Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
September 10, 2025, Meeting Notes
In Person (Room 18031, One Parkway Building, 1515 Arch Street)
and by Zoom (Online and Telephone)

Board Members Present	Others Present
Irwin "Sonny" Popowsky, Chair	Ryan E. McSherry, Board Counsel
Abby Pozefsky, Secretary	Marlane "Marcy" Chestnut
Debra McCarty	Neal Sellers
	Shoshana Bricklin
	Robert Ballenger
	Brooke Darlington
	Andre Dasent
	Alexandra Athanasiadis
	Susan Murray
	Felicia Gardner
	Khadijah George (Zoom Administrator)

Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

1. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board's meeting of July 16, 2025 as drafted. Ms. Pozefsky moved to approve the minutes as drafted, and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 3-0.

2. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board's meeting of July 23, 2025 as drafted. Ms. Pozefsky moved to approve the minutes as drafted, and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 3-0.

3. Mr. Popowsky asked for an update from Mr. Dasent on the schedule of upcoming proceedings for 2026, anticipating that the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) would be filing a TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding. Mr. Dasent indicated that PWD anticipated filing Advance Notice in early 2026. He noted that PWD was attempting to target an earlier date than in 2025 to allow the Board more scheduling flexibility. He further stated that coordination with Mr. Ballenger could affect the filing date, as Mr. Ballenger had noted the need for additional data at the time of the filing.

4. Mr. Popowsky expressed that it would be preferable for the Advance Notice to be filed by the end of January 2026 and the Formal Notice by the end of February 2026, with the Board's Rate Determination rendered by the end of June 2026. Mr. Dasent indicated he would coordinate with Mr. Ballenger so that additional data could be incorporated during the proceeding.

5. Mr. Popowsky noted that the Board's 2025 Rate Determination included commitments by PWD to hold meetings with the Public Advocate and other participants concerning rate design and structure, stormwater credits, and AMI cost-of-service analysis. He stated his assumption that any outcomes from these meetings would be part of a future General Rate Proceeding, not the 2026 TAP-R Proceeding.

6. Mr. Dasent indicated that PWD planned to perform a rate structure revaluation and would present a timeline in January 2026. He explained that PWD's review of rate structures would be broader than stormwater alone and could include consideration of class-based rates and other reforms. He noted that the process would depend on PWD's implementation of a new billing system. He also indicated he would have meetings concerning PENNVEST grants and loans which Mr. Ballenger had suggested as a means to obtain lower cost capital to support some of PWD's capital needs.

7. Ms. McCarty asked for an update on the status of the new billing system. Mr. Dasent responded that PWD had not yet identified a vendor but anticipated doing so by the end of 2025.

8. Mr. Popowsky invited comment from Mr. Ballenger. Mr. Ballenger stated that the Public Advocate was prepared to begin discussions as soon as PWD was ready and emphasized the importance of progress on rate design despite billing system challenges. He indicated the Public Advocate understands the billing system challenges but they are hopeful they can make some progress on rate design and rate allocation in the near term as it has been a very long time. He agreed with Mr. Dasent's representation that the Public Advocate wants to see more data in the TAP Rate filing and thinks it is important when setting rates and charges. He recognized that there is tension between completing a rate proceeding in a timely manner and having the best information on which to set rates and charges but they would work with PWD to strike this balance. Mr. Popowsky indicated that he thinks it would be a benefit to everyone to have the rate proceeding completed in a timely manner and noted that he assumed that PLUG would like to be involved in those rate design discussions as well. Mr. Dasent agreed.

9. Mr. Popowsky asked if there was other Board business. Ms. Pozefsky asked about Board contract renewals. Mr. Popowsky said that he and Mr. McSherry have been working on drafts for new contracts or renewals of existing contracts where appropriate. Mr. Popowsky stated he will be requesting volunteers from the Board to help review any proposals the Board receives and review any new contracts or renewals. Mr. Popowsky asked if there was any other board business. There was none.

10. Mr. Popowsky asked for public comment either in-person or via Zoom. Ms. Felicia Gardner asked whether the meeting would address letters she had received concerning water pipes. Mr. Popowsky responded that the Board only addresses rate matters and asked Mr. Dasent to ensure the appropriate staff at PWD were aware of Ms. Gardner's concerns. Mr. Dasent provided Ms. Gardner with his contact information.

11. Mr. Popowsky noted that the Board's next scheduled meeting was October 8, 2025, but that it might not be necessary to meet on that date. He expressed that the Board would keep the October meeting scheduled for the time being.

12. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pozefsky moved to adjourn, and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion, which carried 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:23p.m.