

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Sewage Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
November 12, 2008

Membership and function of this committee is established by 35 P.S 750.4. Successors to the entities listed in the statute retain the right to representation of the original organization named in the statute, but are not entitled to more than one member, if they have merged.

For purposes of quorum, there were sixteen (16) organizations with voting members/alternates recorded as present. Thirteen (13) organization's members/alternates were Not Present. There are four (4) member organizations having no current appointed member or alternate, including one Inactive statutory member organization. Minimum quorum is one third of 29 appointed members/alternates able to cast votes; for this meeting, quorum was 10.

Organizations and members and/or alternates present are indicated by mark (▶).

	MEMBER ALTERNATE	REPRESENTING
▶	▶ Joseph A. Valentine, CPSSc [chairperson]. ▶ Charles R. Waddy	Pennsylvania Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, Inc.
	James C. Elliott Andrew J. Hilt	American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania
▶	▶ Arthur Hall Adams Caroline E. Boyce	American Institute of Architects-- Pennsylvania
▶	▶ John F. Wagman David L. Sheridan	American Society of Civil Engineers
	Mourice G. Waltz (no alternate)	American Planning Association
	Brian S. Funkhouser Scott E. Russell	American Water Works Association
	Harold Hurst Kristen Goshorn	County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
▶	▶ Ralph DeFazio	County Departments of Health,

	Doug Range	Local Health Agencies
	Nomination pending Dr. Sean Sanderson	Department of Community & Economic Development
▶	▶ Patricia Grim Joanne R. Denworth	Governor's Policy Office
	(No member) (No alternate)	League of Cities and Municipalities
	Gabriel D. Alessi (no alternate)	Mortgage Bankers Association
	(No member) (No alternate)	National Association of Water Companies
	Walt Krzyzanowski Al Ruscito	Pennsylvania Association of Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors
▶	▶ Bruce P. Willman, CPSS William F. Beers	Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists
▶	▶ Robert T. Wood Linda A. Peters	Pennsylvania Association of Realtors
▶	Barbara L. Brown ▶ Ralph M. Houck	Pennsylvania Association of Sewage Enforcement Officers
	Eugene E. Dice Kevin J. Garber	Pennsylvania Bar Association
	Carl D'Amico John Gigliotti	Pennsylvania Builders Association
	Eric R. Conrad, P.G. John Walliser	Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Inc.
▶	▶ Keith Klingler (no alternate)	Pennsylvania Land Owners Association, Inc.
▶	▶ Anita Stabile Peter Slack	Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
▶	Bruce E. Fox ▶ Rusty Luzell	Pennsylvania Septage Management Association
	Brian L. Book, P.E. Shannon G. Williams, P.E.	Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers

▶	▶ Dan O'Connell Thomas Klaum	Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
▶	▶ Ginnie Anderson Kane Frank Linn	Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners
▶	▶ Lester O. Houck James Wheeler	Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
	Sam D'Alessandro, P.E., P.L.S. Charles B. Zwally, Esquire	Pennsylvania Vacation Land Developers Association
▶	▶ Duane E. Mowery ▶ Alison J. Shuler	Pennsylvania Water Environment Association
	Dr. Henry Lin Dr. Richard Stehouwer	The Pennsylvania State University
▶	▶ John R. Williams Gary A. Rothrock	USDA Rural Economic and Community Development Service
	Organization internal policy no longer allows participation	US Department of Housing and Urban Development
	Organization currently no longer functioning	Pennsylvania Environmental Health Association
	OTHER ATTENDEES	
	Tom Ashton	American Manufacturing Company, Inc.
	Lori Books	Lebanon County Planning Department
	Grant Gulibon	Pennsylvania Builders Association
	Brad Hengst	Sewage Enforcement Officer
	Elizabeth Hensil	Pennsylvania Association of Realtors
	Scott Houser	PSATS
	Gordon Sheetz	Lebanon County Planning Department
	Sue Wilson	Citizens Advisory Council to DEP
	DEP REPRESENTATIVES	

	Duke D. Adams	Executive Policy Specialist 2, Office of Policy and Communications
	John Borland	Water Program Specialist, Water Standards and Facility Regulation (BWSFR)
	John Diehl	Environmental Group Manager, BWSFR
	Karen Fenchak	Water Program Specialist, BWSFR
	Nick Hong	Environmental Engineering Specialist, BWSFR
	Jim Novinger	Water Program Specialist, BWSFR

Meeting Opening

Joseph Valentine, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building. Meeting sign-in sheets were circulated, and quorum was present.

Old Business

Approval of the Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2008

The minutes of the meeting of September 17, 2008 were approved by the Committee without changes.

New Business

Educating the Committee about its Member Organizations

The following organizations were scheduled for the item “Educating the Committee about its member organizations”:

- The Pennsylvania Bar Association
- The Governor’s Policy Office

No representative of the Pennsylvania Bar Association was present.

Patricia Grim presented an overview of the mission and purview of the Governor’s Policy Office. The Governor’s Policy Office is composed of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Planning, a policy director, and six policy managers. This office coordinates planning and policy development among the executive branch agencies.

As a part of that function the Governor's Policy Office reviews all regulations and all legislation moving in the legislature against the Governor's policy. This office can override regulations and legislation that vary from the Governor's policy, but the office will work with the agency involved to resolve such issues.

The Governor's Policy Office also assists the Governor in developing initiatives of interest and value to Pennsylvania. Examples presented include infrastructure funding and green energy. This office is also involved in special projects such as Growing Greener and with surveys to determine how other states are handling similar issues.

Installer Training

John Diehl informed the Committee that Section 10 of Act 537 describes a fee-based training program for onlot system installers, which has some similarities to the SEO program. With regard to this program, the Department is authorized to issue certificates of completion and to publish a list of those completing training.

Ralph Houck described the installer training curriculum created by the Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT) and the two-day installer training academy that the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) is offering annually based on the CIDWT curriculum. Mr. Houck indicated that PASEO is currently partnering with NOWRA and Westmoreland County Community College to develop a version of the NOWRA installer training program for Pennsylvania.

Several Committee members stated that SEO oversight of system installation is not enough, that Pennsylvania needs a mandatory installer training program to ensure consistent proper application of installation standards and requirements. [Note: the preceding comment in no way is meant to indicate that Sewage Enforcement Officers are not performing their duties adequately.] Mr. Diehl said that the Department would review the program materials provided by Mr. Houck and look at the logistics of developing and implementing a training program.

Status of Del Val Research Project

John Diehl stated that the DEP is exploring how best to implement small-scale field testing of technologies reported on through the DelVal Phase II research project. Specifically, the Technology B recirculating sand filter / at-grade bed denitrification system is being addressed. Karen Fenchak discussed specifications for inserting drip dispersal technology utilizing primary effluent into the Alternate Systems Guidance (ASG), based in part on results from DelVal Phase II.

Status of Drip Micromound

John Diehl and Karen Fenchak explained that specifications for the Drip Micromound have also been inserted into the ASG. Ms. Fenchak also discussed specific details of micromound performance during testing. Micromound specifications being provided to

the ASG have already been reviewed by the Committee. Given the changes being made to it, the ASG will likely be provided again to the Committee for review in the spring of 2009.

Sewage Management by public and other entities

John Diehl said that the DEP is currently working on the Sewage Management Activities draft guidance. In response to questions, John Borland provided an overview of the Department's plans and the work being done to develop guidance materials, education, outreach, workshops, and other such outputs for municipal officials and other sectors involved with sewage management. Examples of efforts currently operating or in development include web-based access to educational materials and clearinghouse resources that pertain to sewage management programs, peer-based assistance to municipalities regarding sewage management program development and implementation options, and training in sewage management program fundamentals to municipal officials, SEOs, and other involved parties.

Mr. Borland stated that the regulations currently impose no barriers to public and other entities working with municipalities to develop and/or administer sewage management programs. Such arrangements already exist and are operating in the state. Mr. Borland also described the efforts being undertaken by the Department to survey working sewage management programs and the ways in which data and resources from these surveys are now being used to support the education and outreach development activities described above.

Several Committee members spoke in favor of initiating sewage management programs in Pennsylvania municipalities. Mr. Borland stated that the Department is working on a mini-module for municipal sewage facilities plan update revisions that would allow municipalities to adopt planning proposals for sewage management programs more easily. Committee members were in favor of this initiative.

Status of Chapter 71a

John Diehl stated that the DEP is continuing its internal review of the Chapter 71a revisions and will soon present them to the Deputy Secretary for Water Management, Chief Council, and the Office of Policy. Mr. Diehl said that a draft may be ready to present to the Committee by its March 2009 meeting.

Mr. Diehl also informed the Committee that Chapters 72a and 73a are on standby until Chapter 71a is completed.

Other Business

Duane Mowery discussed issues and problems with the guidance document, "Technical Decision Making in Onlot Sewage System Repair Situations" and the report by The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, "An Examination of Failing Private Septic Systems in

Pennsylvania”, as they pertain to onlot system malfunctions and best technical guidance. Duke Adams said that DEP Office of Policy will review the issue and return with a response by the Committee’s March 2009 meeting.

Chairman Valentine reminded Committee members to notify Mr. Diehl of their selections for primary and secondary Committee members by January 1, 2009. The Committee also established tentative dates for advisory committee meetings in 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:59 p.m.