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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

From Milliron & Goodman Government Relations, LLC.

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*PA- Section, American Water Works Association
National Association of Water Companies
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Allison Acevedo Named DEP Director of Environmental Justice

On July 9, 2018, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Patrick McDonnell appointed Allison Acevedo as Director of Environmental Justice. Acevedo, of Philadelphia, was a strategic planning consultant, and an attorney with the U.S. Department of Labor prior to coming to DEP.

"Allison's experience working with community leaders and residents throughout the state, her passion as an entrepreneur, and her guidance as a policy advisor make her uniquely qualified to take DEP's environmental justice program to the next level," said McDonnell.

DEP's environmental justice program seeks to ensure that all Pennsylvanians are equipped with the proper resources and opportunities to meaningfully participate in decision-making processes.

"It is an honor to work on behalf of Pennsylvania's residents and Environmental Justice communities to advance environmental justice in our state," said Acevedo. "I look forward to collaborating with community organizations and

other partners to promote justice and equity in application of environmental policies, regulations and procedures in Pennsylvania."

"We are excited to work with Allison to make sure the voices of Pennsylvania's environmental justice communities continue to be heard and understood throughout DEP, from the Secretary to the program staff," said Adam Cutler, chairman of DEP's Environmental Justice Advisory Board. The 14-member board represent the interests of citizens across the state in its advisory function to the DEP secretary.

"The Board looks forward to supporting Allison as the Office of Environmental Justice pursues its objectives of minimizing adverse environmental impacts in vulnerable communities, ensuring opportunities for public participation and dialogue, and fostering environmentally responsible economic development that benefits both residents and the regulated sector," Cutler said.

Acevedo operated a consultancy providing guidance on education, program development, policy and strategic planning for non-profit organizations. One of her clients included Overbrook Environmental Education Center, and she provided guidance to the Overbrook Youth Environmental Stewardship (O'YES) Program,

focusing on youth environmental justice, community engagement and stewardship.

Prior to that, she served as Director of Education of United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey; as a staff advisor to Pennsylvania Representative W. Curtis Thomas and Pennsylvania Senator Allyson Y. Schwartz; and as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Labor.

She co-founded the Philadelphia Black Giving Circle, and is a member of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Early Childhood Coalition. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Swarthmore College, and a Juris Doctor and Master of Laws in Taxation from Temple University Beasley School of Law.

DEP established an environmental justice program in 2002 to ensure communications with communities that did not always have a voice in environmental issues. EJ communities are those where 20 percent or more of the residents live in poverty, and/or 30 percent or more of the population is minority, based on U.S. Census Bureau data and the federal guidelines for poverty.

For more information about DEP's environmental justice program, click [here](#).

Source: DEP Press Release, 7/9/2018

Governor Wolf Signs Executive Order to Improve Job, Skills Training as Part of PAsmart Initiative

Microsoft, Labor and Business Leaders, Wolf Cabinet Celebrate Innovative \$30 million Investment in a 21st Century Workforce

Governor Tom Wolf was joined by labor and business leaders, including Microsoft, and several cabinet secretaries today to launch the next phase of PAsmart, a first-of-its-kind \$30 million investment in workforce development. During the press conference in York, the governor signed an executive order to cut red tape and improve coordination between several state

agencies to more effectively deliver workforce development services to Pennsylvanians.

"PAsmart is bringing together labor, industry, the tech sector, education, state government and more to connect people of all ages with STEM and computer science education, apprenticeships and other training needed to get good, middle class jobs," said Governor Wolf. "By listening to workers and businesses, we will focus job training on in-demand jobs, create a talented workforce, and grow the economy for everyone."

PAsmart is built on recommendations of the governor's Middle Class Task Force, which last year brought together the leaders from the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO, Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, education, and workforce development. The task force held listening sessions throughout the commonwealth and heard a clear message: There are jobs without trained people to fill them and some workers need new skills, but a four-year college is not for everyone and a one-size fits-all approach will not work.

"PAsmart is the result of stakeholders collaborating to equip current and future working Pennsylvanians with the skills they need in the 21st Century workforce," said Pennsylvania AFL-CIO President Rick Bloomingdale. "This proactive response to Pennsylvania's needs encourages comprehensive investment in our workforce through results-oriented approaches like high-quality apprenticeships and training programs that develop a worker's skills while they earn a living wage. Governor Wolf's PAsmart initiative and his bold efforts in workforce development breaks down bureaucratic barriers to promote innovation." "One of the consistent themes that came before the Middle Class Task Force was the need to strengthen workforce development programs in the Commonwealth," said PA Chamber President and CEO Gene Barr. "Pennsylvania's diverse employment needs across a wide range of industries provide ample job opportunities. However, the existing jobs skills gap within our workforce makes it difficult for employers to find qualified job candidates. Working together, business; labor; the education community and state government can strengthen workforce development programs and

meet the needs of Pennsylvania's changing workforce."

PAsmart invests \$20 million in computer science and STEM learning

The demand for jobs in science, engineering, math and technology (STEM) and computer science is rapidly growing. An estimated 700,000 STEM jobs will be available in Pennsylvania this year, and over the next decade, seven in 10 new jobs will require workers to use computers and new technologies in a constantly changing economy.

PAsmart will:

- Increase STEM and computer science training for K-12 students;
- Increase the number of STEM and computer science educators;

"Investments in computer science education sustain American innovation," said Allyson Knox, Senior Director of Education Policy with Microsoft. "PAsmart will help train teachers and expand access to computer science education for all Pennsylvania students, ensuring they have access to the skills needed for the modern workplace. We applaud the leadership of Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania legislature."

Earlier this year the State Board of Education, acting on the governor's request to make computer science education available to all students, endorsed the Computer Science Teacher Association (CSTA) K-12 Standards. In STEM training, Pennsylvania is a national leader, ranking fifth for the number of STEM graduates and is home to five STEM learning ecosystems.

PAsmart invests \$10 million in apprenticeships, job training

To develop a stronger workforce pipeline, by 2025, the governor has set a goal of increasing the number of workers with training after high school from 47 percent today to 60 percent, as well as doubling the number of registered apprentices.

PAsmart will:

- Invest \$7 million to expand apprenticeships in traditional and non-traditional occupations, including youth pre-apprenticeship and registered apprenticeships at high schools and career and technical centers, and encourage businesses, community colleges and other higher education providers to expand registered apprenticeships and work-based learning experiences for adults.
- Provide \$3 million increase to build on the Department of Labor and Industry's successful Industry Partnerships program, which connects similar businesses with educational and economic development partners to provide the job training.

Executive Order Enhances Workforce Development

The governor signed the [executive order](#) at the York Campus of HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College. The executive order places the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board (PA WDB), the governor's private sector policy advisor, in a leading role to coordinate job training strategies across the public and private sectors and multiple state agencies.

The PA WDB ensures the workforce development system is meeting employers' needs for skilled workers and workers' needs for career and economic advancement. The majority of board members are business leaders. Other members include labor officials, education leaders, economic development practitioners, local elected officials and the secretaries of the departments of Aging, Agriculture, Community and Economic Development, Corrections, Education, Human Services and Labor and Industry, and Policy and Planning.

Under the executive order the PA WDB will:

- Report to the Governor Office.
- Improve coordination among state agencies to provide the most effective services.
- Add the departments of Aging and Corrections, to increase access to apprenticeships and job

training for older workers and to help reentrants get the skills for meaningful employment.

- Develop stronger reporting requirements and use data to create policies, initiatives, strategies, and programs.

"I applaud Governor Wolf for his leadership in developing the innovative PAsmart initiative," said Jeff Brown, Chairman of the PA WDB and owner of Brown's Super Stores, Inc in the Delaware Valley. "We believe this effort will result in high-quality jobs for Pennsylvania's workers, while also supporting businesses' growing need for skilled workers. The Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board is excited about its role in implementing this initiative in a coordinated, strategic way."

Additionally, the PA WDB will provide recommendations on the distribution of the \$30 million in PAsmart funding, which will be driven out through a competitive grants process. Organizations that will be eligible to apply include: local education agencies; intermediate units; postsecondary institutions; local workforce development boards; public libraries; employers; labor organizations; chambers of commerce; after-school providers; education, training and workforce providers; nonprofits; community organizations, and others.

NOTE: Video, audio, and photos from this event will be available for download later today in an email from the Pennsylvania Internet News Service (PINS). To register for PINS emails contact, cms@pacast.com.

Source: Governor Wolf's Press Office, 7/11/2018

DEP and Local Stakeholders Discuss County-Level Planning to Improve Stream and River Health in Pennsylvania Communities

in Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Patrick McDonnell and local stakeholders discussed in a live webinar on Tuesday the development of county-level action plans as part of Phase 3 of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).

"State and local partners are bringing new levels of collaboration and expertise to the planning process, with the goal of improving water quality to benefit local communities," said Secretary McDonnell. "After a year of work by almost 100 volunteers on the steering committee and work groups, planning has broadened to the county geographic level, with data-grounded tools to make planning as feasible and productive as possible for each county in the watershed."

Nicki Kasi, Director of the DEP Chesapeake Bay Program, and Marcus Kohl, Director of the DEP Northcentral Regional Office, said the planning framework enables counties to leverage existing water quality projects and plan new ones to serve their local community goals. A support team, planning guidelines, and other resources are also being provided to county stakeholders.

Lisa Schaefer, Director of Government Relations at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania and member of the Phase 3 WIP Steering Committee, discussed the Community Clean Water Toolbox. This package of customized data and information specifies counties' pollutant loads - nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment - for impaired streams and recommends best management practices that could be implemented to lower them.

Dan Zimmerman, Manager of Warwick Township, Lancaster County, shared details on two successful municipal stormwater management projects.

Lancaster, York, Franklin, and Adams counties are pilot-testing the toolbox this summer and fall,

before it's offered to more counties in the watershed.

All or part of 43 Pennsylvania counties are in the bay watershed. A federal mandate from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requires Pennsylvania to reduce sediment and nutrient loads in the watershed to meet specific goals by 2025.

View and listen to the [webinar recording](#), and learn more about the multipartner development of [Pennsylvania's Phase Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan](#).

Source: DEP Press Release, 7/13/2018

SRBC: Public Hearing

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission scheduled a public hearing for August 2, 2018, from 2:30 until 5 p.m. or at the end of public testimony, whichever is sooner, at the Pennsylvania State Capitol, Room 8E-B, East Wing.

The commission will hear testimony on listed projects. A full list of projects can be viewed in [The Pennsylvania Bulletin](#). SRBC indicated these projects are intended to be scheduled for commission action at its next business meeting, tentatively scheduled for September 7, 2018, and this hearing will be the only opportunity to offer oral comment for the listed projects.

The deadline for the submission of written comments is August 13, 2018. For further information contact Gwyn Rowland, Manager, Governmental and Public Affairs, (717) 238-0423, Ext. 1316, fax (717) 2382436. Information concerning the applications for these projects is available at the commission's [water application and approval viewer](#).

Additional supporting documents are available to inspect and copy in accordance with the commission's access to records [policy](#).

Source: Pennsylvania Bulletin, [7/14/2018](#)

DEP: Availability of Technical Guidance

The Department of Environmental Protection made technical guidance documents available on its [website](#). DEP indicated individuals can order a paper copy of any of the draft or final technical guidance documents by contacting the department at (717) 783-8727.

DEP stated the following technical guidance document has been recently changed:

[Environmental Justice Public Participation - DEP ID: 012-0501002](#)

The Environmental Justice Public Participation provides minority and low-income residents the ability to participate in the individual permit application process in environmental justice areas and the revisions to this policy clarify how individuals living in environmental justice areas may have additional opportunities to engage with the department and permit applicants to increase participation throughout decision making processes. DEP updated its definition of environmental justice area to be: "Any census block group with a 30 percent or greater minority population or 20 percent or greater at or below the poverty level as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau."

Interested persons may submit written comments on this draft policy through Tuesday, August 28, 2018. Commentators are encouraged to submit comments using the department's online [eComment tool](#) or by e-mail to ecomment@pa.gov.

Written comments may be mailed to the Technical Guidance Coordinator, Department of Environmental Protection, Policy Office, Rachel Carson State Office Building, PO Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2063.

Questions regarding this technical guidance document should be directed to John Brakeall at jbrakeall@pa.gov or (717) 783-9731.

Source: Pennsylvania Bulletin, [7/14/2018](#)

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