



# Water Revitalization Plan Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting Summary

Meeting No. 2.4: Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Location: The Discovery Center, 3401 Reservoir Dr, Philadelphia, PA 19121

## Meeting Attendees:

WRP Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG)	Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kadafi El-Kardah (he/him)</li> <li>2. Joanne Reilly (she/her)</li> <li>3. Linzy White (she/her)</li> <li>4. Rozell Kenney (she/her)</li> <li>5. Iola Harper (she/her)</li> </ol> <p><b>Absent</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Dr. Joi Spraggins (she/her)</li> <li>7. Michele Baymor (she/her)</li> <li>8. Richard Lampert (he/him)</li> <li>9. Mika Manzieri (she/her)</li> <li>10. Cheryl Tse (she/they)</li> <li>11. Amy Cornelius (she/her)</li> </ol>	<p>Laura Copeland (she/her)  Rick Orlosky (he/him)  Farwa Zaidi (she/her)  Brendan Reilly (he/him)</p> <p><b>Others:</b>  Karaline Bridgeford (she/her), Brown and Caldwell  Anna Kloiber (she/her), Brown and Caldwell  Ketaki Kulkarni (she/her), Brown and Caldwell  Jennie Mummert (she/her), West Cary Group</p>

The meeting convened at 6:40 p.m.

## Summary of meeting activities and discussion:

1. Welcome from Rick Orlosky, PWD Creative Director
  - Rick provided a recap of the last meeting, which was in October 2025. The previously scheduled meeting in January was cancelled due to winter storm impacts.
  - Rick shared how PWD operations responded to address impacts of the January storm and extreme weather including managing an influx of water main breaks and responding to icy conditions at PWD’s river water intakes.
  - He introduced the meeting’s learning outcomes:
    - Understand the importance of redundancy and how redundant systems protect Philadelphia’s drinking water system

- Increase overall group member confidence communicating to friends/neighbors about redundancy, what it is, and why it is important

## 2. Community Share Out - Led by Farwa Zaidi, PWD City Planner

- Stakeholder Advisory Group members shared recent interactions they've had with their community about the WRP
- Community feedback included:
  - Neighbors managing a frozen pipe issue during the January extreme weather
  - Inquiry around water usage from data centers

## 3. Redundancy and the WRP

- Anna Kloiber, an Environmental Engineer on the WRP Support Team, reviewed one of the major benefits of the WRP, that it helps maintain reliable water access through redundancy. Anna shared the definition of redundancy and its importance to maintain a resilient drinking water system.
  - i. Redundancy: Having extra parts, systems, or pathways within our water infrastructure to maintain reliable drinking water access.
  - ii. One example of redundancy is that Philadelphia's drinking water supply is supplied by two different rivers, the Schuylkill River and Delaware River.
  - iii. The group discussed different ways that redundancy shows up in their everyday life such as having an alternate travel plan if the trolley system is down, having a landline and a cellphone, and having a kitchen and bathroom sink.
- Brendan Reilly, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Field Operations, shared how redundancy protects the drinking water system from emergencies and allows for maintenance without disrupting the system or needing to turn things off. He also described three major WRP projects on the horizon that are adding redundancy to the drinking water system. The three WRP projects are:
  - i. George's Hill Pump Station: Four West Philly neighborhoods are currently served by a single pump station. This project improves redundancy by adding a second pump station to create multiple ways to generate the pressure necessary to deliver drinking water to these neighborhoods
  - ii. Lardner's Point Pump Station: This northeast Philly pump station is over 100 years old. This project adds new redundant equipment to improve water pressure and make it easier for the different pumps to operate independently.

- iii. Schuylkill River Crossing: This major WRP project will build a large-scale tunnel to connect two of the city's drinking water plants. The new pipe will add redundancy by allowing the city to draw water exclusively from either river in the event of an emergency.

#### 4. Redundancy Scenarios

- Anna picked SAG members to pick imaginary, but potential emergency scenarios from a hat. From there, Brendan answered how having redundancy in the drinking water system would help protect the community from the negative impacts of these scenarios.
- Scenario 1: A chemical spill in the Delaware River
  - Answer: Brendan explained that this scenario could have different impacts depending on the scale of the spill, where the spill occurred, and what time of day it occurred (the Delaware River is tidal). He explained that PWD has two sources of water which would allow them to rely more heavily on the uncontaminated source water if only one source is contaminated. He added that PWD plans for these types of emergencies by having water storage throughout the system. In addition, the SRX project will add a tunnel to connect the city's two treatment water plants which pull from different rivers. This will enable allow PWD to draw enough water exclusively from one river to serve the entire city in the event of an emergency.
- Scenario 2: Severe storm with extended power outages
  - Answer: PWD plans for power outages so that important drinking water facilities are still operational during power outages and water service is not interrupted. For example, Brendan shared that each water treatment plant is connected to the electrical supply through two power lines that each supply power from a different electrical substation in case one station goes out. In addition, each treatment and pumping facility have generators that provide backup power in the event of an outage.

#### 5. Wrap Up

- Rick closed out the meeting with an overview of upcoming events
  - Shared upcoming Rates Hearing & Utility Resource Fair:
    - Utility Resource Fair
      - May 16
    - Rates Hearing

- May 7 (Public Hearing)
- May 14 (Technical Hearing Pt 1)
- May 15 (Technical Hearing Pt 2, if needed)
- Invited SAG members to two upcoming events:
  - June 6<sup>th</sup> Water Treatment Plant Open House (10 AM – 2 PM)
  - October 17<sup>th</sup> PWD Open House
- Reviewed the homework request for the next SAG meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.