

**Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board**  
**December 11, 2024, Monthly Public Meeting Notes**  
**In Person (Conference Room 17D of One Parkway Building, 1515 Arch Street)**  
**and by Zoom (Online and Telephone)**

Board Members Present

Tony Ewing, Vice Chair  
Abby Pozefsky, Secretary  
Debra McCarty

Alexandra Athanasiadis  
Robert Ballenger  
Kevin Birriel  
Brooke Darlington  
Andre Dasent  
Dan Cantú-Hertzler  
Adriana Gonzalez  
Ryan E. McSherry  
Matthew Webster  
Deland L. Bryant – Zoom Administrator

Others Present

1. Mr. Ewing called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.
  
2. Mr. Ewing asked if there were any additions or corrections to the draft minutes of the monthly meeting held on October 9, 2024. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. McCarty moved to approve the meeting minutes and Ms. Pozefsky seconded the motion, which was approved 2-0, with Mr. Ewing abstaining since he had not been present.
  
3. Mr. Ewing asked for an update from the participants regarding the schedule for the upcoming Rate Proceedings. Mr. Dasent indicated the Water Department has fallen a little behind the late-January schedule time-frame due to the internal milestones achieved but stated that he is not changing the deadline and is holding participants to being ready to proceed and obtaining their testimony and supporting documentation. He promised to be cognizant and respectful of the Board's time. Mr. Ewing asked that Mr. Dasent keep the Board informed of the progress and schedule.
  
4. Mr. Ewing asked whether Mr. Dasent or Mr. Ballenger anticipated any new issues for the Board in the coming proceedings. Mr. Dasent responded that a load study is forthcoming that may ultimately result in revised cost allocations and rate design, though perhaps not until future proceedings. He added that other upcoming billing system changes, while not themselves a matter for the Board's determination, will be reflected in the capital budget and various projections that the Board will consider. He said the rest of the issues are similar to those in prior rate proceedings, though changes to rules concerning lead and copper pipes may need to be sorted out. The Department is working to come up with a package that is reasonable and supported by the evidence

and also plans to alert the Board to future needs, trying to integrate everything into a cost-of-service study within the next 30 days.

5. Mr. Ballenger stated some of the prior proceedings have laid out the groundwork for ones to come, including infrastructure funding challenges and how and whether to fund large scale public health improvements through water bills. He acknowledged that the Public Advocate had sought to address some issues in past proceedings that may have presented challenges for the Board, but said that, as in the most recent couple of proceedings, the Advocate would attempt to limit its recommendations to those that are within the Board's rate making authority. He stated that that more general operational recommendations could still be made to the City to address or at least report back on.

6. Mr. Ballenger said he would reach out to Board counsel regarding the identity of anticipated consultants who would be presenting testimony in the upcoming proceeding. He stated that he again anticipates using Mr. Morgan and Ms. Rogers, who also comes with a little cost savings and maybe a different perspective on revenue requirements. Mr. Ballenger also stated he is looking forward to seeing the filing and getting to work on it.

7. Mr. Ewing asked that the Board schedule upcoming monthly Board meetings from January through May 2025. He noted Mr. Cantú-Hertzler was also searching for an improved meeting location.

8. Mr. Ewing asked for a vote on a motion to approve the second Wednesday of the month as the time slot for upcoming Board meetings from January through May 2025. Mr. Cantú-Hertzler said the current conference room should be large enough to accommodate those meetings but a larger capacity might be needed for the June meetings at which the Board votes on issues and adopts rate determinations. Mr. Cantú-Hertzler noted that Mr. Popowsky had suggested the Board adopt dates, times, and the current location for meetings through May; the Board would set and advertise later meetings separately. Mr. Cantú-Hertzler further suggested that the Board allow Mr. Popowsky the ability to switch dates, times and locations, if advisable, subject to advance notice to all Board members and readvertisement in newspapers and on the Board's website.

9. Mr. Ewing asked for a motion. Ms. McCarty moved that the Board schedule monthly meetings at 3:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month from January 8 through May 14, 2025, via Zoom and in conference room 17D, at 1515 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19102 and authorize Mr. Popowsky to make changes to the upcoming schedule as needed. Ms. Pozefsky seconded the motion, which was approved 3-0.

10. Mr. Ewing asked the Board if there were any other matters of Board businesses to put forth. There was no response.

11. Mr. Ewing then asked all other attendees if there were any other comments, questions, or concerns. Mr. Dasent mentioned there is an upcoming R-CAS Meeting, which is a stakeholders' group, on December 13, 2024, in which the Water Department would be dealing with some of the policy issues Mr. Popowsky had encouraged them to discuss outside of Rate Proceedings. They will be going over some of the issues that have been discussed offline with respect to the racial equity map and other concerns. Mr. Ballenger will review the agenda and suggest additions to it and will assist with future such agendas on this point.

12. There being no further comments from the Board members, participants, or other members of the public, Mr. Ewing asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Pozefsky so moved, and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion, which was approved 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.