

Lower Susquehanna Source Water Protection (SWP) Partnership Meeting Notes

December 15, 2021 | 9:00 am-12:30 pm

A. List of Presenters and Contact Information

CYBERSECURITY

- **Patti-Kay Wisniewski**, Drinking Water Preparedness & Resiliency Coordinator, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3 | wisniewski.patti-kay@epa.gov
- **Michael Papciak**, Director of Delmarva, Keystone Engineering Group | mpapciak@kegi.net

PENNSYLVANIA INTERAGENCY HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM TASK FORCE

- **Rich Pugh**, Task Force Chairperson and Environmental Health Program Manager, Pennsylvania Department of Health | rpugh@pa.gov
- **Brian Chalfant**, Deputy Policy Director, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources | bchalfant@pa.gov
- **Josh Lookenbill**, Monitoring Section Chief, Bureau of Water Quality Assessment, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection | mlookenbil@pa.gov
- **Nick Decker**, Resource Manager, Bureau of State Parks, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources | ndecker@pa.gov
- **Jill Anderson**, Environmental Group Manager, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection | jianderson@pa.gov
- **Shea Zwerver**, Policy Specialist, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources | szwerver@pa.gov

CLIMATE RESILIENCY PREPAREDNESS

- **Rob Harvey**, Assistant Filter Plant Superintendent, The York Water Company | roberth@yorkwater.com

B. Questions/Answers

Cybersecurity

Q1: Are there tools for scanning USB drives?

A1: Yes, online virus scanning platforms and commercial software packages are readily available and you should scan external storage devices before use. And, you are advised to: (a) protect your own external drives and even lock them; (b) don't ever casually plug in a flash drive you find or that's been handed to you without first scanning for virus/malware; and, (c) scan external drives on a computer that is insulated from your networks.

Q2: Are there federal (or state) funds available that water utilities can access related to cybersecurity costs?

A2: No government funds explicitly pay for cybersecurity protection; however, state revolving loan funds provide low-interest finance resources and while grant programs exclude ongoing operation & maintenance costs, certain cybersecurity features can be rolled into project requests.

Q3: Are there insurance products that compensate for damage/loss related to cyber-attack?

A3: Yes, but such products are tricky to navigate.

Comment: State-on-state cyber-attacks targeting critical infrastructure, including water utility, have been part of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. Link to article in Washington Times 11/05/2021: <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2021/nov/5/ukraine-accuses-russia-5000-plus-cyberattacks-bide/>

Harmful Algal Blooms

Q1: Does Pennsylvania have HABs forecasting tools?

A1: Yes, the Lake Erie HABs Forecast can be accessed here: <https://coastalscience.noaa.gov/research/stressor-impacts-mitigation/hab-forecasts/lake-erie/>

Q2: Does the Task Force overlay its HABs monitoring data with Natural Resource Conservation Service-mapped Priority Source Water Areas in order to leverage NRCS technical and financial resources available to eligible landowners for implementation of nutrient-reduction conservation practices?

A2: The Task Force has not coordinated with NRCS in such manner.

Q3: How can I tell the difference between harmful and non-harmful algal conditions?

A3: The HABs Task Force is developing virtual training resources that will become available in 2022 – check the HABs Task Force web page here: www.dep.pa.gov/HABS

Also Penn State University Extension has excellent HABs resources available online here: <https://extension.psu.edu/harmful-algal-blooms-learning-about-these-potentially-toxic-nuisance-algae>

Climate Resilience

Q1: Is The York Water Company interconnected with other utilities as part of its redundancy strategy?

A1: Yes, York Water has interconnections with three neighboring utilities.

Comments: Pennsylvania's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (PAWARN) was mentioned. PAWARN is fundamentally an affiliation of utilities helping utilities: <https://www.pawarn.org/>

EPA's Climate Resilience Evaluation and Awareness Tool (CREAT) was mentioned including a profile of The York Water Company. EPA's CREAT webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/crwu>

C. Announcements

From Sylvia Malm: Here's a link to toolkit for working with NRCS, and handout on working with NRCS State Conservationists and Farm Bill language on source water: <https://sourcewatercollaborative.org/swp-usda/>. Also, on the main Source Water Collaborative page, see links to useful Learning Exchange webinars on a variety of topics, forested lands, Healthy Watersheds Program, and also a link to sign up for SWC email updates: sourcewatercollaborative.org. Any questions or ideas to share, feel free to contact me at sylvia.malm2015@gmail.com. I work with the Ground Water Protection Council, a co-chair of the SWC. Also,

the Lower Susquehanna Source Water Partnership is listed under the How-to-Collaborate Toolkit on the SWC site.

From Virginia Vassalotti, USEPA Region 3: Just wanted to share a new tool that EPA HQ developed to find funding sources for source water protection: <https://www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/fits>

D. Registrations for the Meeting

Approximately 80 people registered for the December meeting and more than 60 participated. The following 35 organizations were represented among those who *registered*.

Keurig – Dr. Pepper	Turkey Hill Dairy	GeoServices, Ltd	Spotts, Stevens, & McCoy	Cadmus Group
Pennsylvania Rural Water Alliance	Penn Township	Shrewsbury Borough	Red Lion Municipal Authority	Maryland Water Quality Finance Association
Natural Resource Conservation Service	United States Environmental Protection	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	Maryland Department of the Environment	West Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
United States Geological Survey	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	Adams County Watershed Alliance	Octoraro Creek Watershed Association	Groundwater Protection Council
Pennsylvania American Water	Chester Water Authority	Capital Region Water	The York Water Company	Pennsylvania Department of Health
Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	Tri-County Planning	Cumberland County Planning	Lancaster County Planning	Adams County Conservation District
York County Conservation District	Dickinson College	Penn State University	Lycoming County Water and Sewer Authority	Susquehanna River Basin Commission

E. Presentation Slides and Other Related Resources Available On Website

Lower Susquehanna Source Water Protection Partnership Website:
<https://www.srbc.net/our-work/what-we-do/lower-susquehanna-partnership.html>