

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRAC)

May 19, 2022 9:30 a.m.

Rachel Carson State Office Building – Room 105
400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17105

and

Teams Meeting

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MGMwZjViYTYtYjE3ZS00MGFmLTk4MWUtZDRhNDIiYmEwNDMx%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22418e2841-0128-4dd5-9b6c-47fc5a9a1bde%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b24d8ba1-e645-4ccd-bbf7-14bcd3de0b76%22%7d

Join by phone

Toll number: +1 267-332-8737
Conference ID: 890 393 225#

Agenda

Call to Order, Introductions and Attendance – Jenifer Christman, Chair

The meeting of the Water Resources Advisory Committee was called to order by Jenifer Christman at 9:30 a.m., virtually via Microsoft Teams and in-person in room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA. A roll call was conducted, and of the 16-member committee, 11 were present and 5 were not present.

The following committee members were present:

Myron Arnowitt – Clean Water Action
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
Theo Light, Ph.D. – Shippensburg University
Cory Miller – University Area Joint Authority
Stephen Rhoads – Shell (Retired)
Jeff Shanks – Waste Management
Steven Tambini – Delaware River Basin Commission

The following committee members were not present:

Matthew Genchur – White Township
John Jackson, Ph.D. – Stroud Water Research Center
Shirley Clark, Ph.D., P.E. – Pennsylvania State University
Charles Wunz, P.E. – Wunz Associates
Dean Miller – Pennsylvania Water Environment Association

Review and Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2022 Meeting – Jenifer Christman, Chair

Informational Item: Guidance on Notification Requirements for Unauthorized Discharges to Waters of the Commonwealth under Pennsylvania’s Clean Streams Law – Tami Opila, Bureau of Clean Water

Ms. Opila provided an overview of the draft-final Technical Guidance Document (TGD) including the definition of Waters of the Commonwealth, what is included in the term “Unauthorized Discharges” and how they can occur and who the TGD applies to.

Ms. Opila discussed the steps that should be taken and the notification requirements should an unauthorized discharge incident occur and summarized the changes between the previous and current draft of the TGD, which is anticipated to be published as final this summer.

Andrew Dehoff asked if there is any guidance currently in place for this type of event. Ms. Opila replied that the guidance itself is new and there is no existing TGD.

Informational Item: 2023 PAG-12 Update NPDES General Permit for Operation of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) – Kate Bresaw, Chesapeake Bay Office

Ms. Bresaw provided a status update on the PAG-12 permit reissuance including accomplishments to date and proposed changes in the pre-draft, which was provided to WRAC and the Ag Advisory Board (AAB) on May 6, 2022. DEP is anticipating publishing the final reissued PAG-12 permit by January 1, 2023 with an effective date of April 1, 2023 in order to provide CAFO operators with 90 days to submit a new Notice of Intent (NOI) to remain covered under the reissued PAG-12 prior to its expiration of March 31. All existing permittees should expect to submit a new NOI between January 1 and March 31, 2023.

Harry Campbell asked if there are any major environmental and water quality-related improvements and advancements included in the update. Ms. Bresaw responded that most of the changes are administrative in nature.

Harry Campbell asked how the permit incorporates site-specific or regional-specific considerations. Ms. Bresaw responded that site-specific considerations are handled in a nutrient management plan and they can capture and report progress made by CAFOs for the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) through these plans.

Informational Item: PA Groundwater Quality Monitoring Network – Matthew Conlon, USGS

Mr. Conlon presented an overview of the network, which was established in 2014 with sampling beginning in 2015. The network is designed to fulfill the need for long-term groundwater quality monitoring. A report released in January 2022 summarizes information collected from 2015-2019. The general water quality findings indicated that most wells had relatively stable water quality although some wells showed seasonal differences. The findings also showed that wells in carbonate settings had the hardest water and the highest pH, wells in crystalline settings had the softest water and lowest pH and wells in siliciclastic settings contained a wide range of pH and water hardness.

There are plans to expand the network, with continued focus on public lands and visiting possible new locations during the summer. Mr. Conlon demonstrated some of the Data Mapper features and mentioned that a Data Release is currently in the works.

Informational Item: Triennial Review Water Quality Standards TR #10 – Kristen Schlauderaff, Bureau of Clean Water

Ms. Schlauderhaff presented an overview of TR #10. The Federal Clean Water Act establishes that states must periodically review and revise their water quality standards. TR #10 will include new or updated water quality criteria for the protection of human health and aquatic life, an evaluation of the fishable and swimmable exclusions, and minor edits and additions of clarifying language to Chapters 93 and 16. The DEP intends to update or adopt new aquatic life criteria for cadmium, carbaryl and tributyltin (TBT) consistent with EPA's 304(a) recommendations. The DEP also intends to update human health criteria for chloroform and 2,4-D consistent with EPA's 304(a) recommendations and adopt a new human health criterion for 1,4-dioxane.

DEP intends to present their proposed rulemaking recommendations to WRAC at the July 2022 meeting and to the Environmental Quality Board in November 2022.

Myron Arnowitt asked if the DEP had more contact with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding chloride and sulfates water quality standards. Ms. Schlauderhaff stated there are no updates on chloride or sulfates standards at this time.

Kent Crawford asked if the reason for the removal of the fishable/swimmable criteria for the Outer Erie Harbour/ Presque Isle Bay region is because of bacterial contamination. Ms. Schlauderhaff stated that the removal of the water contact sports use is primarily due to the safety hazards associated with the shipping channel.

Informational Item: PFAS Permitting Strategy for NPDES-Permitted Discharges – Maria Schumack, Bureau of Clean Water

Ms. Schumack provided an overview of the permitting strategy stating the first step being identification of dischargers. DEP is proposing to require that permit applicants submit analytical results as part of the screening analysis. This proposal will also require that all major sewage facilities and various industrial facilities conduct the screening analysis. Applicants will be required to submit the results of at least three analyses.

Permittees must monitor for PFOS and PFOA throughout their permit term if the results of the screening analysis are greater than EPA's Health Advisory Level (HAL) of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for the combined concentrations of the two. If the analytical results for municipal treatment plant with industrial contributors are greater than the HAL, the permittee will be required to conduct a source evaluation study.

Kent Crawford asked about the requirements for the contract laboratories that are analyzing the PFAS samples for individual dischargers. Ms. Schumack responded that there are currently no approved analytical methods for PFAS for wastewater and that dischargers should use accredited labs.

Myron Arnowitt asked if DEP is considering an instream criteria for PFAS or is the permitting strategy based on what EPA determines the HAL to be and what potential maximum contaminant levels (MCL) there are. Ms. Schlauderhaff stated that EPA recently published draft aquatic life water quality criteria for PFOS and PFOA, and they are planning to propose human health criteria within the next couple of years. DEP is evaluating the available PFAS information and criteria recommendations, but at this time, there is no timeline for criteria recommendations on PFAS from DEP to WRAC.

Myron Arnowitt asked if DEP is considering other PFAS constituents. Ms. Schumack responded that PFOS and PFOA were chosen since there is a threshold to help determine where there should be further monitoring.

General Discussion/Agenda Topics Request – Jenifer Christman, Chair

No committee member suggested any discussion/agenda topic.

Public Comment Period – Jenifer Christman, Chair

No members of the public offered public comment.

Adjourn – Jenifer Christman, Chair

Kent Crawford motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Andrew Dehoff.

DRAFT