

Public Water System Technical Assistance Center (PWS-TAC) Advisory Board

***DRAFT* - Minutes of the May 29, 2025 Meeting**

A regular meeting of the PWS-TAC Board was called to order by Chairperson Sharon Fillmann at 9:01 AM. This was the second regularly scheduled meeting of 2025.

The following Board members were present:

Jeff Bickel, State Board for Certification of Sewage Treatment Plant & Waterworks Operators (SBCSTPWWO)
John Brady, Rural Utilities Service/Rural Development (RUS)
Doug Crawshaw, American Water Works Association, Pennsylvania Chapter (AWWA)
Amy Forsha, RCAP Solutions, Inc (RCAP)
Roger Hadsall, Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA)
JT Hand, National Association of Water Companies (NAWC)
Clint McKinley, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)
James Steele, Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA)

The following Alternate members were present:

Ed Chescattie, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Nicholas DeMarco, Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA)
Laura Dimino, Center for Rural Pennsylvania (CRP)
Sharon Fillmann, American Water Works Association, Pennsylvania Chapter (AWWA)
Mary Gaiski, Pennsylvania Manufactured Housing Association (PMHA)
Joel Jordan, Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA)
Matt Lamb, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Emme Reiser, Pennsylvania Association of Realtors (PAR)
Mary Roland, State Board for Certification of Sewage Treatment Plant & Waterworks Operators (SBCSTPWWO)
Tesra Schlupp, Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PIIA)
Matt Walborn, Water Works Operators Association of Pennsylvania (WWOAP)

The following Organizations were not represented:

County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP)
Department Community and Economic Development (DCED)
League of Women Voters, Pennsylvania (LWVPa)
Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA)
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS)

Members/alternates from 16 organizations were present; therefore, a quorum was achieved.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff attending the meeting:

Jeff Allgyer, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	Dawn Hissner, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
Angi Anderson, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	Wendy Lloyd, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
Jill Anderson, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	Sheryl Martin, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
Janelle Barry, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	Kim Snook, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water
Lisa Beatty, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	Leda Lacomba, Bureau of Regulatory Counsel
Melissa Crow, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	Laura Campbell, Policy Office
Jay Diaz, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	Brian Chalfant, Policy Office
Dave Grube, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	Cael Willner, PA DEP Intern
Sabrina Haydt, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water	William Rafferty, PA DEP Intern

Non-Members attending the meeting:

Jennifer Case, PMAA

Sara Crawshaw, Borough of Carlisle/PAAEL

Kristy Donaldson, Municipal Auth of Buffalo Twp.

Anita Martin, Chester Water/PAAEL

William Richardson, EPA R3

Erik Ross, Milliron & Goodman

Kristy Snyder, PAWC

Christine Swailes, Veolia Water

Kodi Webb, Veolia Water

General Advisory Board business

- The draft minutes from February 20, 2025, PWS-TAC Board meeting were presented for discussion.
 - The draft minutes were amended to: add names of virtual attendees that were not noted and to identify who seconded the final motion.
 - JT Hand (NAWC) made motion to approve amended minutes; Roger Hadsall (PRWA) seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.
- Water and Wastewater Operator Recruitment
 - Jeff Bickel & Mary Roland (SBCSTPWWO) are requesting assistance from PWS-TAC Board members in recruitment efforts for the industry. Aging industry workforce and lack of new operators has raised concerns for future. The PA Operator Certification Board is leading a group to develop new ideas and strategies for recruitment and are asking for volunteers to assist in virtual workgroup. PRWA, AWWA, DEP, RCAP have volunteered to provide assistance with the workgroup. PWS-TAC Board encourages members and alternates to pass additional volunteer names to Jeff or Mary.
 - PUC has utility careers campaign; PMAA's June edition of their magazine focuses on ways to attract younger individuals to the water industry through mentorships, internships, and workforce development. PMAA will share June edition once it is released.
 - PWS-TAC Board encourages development of marketing ideas and recruitment videos to be shared with organizations, high schools and trade schools in Pennsylvania.

SDW Update from PA DEP:

- *eLibrary updates*: Guidance for low or no Cl₂ residual will soon be posted and the Tier 2 PN for PFAS was updated and is available.
- *PWS Manual Part II*: the public comment period was extended - DEP received ~ 350 comments that were grouped into 286 categories. DEP is completing final edits to the technical guidance and the Comment & Response documents which will be routed internally for review and approval before being added to eLibrary.
- *Cybersecurity*: DEP reminded those present of the 1 hour reporting requirement for incidents.
 - DEP has created a website with links to resources; training is being developed for a virtual tabletop exercise – PWSs will be sent a flyer with details and registration info.
 - The e-inspection app, SDWINS, is being modified to include cybersecurity questions similar to those asked during EPA inspections.
- *PFAS*: EPA issued a press release stating their intent to change the National Public Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR). Highlights from this press notice include: keep PFOA/PFOS MCLs at 4.0, rescind regulations and reconsider regulation determination for PFNA, PFHxS, Gen X & PFBS, extend the MCL compliance deadline and establish an exemption process to further extend MCL compliance deadline.

EPA plans to issue a proposed rule in Fall 2025 and a final rule in spring 2026. EPA stated they do not expect to extend the monitoring dates. Question on this press release of the PFAS NPDWR should be sent to EPA's resource account.

- **PA's PFAS Rule remains in effect:** PennVest continues to fund permitting projects (most recent two PIIA meetings awarded grant funding to 9 projects for ~ \$50 million and 7 projects for ~ \$35 million, respectively). To date, 31 EPs have an operations permit for PFAS treatment and another 46 EPs have a construction permit in place or are in the process.
- **LCRR/LCRI:**
 - DEP received Service Line Inventories (SLI) from ~80% of PWSs required to submit one. DEP is working with those PWSs that have not submitted anything or that submitted an incomplete SLI.
 - The SLI template is being revised (for verification of non-lead lines); PWSs should review LCRI language regarding the validation pool. TAC Board requested that DEP clarify what is "adequate evidence" for a SLI. PA DEP is reviewing existing information to see what constitutes "adequate evidence" from website/training aids.
 - There is a new form on eLibrary for certification of delivery of the notice to consumers with a lead or unknown service line.
 - Those present were reminded that Tier 1 PN is required within 24-hrs of determination that the 90th percentile value exceeds lead and that the notice must be submitted to both DEP and EPA.
 - DEP is continuing development of the draft regulation language to amend Chapter 109 for the LCRR/LCRI provisions (DEP does not intend to be more stringent than NPDWR for SLI provisions).
 - Discussion of NPDWR requirements for updates to SLI and Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR).

LCRI Workgroup

- DEP requested assistance from a small group of PWS managers/operators to evaluate options for: CCT compliance steps, WQP requirements, and the SLI validation pool to help develop draft language that will be brought to the full board.
- PWS-TAC Board recommends 3-5 representative TAC members from PWSs (can include other orgs): Doug Crawshaw (AWWA) and Jeff Bickel (SBCSTPWWO) volunteered.

Public Comments

Request for clarification of BSDW's position on fluoridation. DEP is neutral on fluoridation - it is up to each individual PWS to decide whether to add or remove fluoride. Fluoride addition or removal requires a permit and must obtain DEP approval in accordance with the *Proposals to Add or Remove Fluoridation Treatment by a Community Water System Policy* (DEP ID 394-2125-003).

Adjourn

James Steele (PBA) made a motion to adjourn at 10:42 AM. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.