

Malady & Wooten, LLP

Legislative Report
February 14, 2014

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Pennsylvania Golf Course Owners Association

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Session Schedule:

2013 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

March 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 31

April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 28, 29, 30

May 5, 6, 7

June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

2013 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

March 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 31

April 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 28, 29, 30

May 5, 6, 7

June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION Notices

[Commission meeting](#)

[Projects approved for consumptive uses of water](#)

[Projects rescinded for consumptive uses of water](#)

2014-2015 BUDGET HEARINGS

Senate Appropriations

TUESDAY - 2/18/14

**3:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office
Building**

Budget Hearing - Department of Environmental
Protection

House Appropriations

WEDNESDAY - 2/19/14

1:00 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Budget Hearing - Department of Environmental
Protection

House Appropriations

WEDNESDAY - 2/19/14

2:30 p.m., Room 140 Main Capitol

Budget Hearing - Department of Community &
Economic Development

Senate Appropriations

MONDAY - 2/24/14

**1:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office
Building**

Budget Hearing - Department of Community &
Economic Development

SRBC RELEASES SECOND DATA REPORT FOR ITS REMOTE WATER QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK

Comparative Data Now Available to Track Any Future Water Quality Changes

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC; www.srbc.net) today released its second data report (mdw.srbc.net/remotewaterquality/reports.htm) on water quality conditions in small watersheds in the Marcellus shale region of the Susquehanna River Basin. Prior to 2010 when SRBC began collecting the data through its state-of-the-art Remote Water Quality Monitoring Network (RWQMN), little to no water quality data existed for many smaller streams in northern Pennsylvania and southern tier New York. SRBC's first data report in 2012 established preliminary baseline, or existing, conditions within the first 37 of 58 watersheds that SRBC is monitoring through the RWQMN. This second data report provides a more comprehensive report of conditions across the full monitoring network.

"The Commission takes very seriously one of its core functions of monitoring water quality conditions in the streams and rivers of the Susquehanna Basin," said SRBC Executive Director Andrew Dehoff. "This second report provides more information on the data collected as part of the Commission's effort to evaluate whether or not water quality conditions are reflecting impacts associated with natural gas drilling."

Each RWQMN station is equipped with sensors that can continuously detect subtle changes in water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductance (ability to conduct electricity, which typically increases as levels of dissolved solids increase) and turbidity (water clarity). The water quality parameters are measured at 5-minute intervals and transmitted to SRBC headquarters in Harrisburg every 2 to 4 hours. The raw, unadjusted data are then made available to the public at

http://mdw.srbc.net/remotewaterquality/data_viewer.aspx. A user-friendly map, graphs and charts are key features for viewing and understanding the data.

The data report outlines the process SRBC is using to characterize conditions for the monitored watersheds, including analyses based on ecoregion group, water chemistry, and trend analyses for three stations with sufficient data records of three full years.

The parameters of primary interest in areas of natural gas drilling are conductance and turbidity since those are the most likely to rise if local streams are being impacted by drilling activities. SRBC also collects quarterly samples for more than 20 other parameters for lab analysis, some of which serve as more specific indicators of natural gas drilling activities.

Of the 50 watersheds covered in this data report, SRBC has not observed any unusual results outside of some existing pollution issues such as those associated with mine drainage, road salting, and agricultural/urban runoff, as well as some isolated incidents associated with brief turbidity spikes as a result of pipeline construction activity. As more stations accumulate three years of continuous data, SRBC staff will be able to detect any longer-term water quality trends in addition to immediate impacts. The first three stations undergoing these statistical analyses showed no definitive trends, with no obvious correlation to drilling activity.

Upcoming assessments include performing trend analyses on a larger set of data from 37 stations that reached the 3-year data record mark at the end of 2013. In addition, the Commission continues to collect more refined data at select stations to better understand fluctuations in water chemistry. Lastly, future reports will also start to look more closely at results from aquatic biological community data collected at all stations.

SRBC's overarching objective of the RWQMN is to apply good science to track changes in water quality conditions over time and to allow for timely responses in the case of pollution events. Other objectives are to reduce the cost of data collection by using advanced technologies, to enhance water supply protection through source water monitoring, and to be responsive to public concerns.

The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania-based SRBC is the governing agency established under a 100-year compact signed on December 24, 1970 by the federal government and the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to protect and wisely manage the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. The Susquehanna River starts in Cooperstown, New York, and flows 444 miles to Havre de Grace, Maryland, where the river meets the Chesapeake Bay.

COSPONSOR MEMOS

Sen. Ward

- [Senate Resolution: Recognizing "National Travel and Tourism Week" \(May 3 thru 11, 2014\) and Observing "Tourism Day" \(May 5, 2014\)](#)

Sen. McIlhinney

- [Memo #17 - Delaware River Flooding](#)

Sen. Rafferty

- [Riparian Buffer Legislation](#)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

House Tourism and Recreational Development (INFORMATIONAL)

WEDNESDAY - 3/12/14

9:00 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building

Informational meeting on DCED's marketing program for 2014

BILL REPORT

ATTACHED TO THE REPORT

STATE NEWS

CORBETT SCALES BACK GOAL ON PENSION OVERHAUL

Governor Corbett is making a new effort to persuade lawmakers to pare back public employee pension benefits, but the scale of the savings and changes he's seeking appear more modest. Corbett's budget secretary, Charles Zogby, says the administration is studying a "hybrid" concept that would save \$7 billion over 30 years in pension benefits.

IMPROVEMENT ZONE ACCELERATION IS LIVE BUDGET ISSUE

The issue of accelerating a new state urban redevelopment program could be negotiated as part of a final stage budget. Sen. John Blake, (D-Scranton) raised the question of allowing more cities to participate in the City Revitalization and Improvement Zone program at a hearing of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Budget Secretary Charles Zogby left the door open to an agreement to speed up the process to add more improvement zones to ones just created in Lancaster and Bethlehem.

PITT NAMES GALLAGHER CHANCELLOR

When University of Pittsburgh trustees looked for the school's next chancellor, they turned to an alumnus with a strong background in science and business. They named Patrick Gallagher, a Pitt-educated physicist, who is acting deputy secretary of the Department of Commerce and director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, as the school's chancellor-elect.

IN THE NEWS

- 02-11-2014 [Hotel tax revenues up in Westmoreland County](#)
Annual revenues generated from a hotel tax have nearly doubled since it was first collected in Westmoreland County. Taxes on rooms rented at 86 county inns, hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts generated more than \$1.15 million in 2013, according to Treasurer Jared Squires.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-11-2014 [Two Philadelphia Hotels Retain Top Rating in AAA Annual Survey](#)
PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — There were some familiar Philadelphia spots on the list today as AAA, the automotive and travel advocacy organization, handed out its top award to the area's best hotels and restaurants. Only three establishments in the Philadelphia area were awarded AAA's... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

WEEK IN REVIEW

- 02-14-2014 **Pittsburgh-area cab companies make case against ride-sharing trend**
Pittsburgh-area taxi companies met Thursday with representatives of the state Public Utility Commission to discuss what could or should be done about two ride-sharing companies that have moved into the city. "If they are providing transportation without a certificate of public... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-14-2014 **Comcast, Time Warner agree to merge in \$45 billion deal**
Comcast's \$45 billion bid for Time Warner Cable would create a cable television behemoth in an industry that has steadily increased prices for bundles of channels and services that many consumers dislike but feel forced to buy. But the merger would have far greater implications for the future of media... - [Washington Post](#)
- 02-13-2014 **State sales of wine, spirits increase 3.4 percent**
State wine and spirits sales increased 3.4 percent in the first half of the 2013-14 fiscal year, according to preliminary figures released Wednesday by the Liquor Control Board. Pennsylvania's more than 600 state stores posted sales of \$949.6 million from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2013. Wine sales grew 3.4 percent and spirits sales... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-13-2014 **Department of Education planning to make up for all those missed snow days**
With another snow day hours away, the Department of Education is sending notices to Pennsylvania school districts giving them options for completing the school year. In a normal year, districts have until June 30 to provide students with 180 days of instruction. But districts can petition the department to count... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 02-12-2014 **PA lawmaker wants to penalize illegal online gaming**
As Pennsylvania studies the potential of legalizing online gambling, state Rep. Mario Scavello wants to set up a road block to web-based wagering. The Monroe County Republican on Tuesday outlined a plan to penalize people who gamble online, which is illegal but not punishable in Pennsylvania.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-12-2014 **Pa.'s snow emergency plans include lining up National Guardsmen**
Winter-weary Pennsylvanians braced themselves Wednesday for another major storm, with fears of deep snows and high winds prompting officials to warn that more power problems are possible even as outages persist from the last big storm... - [AP](#)
- 02-11-2014 **Pennsylvania's prison population up slightly**
HARRISBURG -- The state inmate population ticked up slightly in 2013 after falling the previous year. The one-year increase of 328 inmates -- a growth of 0.6 percent in the total population -- can largely be attributed to an increase in parole violators returning to the system, said Bret Bucklen, director of the... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-11-2014 **PA House Speaker Sam Smith to step down after current term**
Pennsylvania's Legislature will have a new Speaker of the House next year. That's because the current speaker, Sam Smith of Punxsutawney, has opted against seeking a new term in the state House of Representatives this year. Smith, who became speaker with the GOP's return to the majority in... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 02-10-2014 **Pennsylvania Democrats will have an open primary for governor**
On Friday night, York County businessman Tom Wolf said he was hoping Democratic leaders wouldn't endorse any of the gubernatorial candidates for the May 20 primary. He ended up getting that result. Hundreds of Democratic Party state committee members on Saturday voted to... - [York Daily](#)
- 02-10-2014 **Pennsylvania lawmakers pepper Budget Secretary with questions about Gov. Tom Corbett's spending plan**
Pennsylvania lawmakers from both sides of the aisle made clear Monday that their comfort level isn't quite there yet with Gov. Tom Corbett's \$29.4 billion budget proposal. In the opener to what will be a

three-week gauntlet of state agency hearings, they also made clear that the gubernatorial election year dynamic... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)