

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
May 14, 2025, Monthly Public Meeting Notes
In Person (Room 18031, One Parkway Building, 1515 Arch Street)
and by Zoom (Online and Telephone)

Board Members Present

Irwin “Sonny” Popowsky, Chair
Tony Ewing, Vice Chair
Mac Williams
Abby Pozefsky, Secretary
Debra McCarty

Others Present

Madison Alldred
Dan Cantú-Hertzler
Marcy Chestnut
Andre Dasent
Adriana Gonzalez
Ed Markus
Ryan McSherry
Vikram Patel
Elizabeth Scattergood
Neal Sellers
Keitshawna Williams
Deland L. Bryant (Zoom Administrator)

Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

1. Mr. Popowsky asked for any corrections or additions to the draft minutes from the Board’s meeting of April 9, 2025. None were requested. Ms. Pozefsky moved to approve the minutes as drafted, and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 3-0. Mr. Ewing arrived later and also indicated his assent.
2. Mr. Popowsky asked for an update on the pending rate proceedings. Ms. Chestnut informed the Board that both the General Rate Proceeding and the TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding were proceeding according to the schedules from their respective Prehearing Conference Orders.
3. With respect to the General Rate Proceeding, four public input hearings had been held, with both in-person and virtual options for participation. The transcripts of these had been received and posted. The Participants are in the process of filing their Rebuttal testimony; rebuttal Statements have been submitted by the Department, the Public Advocate, and PLUG, with others due May 15, 2025. Technical hearings were scheduled for May 20-23, 2025. May 20 would be used to address procedural issues such as the conduct of the hearings, the filing of briefs, etc. Witnesses would be presented for cross-examination on May 21-23. Thereafter, briefs or any settlement petitions are due May 30; objections to any settlement petitions are due June 6; and reply briefs are due June 11. Ms. Chestnut indicated she intended to issue her Hearing Officer Report by July 1 for the Board’s consideration at its meetings on July 16 and 23, 2025. There were no outstanding procedural items other than some objections made by the Public Advocate to information requests propounded by the Department.

4. With respect to the TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding, public input and technical hearings had been completed. Briefs and any settlement petitions are due May 19; and reply briefs or exceptions are due May 23. Ms. Chestnut indicated she intended to have her Hearing Report issued by June 18 for the Board's consideration in July.
5. Mr. Popowsky asked if any of the other Board members had any questions for the Hearing Officer. There were none. Mr. Popowsky asked if the Public Advocate or the Department had anything to add. Mr. Dasent indicated the Department would circulate cross-examination matrices shortly and provide everyone with information regarding the availability of witnesses. This would likely occur immediately after the Department filed its Rebuttal.
6. Mr. Popowsky stated that he had questions for both the Public Advocate and the Department—which he indicated could be treated as data requests—and which arose during his review of the rate filing. He asked the Department whether it had a timeline for the completion of the modifications to the Basis2 billing system. He noted that there were numerous references to these possible modifications in the Department's testimony, but no timeline for their completion. He asked the Department to provide such a timeline, and Mr. Dasent represented that the Department would provide a reasonable projection shortly. With respect to the Public Advocate's testimony, Mr. Popowsky noted that there were a number of revenue requirement adjustments proposed by the Public Advocate's witnesses, Lafayette Morgan and Roger Colton, but many of them were not quantified in their testimony. He asked the Public Advocate to provide a chart or table demonstrating the revenue requirement effect of each of the adjustments in each of the fiscal years. Mr. Patel indicated the Public Advocate would provide this.
7. Mr. Popowsky asked if any of the other Board members had any questions or issues to raise about the proceedings or other matters. There were none.
8. Mr. Popowsky stated that the next Board meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2025. Following that, the July 16 Board meeting would be used for voting on issues raised before the Hearing Officer and addressed in her Reports. The Board would then intend to vote on the final Rate Determinations in the General Rate Proceeding and TAP-R Proceeding on July 23, 2025. Tuesday, July 29, the Board's deadline under the Philadelphia Code, was preserved as a final date if necessary.
9. Mr. Popowsky asked if there were any other matters to be brought before the Board. There were no comments from the Board members, participants, or other members of the public.
10. Mr. Ewing moved to adjourn and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion, which carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.