



Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) Meeting Meeting Minutes | January 18, 2024 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street Room 105, Harrisburg, PA 17101
and Microsoft® Teams online.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, & ATTENDANCE – Jenifer Christman, Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jenifer Christman at 9:31 a.m. Bob Haines conducted a roll call and of the 15-member committee, 9 members were present. A quorum was established.

The following committee members were present:

Chair Jenifer Christman.....Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Vice-chair Andrew Dehoff.....Susquehanna River Basin Commission
Harry Campbell.....Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Alexandra Chiaruttini.....The York Water Company
Shirley Clark, Ph.D., P.E.....Pennsylvania State University
Kent Crawford, Ph.D.....USGS (Retired)
Matthew Genchur.....Resource Environmental Solutions (RES)
John Jackson, Ph.D.....Stroud Water Research Center
Dean Miller.....Pennsylvania Water Environment Association
Beth Uhler.....Center for Watershed Protection

The following committee members were absent:

Myron Arnowitz.....Clean Water Action
Theo Light, Ph.D.....Shippensburg University
Cory Miller.....University Area Joint Authority
Steven Stambini*.....Delaware River Basin Commission
Charles Wunz, P.E.....Wunz Associates

*Eric Engle in for Steven Tambini

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 16, 2023 MEETING (ACTION) – Jenifer Christman, Chair

Ms. Christman requested consideration of the November 16, 2023 draft meeting minutes. No additions or edits were proposed.

Motion: Andrew Dehoff made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November with Kent Crawford seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

TRENCHLESS TECHNOLOGY TECHNICAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FINAL (INFORMATIONAL) – Andrew Foley, Water Program Specialist, Regional Permit Coordination Office (RPCO)

Andrew Foley provided a presentation on the Trenchless Technology technical guidance document, which he expects will be published final at the end of February. He stated that the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands completed final revisions in response to public comments that were evaluated after an internal review in order to enhance its usability. Mr. Foley noted that the document was shared with WRAC on two prior occasions: a stakeholder draft version in the Fall of 2019 and a draft in the Spring of 2020, prior to being presented for public comment.

Mr. Foley shared several items that were clarified or changed after the document based on public comments. These changes included when it was appropriate to use state licensed P.E. or P.G., additions to the recommended analyte list, the removal of an ambiguous flow chart, additional risk factors, and updates to definitions. He noted the stakeholder draft had a total of 9 appendices, some of which were non-substantive and were moved to a web resource page in the interest of increasing the accessibility of the final document. He shared that the final document was reduced to 2 appendices: a section on risk assessment and a plan submittal check list.

Beth Uhler asked if the evaluation for contamination was comprehensive. Mr. Foley confirmed that appendix A was a shortened version of those qualifiers and that the guidance document does expand extensively on those topics. Mr. Crawford wanted to know if the presence of a sewer line would be an additional risk assessment. Mr. Foley replied that it was not specifically listed as something to be considered but that the document does address crossing aquatic resource and cross bores. Mr. Dehoff commented that the guidance appears appropriate and made a reference to a pipeline installation across the Loyalsock Creek that resulted in loss of erosion and sediment controls and significant sediment plumes. He thanked Mr. Foley for clarifying that the document was not necessarily an endorsement of trenchless technology. Domenic Rocco, also from RPCO, added that he was pleased that there have been discussions to evaluate alternatives and the progress that has been made.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jenifer Christman, Chair

No public comments were offered virtually or in-person.

GENERAL DISCUSSION/AGENDA TOPICS REQUEST – Jenifer Christman, Chair

Ms. Christman requested feedback from the committee regarding future agenda items. Alexandra Chiaruttini suggested a discussion on nutrient and Chesapeake Bay compliance for dischargers within the basin. She would like for an update on that program as well as how the Department is approaching cap loads. Mr. Haines confirmed that program is preparing a presentation with that information to be held sometime in a later Spring or early Summer meeting.

Mr. Crawford referenced a discussion during the previous WRAC meeting in which a research article on stream restoration was shared and the publication concluded the results were transitory relative to the fish population. He explained that this had an inhibiting effect on the stream restoration efforts that the Department has been promoting. However, he concluded that this study relates simply to the fish assemblage and primarily to projects performed on small sections of the stream and not an entire watershed. He shared an image of stream bank erosion to show that there are areas that can be improved with considerations beyond fish assemblage, such as bank reshaping and bank stabilization.

Mr. Haines announced that the Department was working on reappointing all WRAC members, with the exception of Stephen Rhoads, who had tendered his resignation prior. Mr. Haines explained that while memberships had expired in the beginning of January, the reappointment letters are going through the process of being approved and should see completion by the end of the month. Mr. Crawford expressed his gratitude for Mr. Rhoads contributions to the committee and recommended the committee write a letter of thanks to Mr. Rhoads. Mr. Haines confirmed that the Department intends to send a letter but will work on sending one from the committee as well.

Ms. Christman advised that she was not interested in continuing as Chair and that elections will occur in July.

ADJOURNMENT – Jenifer Christman, Chair

Motion: Matthew Genchur made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Chiaruttini seconded the motion. All voting members present voted to adjourn the meeting.