

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD MEETING
July 14, 2026

VOTING MEMBERS AND/OR ALTERNATES PRESENT

Ramez Ziadeh, Acting Chairperson, Executive Deputy Secretary, Department of Environmental Protection

Amar Bhardwaj, alternate for Akbar Hossain, Secretary, Governor's Office of Policy and Planning

Greg Hostetter, alternate for Russell Redding, Secretary, Department of Agriculture

Adam Walters, alternate for Frederick Siger, Secretary, Department of Community & Economic Development

Kristen Rodack, alternate for Dr. Debra Bogen, Secretary, Department of Health

Kristen Bentz, alternate for Nancy Walker, Secretary, Department of Labor and Industry

Kennedy O'Dell, alternate for Michael Carroll, Secretary, Department of Transportation

Heather Gahagan, alternate for Tim Schaeffer, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

David Yoxtheimer, alternate for Stephen Smith, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission

Andrea Lowery, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

Regi Sam, alternate for Stephen DeFrank, Chair, Public Utility Commission

Matt Osenbach, alternate for Senator Gene Yaw, Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee

Emily Eyster, alternate for Senator Carolyn Comitta, Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee

Evan Franzese-Peterson, alternate for Representative Greg Vitali, House Environmental and Natural Resource Protection Committee

Glendon King, alternate for Representative Martin Causer, House Energy Committee

Carol Collier, Citizens Advisory Council

William Fink, Citizens Advisory Council

Thaddeus Stevens, Citizens Advisory Council

John Walliser, Citizens Advisory Council

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STAFF PRESENT

Lauren Imgrund, Policy Director

Laura Griffin, Regulatory Coordinator

Laura Campbell, Regulatory Coordinator

Robert "Bo" Reiley, Bureau of Regulatory Counsel

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The hybrid meeting of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB or Board) was called to order by Acting Chairperson Ziadeh at 9:01 a.m.

The Board considered its first item of business: approval of the June 9, 2026, EQB meeting minutes.

Matt Osenbach made a motion to adopt the June 9, 2026, EQB meeting minutes. Emily Eyster seconded the motion, which was approved by the Board (18-0).

FINAL RULEMAKING: ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND RECYCLING PROGRAM
(25 Pa. Code Chapter 250) (#7-575)

Ali Tarquino Morris (Deputy Secretary for Waste, Air, Radiation, and Remediation) provided an overview of the final rulemaking. Kris Shiffer (Director, Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields) and Lindsay Williamson (Assistant Counsel, Bureau of Regulatory Counsel) assisted with the presentation.

Following the Department's presentation, Thaddeus Stevens asked if the Department studied how much land would be qualified or disqualified by this final rulemaking. Ali Tarquino Morris stated that the amount of land that could be affected by the final rulemaking is not studied. In the Department's experience, the standards do not impair redevelopment.

Andrea Lowery made a motion to adopt the final rulemaking. Amar Bhardwaj seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the Board (15-3). Glendon King, Matt Osenbach, and Thaddeus Stevens voted in opposition.

REGULATORY FEE REPORTS: WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT FEES; NPDES PERMIT AND ANNUAL FEES (25 Pa. Code Chapters 91 and 92a)

Jill Whitcomb (Deputy Secretary for Water Programs) provided an overview of the fee reports. Nick Vivian (Director, Bureau of Clean Water) and Sean Furjanic (NPDES Permitting Program Manager, Bureau of Clean Water) assisted with the presentation.

There was no discussion following the Department's presentation.

This was a presentation to the Board. No formal action was needed.

REGULATORY FEE REPORT: EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PERMIT FEES
(25 Pa. Code Chapter 102)

Jill Whitcomb (Deputy Secretary for Water Programs) provided an overview of the fee report. Nick Vivian (Director, Bureau of Clean Water) and Sean Furjanic (NPDES Permitting Program Manager, Bureau of Clean Water) assisted with the presentation.

Following the Department's presentation, Andrea Lowery noted that the fee reports for Chapters 92a and 102 are based on program costs, whereas the Chapter 91 fee report is based on staffing costs, and asked why there is difference in methodologies. Sean Furjanic explained that the Water Quality Management Program (Chapter 91) only has staffing costs. Costs for the Chapter 102 Program and the NPDES Program (Chapter 92a) include supplies, equipment, and staffing. Regarding Chapter 102, Jill Whitcomb added that there are significant costs to train personnel from the Department and 65 county conservation districts.

Next, Lowery stated that the fee reports for Chapters 91 and 92a included a comparison to fees charged by adjacent states and asked if this was considered for Chapter 102. Furjanic said it was not. However, if the Department moves forward with a rulemaking, a comparison to neighboring states will be undertaken.

Lowery then asked if any aspects of these programs could be self-supporting based on fees or if it is anticipated that there will always be some support from the General Fund. Whitcomb said it is unlikely

that these programs will be supported only by fees given that equitable distribution of costs borne by the regulated community is a primary concern.

Thaddeus Stevens cited a bill in the House of Representatives to waive NPDES permit requirements for construction sites that result in a land disturbance of one to five acres. If this were to pass, Stevens asked if the workload could be reduced to a point where the program is affordable under the current fee structure. Whitcomb responded that because these small construction projects, between one and five acres, receive NPDES permits issued under the federal Clean Water Act, it may not be possible to eliminate federally-required permits for these construction projects. Whitcomb added that the Department will be publishing draft revisions to general permit PAG-01 for public comment, which covers these construction projects, with the goal of streamlining the program.

This was a presentation to the Board. No formal action was needed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Laura Griffin provided the following regulatory update:

- The Board adopted the Water Quality Standards; Class A Stream Redesignations final rulemaking at the March 10, 2026, meeting. It was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on July 11, 2026, and is promulgated and effective.
- The Board adopted the Legal Authority for Delegation of Federal Plans in 40 CFR Part 62 final rulemaking at the June 9, 2026, meeting. It is scheduled for Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) consideration on July 16, 2026.
- The Board adopted the Administration of the Land Recycling Program—Chromium (VI) final rulemaking at the April 14, 2026, meeting. It was deemed approved by IRRC on June 17, 2026.

NEXT MEETING

Acting Chairperson Ziadeh announced that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 11, 2026.

ADJOURN

With no further business before the Board, Matt Osenbach moved to adjourn the meeting. Emily Eyster seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by the Board. The July 14, 2026, meeting of the Board was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.