Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection

State Water Plan Update
Statewide Committee Meeting

May 19, 2026
0900 – 1100
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting
and In-Person
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Minutes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

John Dubel	Kate Harper	Len Bradley, P.E.
Carol Collier	Matthew Wolford	Harry Wise
Zachary Salada	Sean Donnelly	Heidi Moltz, Ph.D. (Non-Voting)
Sam Carroll	Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, P.E. (Non-Voting)	Andrew Dehoff (Non-Voting)
Tim Weston	Kevin Moore, P.E.	James Polidori (Non-Voting)
Deb Simko		

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

James Horton – DEP Dave Jostenski – DEP Erin Rybacki – DEP Brian Chalfant – DEP Nick Troutman Jeanette Schnars – Great Lakes Regional Committee	Jason Minnich – DEP Kevin Kraynak – DEP Kaitlin Shade – DEP Paul Direnzo – Peak Hour Power Roland Wall – Drexel University Matt Buck Michon Budziszewski – Ohio Regional Committee

AGENDA:

Time	Presenter	Topic
0900	**DEP**	**Welcome and Introductions**
• James Horton (DEP) welcomed all attendees to the meeting, noted that the session was being recorded, and provided guidance on the use of meeting technology as well as housekeeping procedures for the virtual format. Attendance was documented through the online participants' log. Both virtual and in-person participants introduced themselves.		
0905	**Chair**	**Administrative Items** • **Elect Chair/Vice** • **Finalize Draft Meeting Summary** • **Public Comment**
Administrative / Quorum Update Quorum was not reached. Elections deferred. Tim Weston volunteered to serve as Acting Chair for the meeting. Acting Chair Weston encouraged attendance at future meetings and reiterated his desire for 'new blood' in the leadership role for the committee. **Tim Weston's Service Honored** David Jostenski, DEP took time to acknowledge Tim's long service with the State Water Plan as he steps down from the role. **Finalize Draft Meeting Summary:** Acting Chair Weston asked if there were any corrections regarding the summary of the last meeting. No corrections were offered. **Public Comment:** James Horton (DEP) explained public comments will be limited to three minutes. Acting Chair Weston opened the floor to verbal and chat comments. No comments were received.		
0930	**DEP**	**DEP Update Presentation**

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Act 220 Requirements
James Horton reviewed the history of Act 220 and how it led to the State Water Plan Committee. Chapter 110 is continually collecting data on Pennsylvania water use, and the objectives are constantly in process.

Project Outputs
James Horton noted that by reducing the amount of time spent hosting meetings, it creates less frequent, but higher quality meetings, and more time for discussion.
James Horton introduced Toolkits; a curated list of tools that can be referenced by planners, local governments, and other stakeholders. These will be hosted on a website.
James Horton went over the project timeline. In October 2026 it will be decided if the plan will be approved to share at a public hearing in April. James shared the new web page, Water Forums. The web page will contain webinars for public viewing.

Committee Recruiting
James Horton went over the current filled and vacant positions within the committee. It was noted that the Great Lakes and Potomac regions are geographically disadvantaged and need more nominees to fill vacant positions. James Horton highlighted that more committee members are needed from Industry, Horticulture, and Local Government.

Committee Discussions Following Presentation

- Acting Chair Weston noted that the Citizen's Advisory Council has been discussing data centers and will soon be releasing a report that cites the need for information on siting and water use of these facilities and the indirect needs from power generation related to their expansion. Tim recommended that presentations be delivered in October of this year that speak to this industry. Secondly, Tim recommended that presentations on water affordability be delivered.
- Carol Collier reminded the committee that the State Water Plan is a plan and would like more tools to be generated that can help Pennsylvanians better understand their water, such as one that will guide developers toward good locations for siting Data Centers and other large water-using entities. Matthew Wolford agreed with this assessment citing the need for a tool to locate areas where data centers should or should not go.
- Kate Harper mentioned that the Toolkit Workgroup is attempting to develop tools to focus attention on water availability tools and get that information to people who may need it.
- Matthew Wolford pointed out that regional differences ought to be highlighted pointing out that he felt DEP had de-emphasized expressed priorities in the Great Lakes region. He cited invasive species as a specific issue unique to the Great Lakes. Tim Weston emphasized this point and inquired after DEP's efforts to reach out to regional committees about tools.

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- Sean Donnelly pointed out that PFAS and PFOA are impacting affordability and should be considered as well in discussions going forward.
- Matt Wolford commented on the process taking too long and depressing participation.

1000	Committee	Committee Member Updates

- Matthew Wolford brought up proposed legislature regarding the installation of windmills near Lake Erie. Matthew Wolford was concerned about how this could impact avian navigation. Additionally, Matthew Wolford mentioned beach nourishment and sharing costs.
- Drew Dehoff mentioned that his office has been tracking the installation of new data centers and how that could impact water and energy consumption. Drew also mentioned grants and groundwater recharge data mapping that the SRBC is conducting.
- Kate Harper brought up legislation regarding well driller certification passing the Senate and wanted to confirm that DEP has been following developments. Acting Chair Weston and James Horton confirmed that the DEP has been.
- Jason Minnich mentioned the PennState Climate Symposium that he and James Horton would be presenting with staff from PEMA the following day, and also that there is a new data center fact sheet on the DEP website. Jason also mentioned progress on the Ohio River Restoration Program Act.

1015	Committee	Workgroup Progress Discussion

- James Horton mentioned potentially altering Act 220 regarding the composition of committees. He mentioned that this proposition would be on hold until there is a new regulatory counsel in place.
- James Horton mentioned that the State Water Plan meetings are open to the public and perhaps it would be beneficial for legislators to attend.
- Len Bradley affirmed this idea stating that legislators are in need of education on water resources. Len had said that legislators ought to reach out to committees for their input on legislation. Tim discussed a conversation he'd had with a legislator where they discussed hydrology and groundwater shortage. Tim stated that it shouldn't be expected that legislators are knowledgeable about groundwater and where to get good information. Tim recommended seminars or tutorials on water.
- James Horton stated that they are hoping to show the regional committee a toolkits demo in October 2026. Upon approval, it would be brought to a hearing in April 2027.
- Acting Chair Weston brought up the possibility of utilizing AI using curated data to augment the toolkits.
- Carol Collier posted resources for the toolkit into the Teams chat. They were regarding PFAS treatment and data center guidelines and model ordinances.

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1055	DEP	Next Steps
James Horton requested more presentation recommendations; both regional and statewide. He mentioned reaching out to Nicole at DCNR to give a presentation on well drilling. James Horton opened the floor for recommendations on presenters. Jeanette Schnars recommended Dan Deeds from U.S. Geological Survey.		
1100	**Chair**	**Adjourn**
Acting Chair Weston moved to adjourn the meeting. Len Bradley and Kate Harper seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned by general consent due to lack of quorum.		

ACTION ITEMS:

Task	Responsible Party	Deadline/Timeframe
Schedule presenters for future meetings	James Horton/DEP	By October 2026 meeting
Toolkit Project	James Horton/DEP	October 2026

KEY DECISIONS:

No formal actions taken.

NEXT MEETING:

- October 2026

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