



Pennsylvania

Department of Environmental Protection

Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) Meeting Meeting Minutes | November 21, 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 – Matthew Genchur, Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Matthew Genchur at 9:31 a.m. Bob Haines conducted a roll call and of the 15-member committee, 12 members were present. A quorum was established.

The following committee members were present:

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

The following committee members were absent:

- Myron Arnowitt.....Clean Water Action
Theo Light, Ph.D.....Shippensburg University
Cory Miller.....University Area Joint Authority
Charles Wunz, P.E.....Wunz Associates

Review and Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2024, Meeting (Action) – Matthew Genchur, Chair

Chair Genchur requested consideration of the September 19, 2024, draft meeting minutes.

Motion: Kent Crawford made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September with Beth Uhler seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Emerging Contaminants in Pennsylvania Surface Waters (Requested) – Amy Williams, Water Program Specialist, Bureau of Clean Water

Amy Williams provided an informational presentation on Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) work done by Bureau of Clean Water (BCW) staff from 2012 to present. Items covered include passive water sampling, PFAs, sediment sampling, and a variety of other contaminants.

Jenifer Christman asked about the circumstances in Blair County. Williams stated that this was simply due to the frequency samples were collected at this location. Dr. Crawford asked if there

were any estrogenicity samples from the Delaware River Basin to compare against the Susquehanna River Basin. Williams noted that total estrogenicity was sampled in the Delaware River basin and at a site on the Delaware River itself. Harry Campbell asked if the Department has plans to address the issue of microplastics in surface waters, with Williams confirming there was a pilot study upcoming. John Jackson urged the Department to move beyond pilot studies and felt that the focus should be on identifying issues, then factoring them into the planning process. Josh Lookenbill, Environmental Program Manager with the Bureau of Clean Water, added that the pilot studies were useful to develop data collection protocols, as well as water quality criteria, with expansion of pollution reduction efforts always the goal. Campbell added that it would be constructive to use the data to engage the public to widen the network. Williams confirmed funding was available to continue sampling, which will aid in assessments.

**PAG-13 NPDES General Permit Reissuance (Informational) – Jamie Eberl, P.E., Environmental Group Manager, Bureau of Clean Water**

Jamie Eberl provided an informational presentation on the Department’s plan for reissuing the PAG-13 General Permit for Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s).

Uhler asked for clarification on how treatment is defined relative to the Volume Management Plan (VMP) and what practices would be considered. Eberl advised that one inch of treatment for Stormwater Control Measures (SCMs) but essentially the same from the current permit terms. Shirley Clark shared concerns about runoff management in urban areas without consideration of individual outfall contributions. Eberl stated that while permittees will indeed pursue more accessible items first, this approach will allow for an understanding of long- and short-term volume management goals. Dr. Clark requested clarity on whether the focus was on volume management or volume reduction, citing incongruities between treatment systems and certain pollutants. Sean Furjanic, Environmental Program Manager with the Bureau of Clean Water, advised that Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) will not be part of the PAG-13; a decision has not been made on individual permits. MS4s who discharge to impaired waters with TMDLs would be on a TMDL plan, as opposed to a volume management plan. Dr. Jackson was encouraged by the information shared and hopes that the agency will engage scrupulous consultants. Answering a question about potential grandfather clauses, Eberl and Furjanic advised that permittees could receive credit in the next permit term for BMPs that exceeded the requirements of the permittee’s prior permit, however the amount credit for those projects applied to the future permit may change as it would need to be based on the calculation methodology used in the next permit. Jeff from the Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority (WVSA) asked when this draft would be posted to the PA Bulletin. Jill Whitcomb, Acting Deputy Secretary for Water Programs, said the intent is to publish this information as soon as possible and with a 60-day window for feedback. Furjanic shared that training would also be available on Clean Water Academy. Genchur asked for a status update on the Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) Manual, with Furjanic commenting that the Department hopes to have it finalized by 2026.

**Public Comment – Matthew Genchur, Chair**

No public comments were offered virtually or in-person.

**Advanced Restoration Plan (ARP) Workgroup Discussion – Matthew Genchur, Chair**

Genchur queried the Committee on its interest in forming a workgroup to review and discuss the ARPs more closely. Christman asked Genchur to elaborate on the workgroup's role in supporting the agency. Genchur stated that the aim would be to share insights with the Department, fostering closer collaboration. Campbell added that it would be an opportunity to assist with implementation efforts. Christman expressed concerns that this may unintentionally create obstacles. Campbell clarified that the workgroup would not be involved during the approval process, and the intention would be to assist during development. Whitcomb supports engaging related networks and values the aid provided by sharing knowledge. Dr. Jackson suggested that the Department encourage project aggregation, then facilitate its development. Christman underscored the importance of engaging participation from landowners, as well as timely responses from the Department.

#### **General Discussion/Agenda Topics Request – Matthew Genchur, Chair**

Bob Haines shared updates on the Committee's proposed schedule for 2025. Genchur shared that Steven Tambini would be retiring and recognized his contributions to the Committee.

#### **Adjournment – Matthew Genchur, Chair**

**Motion:** Christman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andrew Dehoff seconded the motion. All voting members present voted to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025