



Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection

Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) Meeting
Meeting Minutes | September 19, 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
Kent Crawford, Ph.D.....USGS (Retired)
Andrew Dehoff.....Susquehanna River Basin Commission
John Jackson, Ph.D.....Stroud Water Research Center
Cory Miller.....University Area Joint Authority
Dean Miller.....Pennsylvania Water Environment Association
Steven Tambini.....Delaware River Basin Commission
Charles Wunz, P.E.....Wunz Associates

The following committee members were absent:

Myron Arnowitt.....Clean Water Action
Shirley Clark, Ph.D., P.E.....Pennsylvania State University
Theo Light, Ph.D.....Shippensburg University

Review and Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2024 Meeting (Action) – Matthew Genchur, Chair

Chair Genchur requested consideration of the July 18, 2024 draft meeting minutes.

Motion: Jenifer Christman made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July with Alexandra Chiaruttini seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Advanced Restoration Plans Update (Requested) – Michael Morris, Water Program Specialist, Bureau of Clean Water

Mike Morris provided an informational presentation on Advanced Restoration Plans (ARPs). A status update was shared, along with approaches to ARP development, the factors that may limit successful restoration through ARPs, and other challenges to ARP development and implementation, as well as possible solutions. ARP implementation partners, Jonathan Niles from

The Nature Conservancy and Russ Collins from The Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited, shared their perspectives on implementing the Hammer Creek ARP.

Andrew Dehoff asked how the ARPs are prioritized. Morris advised that prioritization is based on the projects that have the highest feasibility. Kent Crawford commented on the utility of riparian buffers and grass waterways and thanked Mike Morris. Kent Crawford asked if the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) had any involvement with these projects. Morris replied that NRCS involvement is typically through the Conservation Districts and that their direct involvement is variable. John Jackson noted that grass waterways have long been a standard BMP and the shortcomings in implementation are reflective of the failings of agricultural advisors. John Jackson gave recommendations for more successful outcomes. Harry Campbell agreed that engagement was critical but maintained that a limited labor force and grant cycles posed significant challenges. Jonathan Niles shared his experiences, emphasizing the importance of outreach. Collins added that persistent contact with property owners is crucial and while many are interested in implementation, there have been issues with capacity and funding.

Public Comment – Matthew Genchur, Chair

No public comments were offered virtually or in-person.

General Discussion/Agenda Topics Request – Matthew Genchur, Chair

Kent Crawford requested an update from DEP on microplastics. Josh Lookenbill, Bureau of Clean Water, shared that a strategy has been developed for collecting preliminary data. Additional funding has been requested to support a pilot, which they hope to incorporate into a broader program relevant to contaminants of emerging concern.

Adjournment– Matthew Genchur, Chair

Motion: Kent Crawford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Jackson seconded the motion. All voting members present voted to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 21, 2024