

Philadelphia Water, Sewer and Storm Water Rate Board
March 11, 2026, 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
Abby Pozefsky, Secretary
Debra McCarty

Others Present

Ryan E. McSherry, Board Counsel
Khadijah George, Zoom Administrator
Kathryn Sophy, Hearing Officer
Abby Pozefsky, Secretary
Andre Dasent
Robert Ballenger
Neal Sellers
Carl Shultz
Michael

Mr. Popowsky called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

1. Mr. Popowsky first asked Ms. Sophy to introduce herself. Ms. Sophy thanked the Board for extending the contract [to serve as Hearing Officer](#) and indicated that she was excited to work with everyone. Ms. Sophy described her nearly 33 years of experience with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and her prior role drafting Commission orders. Board members and participants welcomed Ms. Sophy and expressed that they looked forward to working with her.
2. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Board's meeting of February 11, 2026, as drafted. Ms. Pozefsky moved to approve the minutes as drafted, and Mr. Ewing seconded the motion. The minutes were approved 3-0. Ms. McCarty abstained because she was absent from that meeting.
3. Mr. Popowsky asked Mr. Dasent for an update on the 2026 TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding. Mr. Dasent stated that the Philadelphia Water Department ("PWD") would file Formal Notice on March 19, 2026. Mr. Popowsky noted that the filing date would start the Board's clock under its regulations. He explained that individuals wishing to become participants in the proceeding would have seven days following the filing of Formal Notice to notify the Board of their desire to participate. Mr. Popowsky stated that any

person with an interest in the matter could seek to participate. He further explained that after the seven-day period, the Board and the Hearing Officer would retain discretion regarding whether to permit additional participants. However, he encouraged interested persons to submit their requests before the March 26 deadline. Mr. Popowsky discussed how the Prehearing Order was handled in the 2024 TAP-R Proceeding and suggested that the Prehearing Conference could be conducted virtually, while leaving it to the Hearing Officer and the participants to determine how to proceed with the hearings. Mr. Popowsky also noted that, in the past, only one day had been needed for a combined public hearing and technical hearing. He indicated that the Board could consider holding a hybrid public hearing in the morning followed by a virtual technical hearing. Mr. Popowsky observed that the 2024 TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding took less than three months from start to finish, but that additional time might be needed because this would be Ms. Sophy's first TAP-R Reconciliation Proceeding and she may require more time to prepare the Hearing Officer Report, while the Board would also need sufficient time to prepare its determination. Mr. Popowsky stated that he would leave those details to the participants and the Hearing Officer. He asked whether the Board had any comments regarding the proceeding. There were none. Mr. Popowsky then asked whether PWD or the Public Advocate had any comments. Mr. Dasent stated that, in the past, he and the Public Advocate had worked together to propose a schedule and could send a proposed schedule to Ms. Sophy for her approval. Ms. Sophy indicated that she was open to that approach, although she noted that some had expressed concerns about Philadelphia's June activities in connection with the Fourth of July. Mr. Popowsky agreed, but noted that if the proceeding lasted until June 30, the Board would still remain within the 120 days permitted for the proceeding, even if some additional time proved necessary. Mr. Dasent stated that, based on the anticipated schedule, the matter could be completed within that timeframe. Mr. Popowsky responded that this was encouraging but emphasized that the schedule would ultimately be up to Ms. Sophy. Mr. Popowsky advised Ms. Sophy that she and Ms. George would work closely together to schedule the prehearing conference and notify all participants. Mr. Popowsky also noted to Mr. McSherry that a court reporter would be needed for the prehearing conference.

4. Mr. Popowsky asked whether the Board had any additional matters to raise. There were none. Mr. Popowsky reminded the Board and the Hearing Officer about [a scheduled](#) meeting [just](#) before the Board's April 8 meeting for a

presentation by the Office of the Chief Integrity Officer regarding financial disclosure requirements. Ms. Sophy indicated that she had received the email regarding that meeting.

5. Mr. Popowsky then asked whether there were any further matters to come before the Board. There were none. Mr. Popowsky asked Mr. McSherry and Ms. George whether there was anything else that needed to be addressed. There was none.
6. Mr. Popowsky asked whether anyone attending by Zoom, including representatives of PWD and the Public Advocate, had any comments. Mr. Ballenger and Mr. Dasent both indicated that they had nothing further to report. Mr. Popowsky then asked whether there was any public comment. There was none. Ms. Sophy stated that she was looking forward to working with everyone.
7. Mr. Popowsky asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ewing moved to adjourn, and Ms. McCarty seconded the motion, which carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.