
WUC

Water Utility Council of the
PA-Section, American Water
Works Association (PA-AWWA)



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

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*PA- Section, American Water Works Association
National Association of Water Companies
Water Works Operators' Association of Pennsylvania*

Leadership Changes for the Office of Water

After four and a half years at EPA, Nancy Stoner has left her position as acting Assistant Administrator for Water effective August 8. She has taken a position as Director of the Water Program for the Pisces Foundation. As she departs EPA, she reflects on how Water Unites Us: <http://blog.epa.gov/epaconnect/2014/08/water-unites-us/>

After most recently serving as a Senior Advisor for the Office of Water, Ken Kopocis has become the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water. He brings more than 25 years of congressional experience, having previously held several senior positions on the staffs of both the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate.

Source: EPA Water Headlines, 8/13/2014

Webinar: Reviewing Recent Amendments to the CWSRF Program

On Aug. 21 from 2-4 p.m. EDT, EPA will host a webinar to inform state and local associations and environmental groups about the recent amendments to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). On June 10, President Obama signed into law the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014. Among its provisions are amendments to Titles I, II, V and VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The amendments add new CWSRF project eligibilities, the authority to provide additional subsidization, and a number of new requirements. Space for the webinar is limited. To register or if you have any questions, contact Garrett Steed at steed.garrett@epa.gov.

Source: EPA Water Headlines, 8/13/2014

Report Released on Extreme Climate and Weather Events

EPA collaborated with NOAA, WERF, WaterRF, CTC and Noblis on a new report about the impacts of and responses to extreme events at water utilities. This report describes what happened in six communities that experienced one or more extreme event when water services were disrupted, including drinking water supply, wastewater conveyance and treatment, and

stormwater management. The report discusses how utility managers and other local water resource managers made decisions, what information was used to inform decisions, what institutional dynamics helped or hindered, and how water utilities and their communities are planning to deal with extreme events in the future. [Read more here.](#)

Source: EPA Water Headlines, 8/13/2014

Governor Corbett Announces Updated 12-Year Transportation Program; More Projects to be Funded Because of Act 89

On August 14, 2014, Governor Tom Corbett announced that the State Transportation Commission, building on the Act 89 transportation plan, has updated Pennsylvania's 12-Year Transportation Program with a sizeable boost in much needed transportation improvements.

The new plan anticipates \$63.2 billion being available over the next 12 years for improvements to roads, bridges, transit systems, airports and railroads.

That compares with \$41.6 billion in the last update two years ago.

"Today's action represents a significant step forward to addressing all transportation modes," Gov. Corbett said. "Act 89 provides a solution to a decades old problem and the Legislature and I showed that unlike Washington, we are able to put partisan politics aside and do what's right for Pennsylvania."

Championed by Corbett, Act 89 will add \$2.3 billion a year in transportation investment by 2017.

"Thanks to Governor Corbett and the Legislature, the people of Pennsylvania will see smoother roads, fewer bridges in poor condition, reliable transit services and added resources for aviation, rail freight, bicyclists and pedestrians,"

said PennDOT Secretary and Commission Chairman Barry J. Schoch.

"The details of those improvements are outlined in the update the State Transportation Commission adopted today."

The newly adopted program, which takes effect Oct. 1, anticipates \$12.3 billion being available for highway and bridge projects in the first four years.

Public transit is in line for \$7.9 billion; aviation, \$370 million; the state's rail-freight systems are expected to receive \$228 million; and the newly created multimodal fund will receive \$284 million in the first four years.

Four Rural Planning Organizations, 19 Metropolitan Planning Organizations and one Independent County partnered with PennDOT in the review and development of the update. It will now be submitted to the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for review and approval. The Federal Highway Administration coordinates with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to review the plan's conformity with air quality requirements.

Highway funds listed in the 12-Year Program are distributed statewide using a formula that weighs population, lane miles and vehicle miles traveled. Bridge funds are distributed based on the condition of each region's structures.

The commission consists of 10 appointed citizens and the majority and minority chairpersons of the state House and Senate Transportation committees.

State law requires the commission to review and update the 12-Year Program every two years. No capital project can move forward unless it is included in the 12-Year Program.

Some of the key projects funded by Act 89 and included in the updated 12-Year Program are:

- Continuation of the four-lane US 322 from the top of Seven Mountains to west of Potters Mills in Centre County.

- Construction of the long-awaited expansion of the Conchester (U.S. 322) Highway between Route 1 and Interstate 95 in Delaware County.
- The initial steps to lay the groundwork for the Interstate 83 master plan expansion through Harrisburg.
- The initial steps leading to the widening of U.S. 22 in the Lehigh Valley.
- Start of design work for the 13-mile long Central Susquehanna Valley Thruway in Snyder, Union and Northumberland counties.

"These improvements will dramatically improve mobility for people across the state and are moving ahead because of our leadership and ability to build a consensus on matters that are critical to the state's future," Gov. Corbett said.

Information about the 12-Year Program Update is available at this link:
<http://www.talkpatransportation.com>

Source: PennDOT Press Release, 8/14/2014

Revised - PA Unemployment Rate at 5.7% in July

On August 15, 2014, the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry released its employment situation report for July 2014.

Pennsylvania's unemployment rate rose in July to 5.7 percent, up one-tenth of a percentage point from June. This was the first gain in the state unemployment rate since June 2012. The commonwealth's rate was five-tenths of a percentage point below the U.S. rate of 6.2 percent, which was also up one-tenth of a point in July. The state rate was down 1.8 percentage points from its July 2013 rate of 7.5 percent.

Pennsylvania's civilian labor force - the number of people working or looking for work - was down 32,000 in July to 6,371,000 due to a decline in resident employment (-35,000). Despite July's decline, employment has been trending upward. Pennsylvania's employment has gone up 40,000 in the past year, and is up 21,000 so far in 2014.

Unemployment, up 4,000, increased for the first time since August 2012.

Total nonfarm jobs decreased by 700 from June to 5,793,000. This decline followed gains in the previous three months which totaled 35,800. July's drop was limited to private industry, down 3,400, as public sector jobs grew for the sixth consecutive month. The largest gain in July was in construction (+3,500), while the largest drop was in leisure & hospitality (-4,400).

Over the year, total nonfarm jobs in Pennsylvania were up 54,100 (+0.9%). The growth was almost entirely within private industries, with the largest gains in construction and trade, transportation & utilities.

Note: The above data are seasonally adjusted. Seasonally adjusted data provide the most valid month-to-month comparison.

Source: Governor's Press Office, 8/15/2014

New Delaware River Basin Commission Executive Director Takes Oath of Office

Steve Tambini was sworn in Thursday as the Delaware River Basin Commission's new executive director at a brief ceremony held on the banks of the Delaware River at Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville, N.J.



"I am thankful for the opportunity and privilege to be the Executive Director of the Delaware River Basin Commission," said Mr. Tambini. "I truly look forward to working with you to uphold the basin compact and collectively manage this magnificent resource."

He was administered the oath of office by New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin, who is the first alternate for Gov. Chris Christie on the DRBC.

Also present and providing remarks were Department of Environmental Protection Secretary E. Christopher Abruzzo, the first alternate for Gov. Tom Corbett on the commission, and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Bliss, the first alternate for Brigadier General Kent D. Savre, the DRBC's federal member. Mr. Tambini also received welcoming remarks from the signatory states of Delaware and New York.

"I commit to working with Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and the federal government to carry out my oath of office, while meeting our common goals and your unique needs," Executive Director Tambini said. "Together, we will plan for a sustainable future to meet the region's water demands while balancing the need for greater water efficiency. We will use the expertise of the commission's signatory members, DRBC staff, and our many partners to protect, maintain, or improve the basin's water quality."

The ceremony was attended by Mr. Tambini's family along with invited guests from various state and city government partners as well as current and former DRBC staff.

Steve Tambini is only the fourth executive director in the DRBC's 53-year history. He succeeds Carol R. Collier (appointed in 1998) who retired in March 2014, Gerald M. Hansler (appointed in 1977), and James F. Wright (appointed in 1962).

Tambini, 55, is a native of New York and a long-time resident of Burlington County, N.J. He brings over 30 years of experience in water supply engineering and water resource planning, management and operations to the DRBC.

His previous work on both the Pennsylvania and New Jersey sides of the Delaware River has allowed him to develop and build relationships with regulators and stakeholders throughout the basin. He holds a B.S. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and a M.S. degree in Environmental Engineering, both from Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y. He is a registered professional engineer in New Jersey and New York.

Source: PA Environmental Digest, 8/18/2014

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