

**Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Sewage Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
November 5, 2014**

Membership and function of the Sewage Advisory Committee (SAC) 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.

Twenty (20) organizations with voting members/alternates were recorded as present. Ten (10) organizations' members/alternates were Not Present. Three (3) member organizations have no current appointed member or alternate. The minimum quorum is one third of 30 appointed members/alternates able to cast votes. For this meeting, twenty (20) organizations were present which exceeds the minimum ten (10) for a quorum.

Members are shown in boldface. Organizations and members and/or alternates present are indicated by mark (▶).

Member Alternate Member	Organization
▶ Jacqueline Peleschak, P.E. Mark Malarich, P.E.	American Council of Engineering Companies of Pennsylvania
Arthur Adams, AIA No alternate	American Institute of Architects--Pennsylvania
▶ John Wagman Bernard Telatovich	American Society of Civil Engineers
Scott Russell, P.E. ▶ Michael Schober, P.E.	American Water Works Association (PA Section)
Commissioner Jeff Wheeland Lisa Schaefer	County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
▶ Ralph DeFazio Kyle Schmeck	County Departments of Health, Local Health Agencies
Secretary Alan Walker ▶ Sandra Orth	Department of Community & Economic Development
▶ Jessica Shirley Andrew Paris	Governor's Policy Office
Charles Herr ▶ Andy Jantzer	PA Municipal League
(No member)	Mortgage Bankers Association of Pennsylvania

(No alternate)	
David R. Kauffman, P.E. J.T. Hand	National Association of Water Companies
Michael McGraw (No alternate)	Pennsylvania Association of Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors
▶ Bruce Willman ▶ Mark Mills	Pennsylvania Association of Professional Soil Scientists (PAPSS)
▶ Robert Wood William McLaughlin	Pennsylvania Association of Realtors
▶ Chris Wood [Vice-Chairperson] Kevin Bitz	Pennsylvania Association of Sewage Enforcement Officers
Andrew Bockis ▶ Alexandra Chiaruttini	Pennsylvania Bar Association
John Gigliotti ▶ Sarah Miller	Pennsylvania Builders Association
Kevin Garber Paul King	Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Inc.
▶ Keith Klingler (no alternate)	Pennsylvania Landowners Association, Inc.
Wayne Schutz ▶ Cory Miller	Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association
▶ Gregory Marshall ▶ Brad Hengst	Pennsylvania Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association
Mourice Waltz Eugene Briggs, AICP	Pennsylvania Planning Association
Joe Valentine ▶ Jeff Rachlin	Pennsylvania Septage Management Association
Brian Book, P.E. John Fuehrer, II, P.E.	Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers
▶ Dan O'Connell Ronald Grutza	Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs
Comm. Ginnie Anderson Kane (No alternate)	Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners
Andrew J. Boni ▶ James Wheeler	Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
Dr. Patrick Drohan	The Pennsylvania State University

Dr. Henry Lin	
▶ Duane E. Mowery [Chairperson] ▶ Alison J. Shuler	Pennsylvania Water Environment Association
▶ Samuel M. D'Alessandro, P.E., P.P., P.L.S. (No alternate)	Pennsylvania Vacation Land Developers Association
John Williams Susanne Gantz	USDA Rural Development Mission Area
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:	
Sue Ahern	Evans Mill Environmental
Tom Ashton	American Manufacturing Company
Lori Books	Lebanon County Planning Department
Kara Boyd	USDA Rural Development
DEP Representatives:	
Kim Childe	Attorney, Regulatory Counsel
John Diehl	Chief, Act 537 Management Section, Division of Planning and Permits, Bureau of Point and Non-Point Source Management (BPNPSM)
Karen Fenchak	WPS, Act 537 Management Section, BPNPSM
Ronald Furlan	Environmental Program Manager, BPNPSM
Sean Gimbel	Executive Assistant, Water Management
Nick Hong	EES, Act 537 Management Section, BPNPSM
Beth Mahoney	Sewage Planning Supervisor, SERO
Leah Majdic	Policy Office
Lee McDonnell	Director, BPNPSM
Kristen Szwajkowski	Management Technician, Bureau Business Management, BPNPSM
Michelle Tate	PA CAC
Janice Vollero	WPS, Act 537 Management Section, BPNPSM

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Duane Mowery at 10:30 am in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building. Meeting sign-in sheets were circulated and a quorum was present.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of April 2, 2014

SAC reviewed the minutes of its April, 2, 2014 meeting and discussed several questions regarding the availability of continuing education courses for sewage enforcement officers (SEOs) and the status of SEO completion of required training. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) advised SAC that sufficient continuing education courses are available and SEOs are participating in those courses. The last two-year continuing education cycle ended on June 30, 2014. During that cycle, over 700 SEOs successfully completed their continuing education requirements and are currently active. A list of currently active SEOs by county is available on the DEP's SEO webpage.¹ Approximately 200 SEOs did not complete the required training and their certifications have lapsed. These SEOs can reactivate their certifications by completing the 15 credits required from the last cycle along with the 15 credits required for the current cycle by June 30, 2016. Following this discussion, SAC unanimously approved the minutes from the April 2, 2014 meeting.

In Memoriam of Barbara Brown

In recognition of Barbara Brown, a former Chairperson and a long time SAC member who passed away in August 2014, SAC observed a moment of silence honoring her for her services. SAC also presented a plaque commemorating her services, which stated: *"In recognition of her many years of service as member and chairperson of the Sewage Advisory Committee as well as her tireless efforts in support of her industry and profession, we the Sewage Advisory Committee acknowledge and thank Barbara Brown for her vision and leadership."*

SAC members wishing to contribute towards the cost of the plaque should consult with Mr. D'Alessandro. The plaque will be packaged and shipped to Ms. Brown's family.

Sewage Enforcement Officer Certification and Training Program Guidance

DEP finalized and published notice of this guidance in the PA Bulletin on September 27, 2014. The final guidance and DEP's response to comments received are available on DEP's SEO webpage.

¹ From DEP's main website, navigate to Water; Bureau of Point and Non-Point Source Management; Wastewater Management; Act 537 Sewage Facilities Program; and Sewage Enforcement Officers (SEO).

BID Opportunity for Soils Training

DEP is soliciting bids from prospective Contractors/Trainers to deliver a Soil Profile Description Course at three (3) locations to SEOs for continuing education credits. Bid specifications require that courses be held in Western Pennsylvania, Central Pennsylvania and Eastern Pennsylvania. The Contractor/Trainer may bid one or more locations.

Funding for Sewage Facilities Planning

The Commonwealth's budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 did not include any appropriation for preparing official plans. The Commonwealth Financing Authority has provided funding to seven municipalities for sewage facilities planning from the Marcellus Shale Legacy Fund created by Act 13 of 2012 (see Table 1 below). A total of 47 applications were submitted for funding.

Table 1
Funding from Act 13 for Sewage Facilities Program

Applicant	Project		County	Grant
1	Londonderry Township	Londonderry Township Act 537 Plan Reimbursement	Dauphin	\$40,000
2	Windber Area Authority	Windber Area Authority Act 537 Plan Special Study	Cambria	\$8,985
3	Borough of Freeland Municipal Authority	Joint Official Sewage Facilities Plan Update Revision	Luzerne	\$28,445
4	Moscow Sewer Authority	Church Street Sanitary Sewer Extension	Lackawanna	\$24,000
5	City of Reading	Final Act 537 Special Study	Berks	\$68,685
6	Strasburg Township	Strasburg Township Act 537 Plan Reimbursement	Lancaster	\$14,000
7	East Goshen Municipal Authority	Reservoir Road Pump Station Act 537 Plan	Chester	\$37,162
Total				\$221,277

Nominations for Committee Members/Alternates and Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

DEP reminded SAC members that letters were sent to their organizations requesting the nomination of a member and an alternate for the 2015 – 2017 term. John Wagman, James Wheeler and Ralph Defazio agreed to serve as the subcommittee to nominate SAC officers for this term by the March 2015 meeting.

Meeting Dates for 2015

Two meetings have been scheduled for 2015: March 24, 2015 and September 22, 2015.

Presentation of the draft Chapter 71, 72, and 73

In response to a request from SAC, as well as the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), DEP prepared draft revisions to Chapters 71, 72 and 73 to allow onlot sewage treatment systems that have been classified as alternate systems to be considered during the sewage facilities planning process. In general, the draft revisions would require evaluation of the soil morphology on any lot for which an alternate systems is planned to demonstrate that the system will protect water quality when the depth to the soil limiting zone is less than twenty inches. Municipalities would also be required to have sewage management programs adequate to ensure proper operation and maintenance of alternate systems in order to approve their use on newly created lots. DEP also included a few additional regulatory changes, but generally limited this proposal to the issue raised by SAC and CAC.

SAC discussed the scope of the proposed regulatory changes, whether the scope should be expanded, whether regulatory changes were needed to consider alternate systems during the planning process, and the timeframe for revising the regulations. DEP advised that regulatory revisions are necessary to allow for the use of alternate systems during the planning process and that the typical timeframe for revising the regulations could be somewhat delayed by the pending administration change. Following the discussion, SAC agreed to form a subcommittee to review DEP's draft revisions and suggest comments for consideration by SAC at the March 24, 2015 meeting.

New Business:

SAC discussed whether the Pennsylvania Septage Management Association (PSMA) protocol for evaluating the function of existing onlot sewage treatment system absorption areas using a hydraulic loading test could damage the system.

Jeff Rachlin, the PSMA SAC member, responded that if the protocol for conducting the hydraulic loading is executed properly, the test should not impair the absorption area. He advised that his company has not experienced any damage to systems using the protocol and noted that the National Association of Wastewater Technicians (<http://www.nawt.org/>) plans to adopt the hydraulic loading test as a national standard.

SAC also discussed whether the horizontal isolation distance required by the regulations between an absorption area and a water well would apply to a well drilled for a geothermal system. The issue may be addressed in some local ordinances. SAC requested that DEP research the question on the horizontal isolation distance to a geothermal well and post the response on its SEO News Items website.

Public Comments Concerning Committee Business:

Mark Mills, the alternate representative for PA Association of Professional Soil Scientists, supported DEP's proposed regulatory revisions, but also emphasized the need for other changes to the regulations, including a change to the required depth of excavation to identify a limiting zone under 25 Pa. Code § 73.14(a)(2). Mr. Mills also encouraged DEP to ensure that instructors retained for the Soil Profile Description Course coordinate to deliver consistent training.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:06 pm.