the discussion). Chip Bilger (WWOAP) seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous by a roll-call vote of member organizations present: DEP, PRWA, PMAA, AWWA, WWOAP, PMHA, RCAP, OCA, PBA, PUC, PIIA, SBCSTPWWO and CRP (Note: PACD had left the meeting and did not vote).

TAC Board Questions - Requesting Information

- TAC members requested a status update on the PFAS sampling and toxicology report
 - Sample collection activities were completed in January 2021. Safe Drinking Water staff collected 413 samples from public water systems throughout PA. Results from approximately 100 samples are still pending so DEP is not yet able to determine whether all the data meets the QA/QC criteria or whether any replacement samples will be needed.
 - Sample results will be posted to the DEP PFAS website as the data is reviewed and approved.
 - Drexel just submitted the final draft report; DEP is still reviewing the information provided.
- TAC members requested clarification for required notification to DEP (Clean Water Program) for water line breaks
 - Clean Water Program is sending notices to PWS stating Clean Water staff need to be notified for every water main break, whether or not the break affects a waterway
 - This is not part of the Loss of Positive Pressure Policy
 - Safe Drinking Water staff will request clarification from Clean Water staff.
- TAC members requested clarification on the definition of a consecutive water system.

- Several manufactured housing communities have received notification from DEP that they are now considered a consecutive public water system because they are charging residents for water use. The intent is not to charge for profit, but only to recoup the cost of providing water and encourage conservation practices.
- Several businesses have also received notification from DEP that they are now considered a consecutive public water system because they have installed secondary treatment (such as disinfection or corrosion control).

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Adjourn

Jim Steele made a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.