

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
July 23, 2025, 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
Abby Pozefsky, Secretary
McCullough “Mac” Williams III
Debra McCarty

Others Present

Daniel Cantú-Hertzler, Board Counsel
Marlane “Marcy” Chestnut, Hearing Officer
Robert Ballenger
Andre Dasent
Ryan McSherry
Keitshawna Williams
Alexandra Athanasiadis
Carl Schultz
Vikram Patel
Edward Markus
Adriana Gonzalez
Khadijah George (Zoom Administrator)

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

1. Mr. Popowsky stated that the two major orders of business before the Board were consideration and vote on final Rate Determinations in the 2025 General Rate Proceeding and 2025 TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding. He indicated that he had previously distributed drafts of those determinations to the Board. They were intended to reflect and explain the votes the Board took at the public Board meeting on July 16 and to constitute the “written report[s] incorporating the information used by the Board in reaching a decision to approve, modify, or reject the proposed rates and charges,” which the Board must file under the Philadelphia Code. He indicated that the Rate Determinations the Board was voting on were the documents that will determine the Water Department’s rates and charges going forward, after the Board files them with the Department of Records, and the Water Department has then filed conforming Rates and Charges at least ten days before the rates are to go into effect.
2. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to approve the draft final determination in the 2025 General Rate Proceeding consistent with the votes taken at the public Board meeting on July 16. Ms. Pozefsky moved to approve, and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion. Mr. Popowsky asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Mr. Popowsky expressed his gratitude to the Hearing Officer for all the work she had done in all the Board’s decisions and all the proceedings. The vote carried 4-0.
3. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to approve the final determination in the 2025 TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding consistent with the votes taken at the public Board meeting on July 16. Mr. Williams moved to approve, and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion. Mr. Popowsky asked if there was any discussion. There was none. Mr. Popowsky called for a vote which carried 4-0.

4. Mr. Popowsky asked the Board's Counsel and Office Manager to forward these documents to the City Department of Records and indicated they would be final as soon as they were filed. He asked the Board's Counsel and Office Manager to then have the date stamped copies posted on the Board's website and asked the Hearing Officer to provide date stamped copies to all Participants in each of the proceedings.
5. Mr. Popowsky next addressed the scheduling of upcoming Board meetings and—with the Board's approval—proposed that the Board cancel the previously scheduled August 13 meeting. He proposed that the Board proceed with its previously scheduled September 10 and October 8 meetings. He further proposed that the Board schedule additional meetings to be held on November 12 and December 10 at 3:00 p.m. He asked whether there were any objections to these proposals. There were none. He then asked Board Counsel and the Office Manager to post and advertise these meetings.
6. Mr. Popowsky asked whether there were any members of the public who wished to make any comments. There were none.
7. Mr. Popowsky proceeded to note that this was the final Board meeting where the Board would be served by Mr. Cantú-Hertzler as Board Counsel due to his pending retirement. Mr. Popowsky expressed his gratitude for Mr. Cantu-Hertzler's service to the Board. Ms. Pozefsky, Ms. McCarty, Mr. Williams, Mr. Dasent, Mr. Ballenger, and Ms. Chestnut also expressed their gratitude for Mr. Cantú-Hertzler's service. Mr. Cantú-Hertzler expressed his gratitude for being able to serve the Board and for being able to work with Mr. Markus, Mr. Ballenger, and Ms. Chestnut.
8. Mr. Popowsky asked whether there were any other matters to be brought before the Board. There were none.
9. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. McCarty moved to adjourn, and Mr. Williams seconded the motion, which carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.