

**Public Water System Technical Assistance Center (PWS-TAC) Advisory Board
Minutes of the February 12, 2026 Meeting**

A regular meeting of the PWS-TAC Board was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Fillmann at 9:07 AM. This was the first regularly scheduled meeting of 2026.

The following Board members were present:

Amy Batdorf, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA)
Jeff Bickel, State Board for Certification of Sewage Treatment Plant & Waterworks Operators (SBCSTPWWO)
John Brady, Rural Utilities Service/Rural Development (RUS)
Chip Bilger, Water Works Operators Association of Pennsylvania (WWOAP)
Doug Crawshaw, American Water Works Association, Pennsylvania Chapter (AWWA)
Amy Forsha, RCAP Solutions, Inc (RCAP)
JT Hand, National Association of Water Companies (NAWC)
Matt Lamb, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Nick McCarron, Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA)
James Steele, Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA)
Janna Williams, Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA)

The following Alternate members were present:

Mark Agostini, RCAP Solutions, Inc (RCAP)
Matthew Buck, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA)
Ed Chescattie, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Laura Dimino, Center for Rural Pennsylvania (CRP)
Sharon Fillmann, American Water Works Association, Pennsylvania Chapter (AWWA)
Mary Gaiski, Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association (PMHA) – *joined late*
Joel Jordan, Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA)
James Kennedy, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Larry Miller, Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA)
Emme Reiser, Pennsylvania Association of Realtors (PAR)
Tesra Schlupp, Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PIIA)
Olivia Spergel, Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA)
Matthew Walborn, Water Works Operators Association of Pennsylvania (WWOAP)

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 Conservation Districts (PACD)
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS)

Members/alternates from 15 organizations were present; therefore, a quorum was achieved.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff attending the meeting:

Jeff Allgyer, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Angi Anderson, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Jill Anderson, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Trish Attardo, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Janelle Barry, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Lisa Beatty, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Melissa Crow, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Derik Dressler, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Leslie Ferguson, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Dave Grube, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Sabrina Haydt, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

Mike Hess, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Dawn Hissner, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Michael Lewis, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Wendy Lloyd, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Doug Macik, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Sheryl Martin, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Bill McNamara, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Kim Snook, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
 Laura Campbell, Policy Office
 Brian Chalfant, Policy Office
 Leda Lacomba, Bureau of Regulatory Counsel

Non-Members attending the meeting:

Tom Andresen, Aqua Water
 Chad Bingaman
 Amy Borden, Constellation
 Tyler Bradley
 Cecelia Bruno
 Pat Caulfield, SCMA/WUC
 Sara Crawshaw, Borough of Carlisle/PAAEL
 Ben Fry
 Chad Heister, PRWA
 JoAnn Hepler
 Dick Imler
 Jeffrey Ivicic
 Rita Kopansky, PWD
 Helen Naftzinger
 Anita Martin, Chester Water/PAAEL
 C Conrad Martin

J. Martin
 Bill Murray, RAWA
 Dennis O'Connor, EPA R3
 Elizabeth Parker
 William Richardson, EPA R3
 Ben Reichley, PA AWWA
 Erik Ross, Milliron & Goodman
 David J. Rustay, Aqua PA
 William Sieg
 SCBWA (State College Boro Water Auth)
 Christine Swailes, Veolia Water
 Daniel Walls
 Kodi Webb, Veolia Water
 Patti-Kay Wisniewski, EPA R3
 Brian Wooldredge
 Carl L Zelter

General Advisory Board business

- The draft minutes from May 29, 2025, PWS-TAC Board meeting were presented for discussion. Larry Miller (PBA) made motion to approve minutes; James Steele (PBA) 2nd the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- Water and Wastewater Operator Recruitment: Jeff Bickel (SBCSTPWWO) stated subgroups are being formed.
- Elections for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
 - It was noted that 2026 is an election year for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Both current the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson said they would be willing to serve for another term.
 - The group discussed forming a nominating committee, but no one else expressed interest in being nominated. JT Hand (NAWC) made a motion to nominate Sharon Fillmann as the Chairperson and Chip Bilger as the Vice Chairperson for another 2-year term and to close the nominations. Doug Crawshaw (AWWA) 2nd the motion; the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

- Larry Miller (PBA) made a motion to elect Sharon Fillmann as the Chairperson and Chip Bilger as the Vice Chairperson for another 2-year term. Jeff Bickel (SBCSTPWWO) 2nd the motion; the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Discussion of DRAFT Proposed Annex A for LCRI provisions

- The members and alternates requested clarification on: the definition of child care facility; tap sampling and customer requested samples; which results are reported to DEP s; which results are included in the 90th percentile calculation; what criteria DEP would use to require a water system to re-optimize CCT; how long the sample site plans need to be retained and what is meant by under the control of the water system for service line replacement.
- The members and alternates acknowledged the pros and cons of each of the options for triennial monitoring (all in the same year, follow the schedule for other chemical contaminants, or base the required year on the when each water system qualifies so it is more random). The group did not have a consensus what schedule DEP should require for triennial monitoring, so they suggested DEP select an option for public comment.
- The members and alternates requested guidance be developed for the following topics:
 - Sample collection instructions in multiple languages to minimize collection errors and details on the criteria that would cause a result to be invalidated.
 - How to distinguish between the sample types when reporting results to DEP.
 - Templates for public education materials.
 - Protocols for customers on how long to flush a service line and premise plumbing.
- The members and alternates had several concerns regarding the sampling and public outreach to schools and child care facilities:
 - There is a shift in the responsibility where PWSs are perceived to be responsible for premise plumbing in schools & child care facilities but there is no funding provided. Some school administrators have stated they do NOT want PWSs to contact individual schools within their district, so is notifying the school district administration sufficient?
 - It is not possible to collect samples at many schools & child care facilities in accordance with the regulation because schools may not be closed for the required 8 hours and there is limited access to these buildings.
 - Public education & outreach is required annually to all schools and child care facilities, but the water system has up to 5 years to complete sampling in these buildings, so how are water systems to respond to calls from the community on the delay? There should be risk communication info for water systems to distribute.
- The members and alternates recognize and appreciate DEP's efforts to put together this draft regulation for their consideration.

Recommendations for DRAFT Proposed Annex A for LCRI provisions

The PWS-TAC Board made the following recommendations for the LCRI provisions:

1. The definition of Connector should be edited to add the following text as the 2nd sentence: "The connector may be made from a variety of materials."

The revised definition would be “Connector—Also referred to as a gooseneck or pigtail, is a short segment of piping, not exceeding 3 feet, which can be bent and used for connections between service piping. The connector may be made from a variety of materials. Lead connectors exceeding 3 feet are considered to be part of a lead service line. Lead connectors may result in a galvanized service line needing replacement if the lead connector is upstream of the galvanized line.”

JT Hand (NAWC) made the motion; it was 2nd by Larry Miller (PBA). The motion passed by a unanimous “Yay” vote.

2. DEP should work with EPA to ensure clarity and strong language in technical guidance on how the 90th percentile value is to be calculated when more than the minimum number of samples are received from lower Tier sites, and are analyzed and reported. The guidance should include examples of what sample results are to be ranked and included in the calculation, especially when results from Tier 3, 4 or 5 sites that are not included in the calculation are higher than results from Tier 1 or 2 sites.

Sharon Fillmann (AWWA) made the motion; it was 2nd by Doug Crashaw (AWWA). The motion passed by a unanimous “Yay” vote.

3. Subparagraph (iv) in § 109.1102(b)(1.1), which reads “Large water systems with CCT that exceed the lead PQL but do not exceed the lead or copper action level may be required by the Department to complete the reoptimized OCCT steps in paragraph (2.1).” should be deleted because DEP has the authority under subparagraph (ii) to require water systems to reoptimize OCCT. DEP should also create written SOPs and training for staff to ensure consistent implementation in determining when systems should be required to reoptimize OCCT.

JT Hand (NAWC) made the motion; it was 2nd by Sharon Fillmann (AWWA). The motion passed: 11 “Yays” and 5 abstentions (DEP, PMHA, OCA, PUC, PIIA).

4. In the schedule for OCCT outlined in paragraphs §§ 109.1102 (b)(2.1) and (b)(2.2), DEP should combine *Step 2 – Complete a CCT feasibility study for reoptimization* with *Step 3 – Obtain a permit for construction or modification of OCCT* to show DEP is consistent with the federal timeline of 36 months.

Jeff Bickel (SBCSTPWWO); it was 2nd by Doug Crashaw (AWWA). The motion passed by a unanimous “Yay” vote.

5. The WQP monitoring language in § 109.1103(b.1) that states “from taps used to provide water for human consumption” should be changed to match the federal language.

Sharon Fillmann (AWWA) made the motion; it was 2nd James Steele (PBA). The motion passed: 15 “Yays” and 1 abstention (CRP).

6. DEP and EPA should work with their respective Departments of Education and Human Services in creating a marking / communications and notification plan including templates (in English and Spanish), for sampling in schools and child care facilities to assist PWSs in meeting the LCRI requirements for notification and sampling in schools and child care facilities.

JT Hand (NAWC) made the motion; it was 2nd by Larry Miller (PBA). The motion passed by a unanimous “Yay” vote.

Public Comments & Adjournment

There were no comments during the public comment period. Doug Crawshaw made a motion to adjourn at 3:19 PM. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.