



Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) Meeting Meeting Minutes | July 18, 2024 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

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, 10 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
Myron Arnowitz.....Clean Water Action
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)
John Jackson, Ph.D.....Stroud Water Research Center
Beth Uhler.....Center for Watershed Protection
Charles Wunz, P.E.....Wunz Associates

The following committee members were absent:

Matthew Genchur.....Resource Environmental Solutions (RES)
Theo Light, Ph.D.....Shippensburg University
Cory Miller.....University Area Joint Authority
Dean Miller.....Pennsylvania Water Environment Association
Steven Tambini.....Delaware River Basin Commission

REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM May 16, 2024 MEETING (ACTION) – Jenifer Christman, Chair

Ms. Christman requested consideration of the May 16, 2024 draft meeting minutes.

Motion: Andrew Dehoff made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May with Ms. Christman seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

OFFICER ELECTIONS (ACTION) – Jenifer Christman, Chair

Ms. Christman spoke about the establishment of a nominating committee at the May meeting. The nominating committee had convened on May 30, with Matthew Genchur and Beth Uhler expressing interest in serving as officers. The nominating committee submitted the nomination of Mr. Genchur for Chair, and Ms. Uhler for Vice-Chair, for consideration.

Motion: Shirley Clark made a motion to nominate Mr. Genchur as Chair, and Ms. Uhler as Vice-Chair. John Jackson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

MANURE MANAGEMENT MANUAL SUBSTANTIVE REVISION UPDATE (INFORMATIONAL) – Kate Bresaw, Environmental Group Manager, Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management

Kate Bresaw provided a presentation on the substantive revision to the Land Application of Manure, a supplement to Manure Management for Environmental Protection (otherwise known as Manure Management Manual). The land application of animal manures and agricultural process wastewater must follow the standards for development and implementation of a plan to manage nutrients for water quality protection using standards outlined in the Manure Management Manual unless the requirements described in 25 Pa. Code § 91.36(b) are met in another way such as a permit or approval from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The existing technical guidance document (TGD) was published in October 2011. Ms. Bresaw discussed the progress to date and identified the proposed changes in the final TGD to be published in June 2024.

Kent Crawford asked if the PA OneStop module was being prioritized and was curious to know if, once established, farmers would be taking a more active role in planning. Ms. Bresaw stated that while they were hoping for a summer release, there were some delays with the contractor. Ms. Bresaw anticipates completion in the fall and believes the regulated community will find a lot of value in the module to assist with planning. Dr. Jackson asked if there was a target for the groundwater nitrate concentration if the protocol was followed. Ms. Bresaw advised that there was no metric of that nature cited in the regulations or the TGD; simply that these best management practices need to be in place to address the issues identified. Dr. Jackson clarified he was curious about efficiency values; for instance, if a certain amount was applied to a 1500-acre watershed, if there was a sense of what the target would be. Ms. Bresaw stated that there is an efficiency value per acre that is identified for Nutrient Management Planning and recommended reviewing the Nutrient Management Expert Panel report. Ms. Christman asked where can certified nutrient management plan writers, who are not connected to the districts, access this new information. Ms. Bresaw stated that if they are certified nutrient management planners, they are associated with the State Conservation Commission and there has been significant outreach to ensure proper notification.

PAG-02 NPDES GENERAL PERMIT REISSUANCE (INFORMATIONAL) – Krystal Bloom, Environmental Group Manager, Bureau of Clean Water

Krystal Bloom provided a presentation on the proposed revisions for the reissuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit (PAG-02) for Discharges for Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities. The PAG-02 was last reissued in 2019 and the current permit expires December 7, 2024. The PAG-02 permit is anticipated to be published final on August 31, 2024, to provide sufficient time for existing permittees to prepare renewal Notice of Intents (NOI) for submission.

Ms. Uhler expressed concern from a municipal perspective regarding utilities being exempt from reporting plans prior to preconstruction meeting; and felt that it might increase the chances of going completely unreported, as well as making it more difficult for municipalities who are responsible for ensuring the proper operations are being followed. Ms. Bloom advised that legal

instrument recording guidance for Conservation Districts is in development and that permittees would still be held to the same requirements that are in the current PAG-02. Ms. Uhler added that she agreed with requiring photographs for self-inspections.

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. Dr. Clark requested an update on the progress of the new Stormwater Manual and when it is expected to be released. Dr. Clark added that she would also appreciate an update on the substantial changes in the manual. Dr. Jackson suggested that this could be concurrent with the previously requested agenda topic of updates on MS4. Mr. Haines informed the Committee that an MS4 permit update is tentatively planned for the November meeting. Dr. Crawford proposed making presenters visible during their presentations. Ms. Uhler would like a presentation on how DEP handles regulating the use of brine for dust suppression. Harry Campbell requested an update on the Food Residual Processing Waste workgroup report and how the Department is approaching challenges with the current system. Dr. Crawford expressed gratitude for the leadership of Ms. Christman and Mr. Dehoff.

ADJOURNMENT – Jenifer Christman, Chair

Motion: Dr. Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Clark seconded the motion. All voting members present voted to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 19, 2024