



## **Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) and Nutrient Management Advisory Board (NMAB) Joint Meeting Meeting Minutes | August 28, 2025 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture – Room 202 and Microsoft Teams

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### **Welcome & Introductions – Grant Gulibon, Vice Chair**

Bob Haines conducted a roll call of AAB members; 5 of the 9 voting members were present. A quorum was established.

#### **Members present:**

Vice-chair Grant Gulibon, Lynn Dietrich, Matt Royer, Nathan Clark, Bill Evans, James Gillis\*, Jill Whitcomb\*, Pete Vanderstappen (in for Tim Peters\*)

#### **Members absent:**

Chair Jennifer Reed-Harry, Lily Guthrie, Destiny Zeiders, Christopher Uhland, and Greg Hostetter\*

*\*Non-Voting Member*

### **Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Action) – Grant Gulibon, Vice Chair**

The April 10, 2025, and June 5, 2025, meeting minutes were approved. Matt Royer made a motion to approve, and Lynn Dietrich seconded.

### **Legislative Update – Bill Evans and Nathan Clark**

Nathan Clark stated that due to the budget impasse there is not much to report for the House. Bill Evans agreed that the Senate is impacted by the budget impasse as well and added that the Senate is scheduled to return to session on September 8, 2025.

### **Public Comment – Grant Gulibon, Vice Chair**

Nathan Eachus testified before the joint DEP Agricultural Advisory Board and Nutrient Management Advisory Board on August 28, 2025, on the agricultural impacts of road spreading oil and gas wastewater from conventional wells. Mr. Eachus highlighted evidence of livestock deaths, reproductive failures, and farmland degradation linked to exposure to these radioactive brines, which exceed federal safety standards. Mr. Eachus noted declines in Pennsylvania's dairy

sector, raised concerns about risks to the food supply from unmonitored animal exposure, and urged DEP to strengthen testing, require chemical disclosure, and involve the Secretary of Agriculture in protecting farmers and the food system.

**Nutrient Management/Manure Management Administrative Manual-Record of Change Revisions (Informational) – Allyson Hanawalt, Water Program Specialist, Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management**

Allyson informed the Board that the Agriculture Compliance Section has developed a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Agriculture Routine Inspections, Complaint Investigation, and Follow-up (BWRNSM-INSP-006). The SOP has been incorporated into the Nutrient Management Manure Management (NMMM) Administrative Manual, and the State Conservation Commission approved the record of change at its May 20th meeting. The revisions align complaint response procedures across county conservation district delegations related to agriculture compliance under Chapter 102 and Nutrient and Manure Management. The SOP and related training are available on Clean Water Academy.

Jill Whitcomb commented on the proactive engagement process with conservation districts and DEP regional offices to develop the revisions for the SOP and Inspection Report.

**Class A Wild Trout Streams Redesignation Draft Final-Form Rulemaking (Informational) – Kristen Schlauderaff, Environmental Group Manager, Bureau of Clean Water**

Kristen informed the Board that the Bureau has developed a final-form rulemaking to update designated uses for surface waters classified as Class A Wild Trout waters by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). Under 58 Pa. Code § 57.8a, waters meeting species-specific biomass standards and following public notice and comment qualify for Department evaluation for High Quality Waters designation. DEP previously presented the proposed rulemaking to the AAB on April 17, 2024; the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) adopted the proposal on September 10, 2024, and it was published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on February 1, 2025. The 45-day public comment period closed on March 18, 2025, and the final rulemaking is tentatively scheduled for EQB consideration later this summer.

Jill Whitcomb asked why this matters and why is DEP proposing this rulemaking to redesignate streams. Kristen responded that under the Clean Streams Law and Federal Clean Water Act, DEP is obligated to protect surface waters by not just designating uses, but if it is determined that there are existing uses that are more protective than DEP regulations, DEP is required to protect the existing uses and then redesignate them in DEP regulations, such as Chapter 93.

**Chesapeake Bay Progress Update (Informational) – Kate Bresaw, Environmental Program Manager, Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management**

Kate provided an update to the Board on the Chesapeake Bay progress, highlighting nutrient management efforts and agricultural inspections and compliance.

Jill Whitcomb added an update on the Conowingo WIP, noting it as an opportunity for Maryland to invest in Pennsylvania projects through the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's innovative finance program. Jill highlighted that this cross-boundary watershed planning approach supports voluntary, farm-based restoration efforts. Jill added that Pennsylvania is also contributing through the Clean Streams Fund, including ACAP and the Clean Water Procurement Program, and that PENNVEST recently announced a third funding round of more than \$4 million to support water quality and habitat improvements in Pennsylvania.

Pete Vanderstappen asked for confirmation that NRCS federal funded activities and technical support provided through the Bay program are credited in the overall Bay model. Kate confirmed that NRCS's work is included in Pennsylvania's WIP accounting.

### **General Discussion/Agenda Topics Request – Grant Gulibon, Vice Chair**

Grant Gulibon suggested an update on the FPR manual progress.

Matt Royer announced that the *Bay in the Balance* Conference will be held December 8–10 at the Gettysburg Wyndham Conference Center. Matt recommended providing a follow-up presentation to the Board after the conference to share the resulting recommendations.

Bob Haines reported that a presentation on the FastTrack program is tentatively scheduled for the December 11, 2025, Board meeting.

Jill Whitcomb highlighted a successful project resulting from DEP's permitting reform and efficiency initiatives, like the SPEED Program and Ag Permitting Roundtable. Jill cited the Kulp Dairy Farm project, where early engagement and coordination among the farm, its consultants, and DEP's Southcentral Regional Office staff enabled authorization of a Chapter 102 Individual Construction Stormwater permit in just 83 days—over seven weeks faster than the average review time.

Rich Huether asked where to get more information on the SPEED program. Jill Whitcomb provide a summary of SPEED and Bob Haines added the program website in the chat.

### **Adjourn – Grant Gulibon, Vice Chair**

Grant Gulibon called for a motion to adjourn. The motion by Thomas Jennings, seconded by Matt Royer, was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 1 p.m.