

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
March Monthly Meeting Notes
3/10/2021, by Zoom (Online and Telephone) Only

Board Members Present

Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky, Chair
Abby Pozefsky
Tony Ewing, Vice Chair
Folasade “Sade” Olanipekun-Lewis
Rasheia Johnson

Also Present

Daniel W. Cantú-Hertzler
Edward Markus
Marlane Chestnut
Susan Crosby
Robert Ballenger
Scott Schwarz
Ji Jun
Andre Dasent
Edward Markus
Steven Liang

Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

1. Ms. Pozefsky moved to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2021 monthly meeting. Mr. Ewing seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Mr. Popowsky asked the Participants about the level of public outreach done for the Public Input Hearings scheduled for March 16th at 1 and 6 p.m. and March 18th at 1 and 6 p.m. Mr. Dasent said that the Water Department had done a good deal of outreach through email blasts to customers, contacting specific various interested groups, postings on social media, and advertisements in print media. Mr. Ballenger reported that Community Legal Services, the Public Advocate, had developed graphics and flyers that had been distributed to its contacts, as well as posting to their social media pages. Ms. Johnson asked if there had been any coordination between the Department and City Council to further outreach. Mr. Dasent confirmed that the Department had reached out to City Council about the hearings and CLS had reached out to Councilmember staff. Ms. Chestnut commended the level of outreach done by the Participants.

3. Ms. Chestnut reported on the status of the General Rate Proceeding beyond the Public Input Hearings. A skeleton schedule had been created: technical hearings were planned to take place mid-to-late April, briefs would be filed by Participants by end of April, a report from the Hearing Examiner would be submitted by the end of May, and by mid-June the Rate Board could make its rate determination. A day of settlement discussions was planned at the close of discovery, shortly before the technical hearings. The TAP-R Proceeding would overlap with the General Rate Proceeding, and would finish at the same time. Advance Notice of the TAP-R Proceeding was to be filed March 15, 2021.

4. Mr. Markus spoke about the Simple Rate Model that his group had worked on and that the Board had distributed. Its purpose is to give a simplified view of the effects of changes and adjustments on revenue requirements for the Department. The Board authorized Mr. Markus to answer questions from Participants about how the model works and assist with any issues they might have when using it. Questions and issues could be sent to the Hearing Examiner and she would route the questions to Mr. Markus.

5. Mr. Popowsky noted that the next monthly meeting is scheduled for April 14th, 2021. Mr. Ballenger stated that the Participants were looking at the 14th as the day of a potential Technical Hearing, so the meeting may need to be moved. The Board made note of the issue.

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.