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# WUC

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



## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS UPDATE

From Milliron & Goodman Government Relations, LLC.

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

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### Speaker Applauds Lawmaker's Promotion to Major While Serving in Kuwait

Speaker Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny) congratulated Rep. Matt Gabler (R-Clearfield/Elk) on his promotion to major in the Pennsylvania National Guard while on deployment in Kuwait.

“All of us in the House are proud of Rep. Gabler’s service to our country and the leadership he is demonstrating while on deployment in Kuwait,” Turzai said. “We congratulate him on his promotion from captain to major.

“We are thankful for the sacrifices Matt is making, along with his wife, Lisa, and daughter, Caroline, and are looking forward to his safe return.”

Gabler was deployed to the Middle East in early 2018, as part of his service in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Gabler serves as a medical logistics officer in the 28th Infantry Division Headquarters, the oldest division in the United States Army.

Gabler has served as an officer in the 28th Infantry Division since 2012. He was commissioned as an Army Reserve officer in 2006. Two years later, he assumed command of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the 424th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, in Newtown Square. Gabler held that position until he transferred to his current position in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

**Source:** Representative Mike Turzai Press Release, 9/6/2018

### Health Department Presents Inaugural Allegheny County Lead Report

On September 12, 2018, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) presented its inaugural [lead report](#) at the Board of Health meeting.

Lead is a neurotoxin commonly found in our daily lives, and lead exposure can come from multiple sources: pre-1978 lead paint and dust, water from lead pipes, soil, ceramic plates, bowls, and glasses, and imported candy, toys, cosmetics, and jewelry. Lead can cause serious health

problems, especially for pregnant women and young children.

Findings of the lead report include:

- Blood lead levels among the county's children are, on average, going down.
- The percentage of all children with an elevated blood lead level of 5 µg/dl (micrograms per deciliter) is going down, although it has not changed significantly over the last year.
- The number of children under 6 years of age that are being tested is going up significantly, thanks to the countywide requirement enacted last year, and implemented in January; projection of more than 23,000 children tested in 2018, which is more than double the number of children tested in 2010.
- More children are getting their capillary tests confirmed with a venous test.
- There are still communities with significantly higher numbers and percentages of children with confirmed blood lead levels of 5 µg/dl or above.

"I was honored to be asked by County Executive Rich Fitzgerald to serve as Chair of the county's Lead Task Force in 2017. One of our recommendations was to provide regular reporting on the issue to the public, and we are proud to present this first ever annual lead report that fulfills this recommendation," said Health Department Director Dr. Karen Hacker. "The findings in this report demonstrate progress, but there is still work to be done, as far too many children are still at risk for lead exposure."

The Health Department's lead exposure strategy includes surveillance, prevention, education through its "Get Ahead of Lead" campaign, and intervention.

For any child under the age of 6 with a confirmed lead level of 5 µg/dl or above, the Health Department offers a free lead home investigation. Blood lead level testing is also offered at two

[Health Department locations](#), and is free to those that are uninsured and underinsured.

In addition, Allegheny County Economic Development provides supplementary resources to make your home lead safe through its [Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program](#).

For more information about lead exposure in our county, visit: <http://bit.ly/2M3ZoW7>.

**Source:** Allegheny County Health Department, 9/12/2018

## **Pa. House and Senate Members Discover the Delaware aboard the Schooner AJ Meerwald**

*Press Conference held prior at Bristol Borough Wharf along the Delaware River*

**O**n Friday, Sept. 7, members of the Pennsylvania Joint Legislative Conservation Committee (JLCC), Pa. House and Senate Appropriations Committees, staffers, and local leadership took part in an educational sail aboard the historic schooner AJ Meerwald to learn more about the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) and its programs. Preceding the sail, the legislators held a press conference at the Bristol Borough Wharf along the Delaware River recognizing the importance of the river to the Commonwealth and to the region.

The JLCC is a bipartisan committee made up of members of the Pa. House and Senate whose mission is to assist the Pa. General Assembly in ensuring the sustainable use and care of Pa.'s land, water, and air. Local members of the JLCC who participated on Friday include Rep. Marguerite Quinn (R, PA-143), Rep. Perry Warren (D, PA-31), and Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D, PA-148). Several of the JLCC members, including committee chair Senator Scott E. Hutchinson (R, PA-21) and Senator Scott Martin (R, PA-13), represent districts outside of the basin, but attended this event to learn

more about the commission and show their support for the Delaware River.

"On behalf of the JLCC, thank you for this opportunity to discover the Delaware. The river connects past and present and also state to state. We appreciate the work of the DRBC and other stakeholders to address important issues that affect the basin and look for sustainable solutions," said Hutchinson.

The event came to fruition based on a recommendation from JLCC member Representative Donna Bullock (D, PA-195) for DRBC to engage the committee on major DRBC water management programs. Instead of holding the meeting in a traditional conference space, the commission decided on a more experiential approach and reached out to the Bayshore Center at Bivalve to see if they would be willing to host the event aboard the schooner AJ Meerwald. What better way to learn about the Delaware River and DRBC than on an historic sailing vessel, and once on board, participants got right to work helping hoist the sails and then split into three groups for short educational sessions with DRBC staff.

**DRBC Manager for Water Quality Assessment John Yagecic, P.E.**, talked about the commission's programs that assess and protect water quality throughout the basin, for example, DRBC's efforts to reduce PCBs and other toxic pollutants in the Delaware Estuary (the tidal Delaware River and Bay); its Special Protection Waters program that protects the existing high quality waters of the non-tidal Delaware River; and a new, multi-year effort to examine whether criteria for dissolved oxygen can be improved to further support all life stages of resident and migratory fish in the Delaware Estuary and Bay. You can't manage what you don't measure, and monitoring is an important part of the commission's programs to manage and improve water quality for all those that depend on this resource for drinking, agricultural, and industrial use, as well as for aquatic life.

"We all need clean water. The Delaware River is important to protect and safeguard for the millions of people that depend on it for their drinking water," said Bullock.

The lesson by **DRBC Manager for Water Resource Operations Amy Shallcross, P.E.**, focused on flow management in the Delaware River Basin. Even though the Delaware River is undammed, its flow is still highly managed through reservoir releases and flow regimes. This is especially important in times of drought or dry periods to ensure that there is enough fresh water flowing downstream to repel the salty water from the ocean that could impact drinking water and industrial intakes along the tidal portion of the river. During past droughts in the basin, DRBC's drought management programs have proven successful in ensuring drinking water sources were protected and other water uses, for example, industry and power generation, were not curtailed.

**DRBC Manager for Water Resource Planning Chad Pindar, P.E.**, focused his talk on various water uses in the basin and how DRBC manages water supply. Thermoelectric power generation, public water supply, out of basin diversions, and industry are the largest water users in the basin, and DRBC regulatory policies are in place to help balance these needs to ensure there is enough water for all uses, as well as for in-stream flow needs. The commission is also looking at projected demands to ensure a dependable water supply for the basin in the future.

At the end of the sail, participants disembarked the AJ Meerwald with a new appreciation for the complexities of river management and the work of the commission. "We must come together across party lines to support the work of DRBC and unite to protect and preserve our environment," said Sen. Andrew E. Dinniman (D, PA-19).

"Today the Delaware River is cleaner than it's been in decades, thanks to water quality improvement programs spearheaded by the DRBC, and people are returning to their local waterfronts to reconnect with the river," said **DRBC Executive Director Steve Tambini**. "Thank you to all who took part in today's educational sail; we hope you have a greater understanding of the Delaware's importance to the region and of the efforts that go into managing and protecting this resource, which provides drinking water for about 15 million people, including nearly 5.5 million Pennsylvanians."

Special thanks also go to event sponsor Pennoni, the Bayshore Center at Bivalve, the AJ Meerwald crew, the Bristol Borough Council, and Rob Strasser of the King George II Inn.

The DRBC is a federal/interstate government agency responsible for managing the water resources within the Delaware River Basin without regard to political boundaries. The five commission members are the governors of the basin states (Delaware, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania) and the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' North Atlantic Division, who represents the federal government.

To learn more about the commission, please visit <http://www.drbc.gov> or follow DRBC on Twitter at [@DRBC1961](https://twitter.com/DRBC1961).

**Source:** DRBC Press Release, 9/11/2018

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*This newsletter provides general information, not legal advice as to any specific matter. It should not be used as a substitute for appropriate legal advice.*