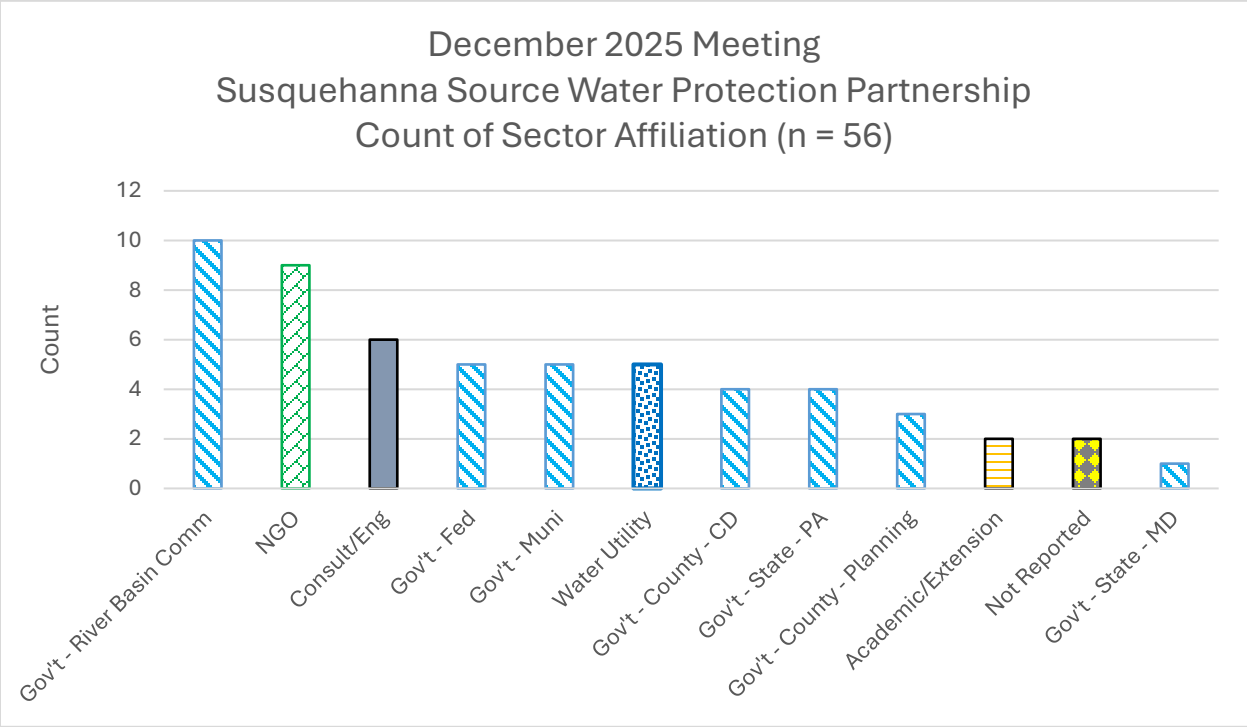
Summary from Susquehanna Source Water Protection Partnership Meeting | Tuesday December 16, 2025 * 09:00 to 11:30 AM

Consistent with policy, the meeting was not recorded; however, presentation slide decks shown during the Partnership Meeting are available for download from the following web page: https://www.srbc.gov/our-work/what-we-do/lower-susquehanna-partnership.html

There were 56 identifiable participants during the meeting, dominated by staff from government agencies overall (32), and distributed among sectors as follows:



To complete the survey for the December 2025 Susquehanna Source Water Protection Partnership Meeting: https://forms.gle/61V4tH6p2XNM8imP8

Part 1 | Be Safe With Less Salt (PA Road Salt Action (PARSA) Working Group)

(Biographies in order of presenter appearance)

James Shallenberger – Chair of the Susquehanna Source Water Protection Partnership and since 2014, Manager of SRBC's Monitoring & Protection Program; prior to coming to SRBC, Jamie worked as a consulting geologist, hydrogeologist, and ecologist on all manner of water-related projects for 20 years. Jamie joined the PARSA Working Group in spring 2025.

Mary Rooney – The founder and lead organizer of the PARSA Working Group, as well as the founder and president of the Little Lehigh Watershed Stewards. PARSA was launched in January 2025 to address the growing impact of winter salt on Pennsylvania's waterways, infrastructure, and public health. The PARSA team brings together volunteers, watershed groups, environmental organizations, and water suppliers to promote responsible winter maintenance and reduce chloride pollution. Mary's work is grounded in data: the sampling record revealed a 220% rise in chloride levels in the Little Lehigh Creek, a key drinking-water source for Allentown. Since then, Mary has focused on building statewide collaboration — organizing meetings, developing outreach tools, and sharing findings with local and regional leaders to advance best practices for winter salt use. Mary's goal is to help communities protect their waterways while maintaining safe winter roads.

Jennifer Latzgo – Co-founder of PARSA and leading the project's outreach efforts. Jennifer has been involved in environmental conservation for many years, beginning with a focus on ocean conservation and more recently shifting attention inland. Jennifer also is a Pennsylvania Master Watershed Steward and serves as Director of Education and Engagement with the Little Lehigh Watershed Stewards. She's spent over 20 years as an instructor in the Adult Education program at Lehigh Carbon Community College in Allentown.

Take aways from the PARSA Presentations:

- Salt plays a very effective role in ensuring winter safety on driving & pedestrian surfaces because it lowers the freezing temperature of water.
- Each ton of salt has the capacity to contaminate at least 700,000 gallons of pure freshwater to chloride levels above the USEPA drinking water standard (250 parts per million) and the chronic exposure criterion for aquatic life (230 parts per million); both EPA chloride threshold values were established in 1988.
- Salt is corrosive to various materials; exacerbates human health conditions such as kidney and cardiovascular diseases; and, is harmful to aquatic life, other wildlife, and plants.
- During the winter 2024-'25, PennDOT, the Commonwealth's single largest but certainly not the only salt spreader, used roughly 600,000 tons of salt to maintain safety for 96,000 lane miles and 25,400 bridges throughout Pennsylvania.
- Road salt contamination is widespread in urban/suburban waterways and increasingly affects groundwater.
- Pennsylvania lacks regulations that protect aquatic life from salt pollution.

- Winter maintenance best practices save money on materials, labor, and fuel.
- Public expectations for “black pavement” drive excessive salt use.
- Untrained private contractors often over-apply salt due to liability concerns.
- PARSA is addressing these challenges statewide and needs your partnership.

PARSA on-line resources and additional information:

https://www.littlelehigh.org/salt-deep-dive

PARSA Presenter email contacts:

Mary Rooney enviroace@rcn.com	Jennifer Latzgo latzgoj@gmail.com	James Shallenberger jshallenberger@srbc.gov

[Excerpts from Meeting Chat: Mary Rooney to Everyone]

New Hampshire is a great resource for us in PA. PARSA has been working with NHDES. We are trying to get members of the PA house to talk with the Green SnowPro group to learn about the program. So far we haven't had luck. If you can think of a person in NH that would be a good resource to talk with a select group of PA regulators, let me know.

PARSA would like to create a one hour slide that can be shown to Professional Groups like Professional engineers that are municipal engineers. If there are members of this chat that would be interested to being on the development team, please reach out to me at EnviroAce@rcn.com

PARSA invites any water suppliers to have a member of their organization join PARSA. We have several water suppliers in the working group. We understand that water suppliers have a lot on their plate with current regulations. Chlorides is an emerging contaminant and we hope to help our water supplies by tackling the excess salting before it impacts PA's water quality.

To all participants, PARSA invites you to join the working group and contribute to our work. Volunteers and professionals, working as part of their organization are welcome. A slide with info on how to join will be presented.

Please reach out to us at PARSA, we would like to hear what you think about our presentation. Did it hit the Mark?

Part 2 | Water Availability Planning (Susquehanna River Basin Commission)

Andrew Gavin – Deputy Executive Director of SRBC, former Monitoring & Protection Program Manager as well as past Chair of the Susquehanna Source Water Protection Partnership. Andy joined SRBC in 1999 as a water quality specialist. Prior to coming to SRBC, Andy worked for the US Department of Energy as well as the US Geological Survey.

Take aways from the Data Centers and Water Resources Presentation:

- Within the Susquehanna River Basin jurisdiction; e.g., parts of New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, SRBC regulates water (surface and groundwater) usage among several types and at multiple thresholds.
- SRBC's most conservative regulatory thresholds for water quantity are for: (1) ***consumptive uses***; i.e., water withdrawn and used/altered in manner that such water is not returned to the Basin's hydrologic cycle (threshold is 20,000 gallons per day); and, (2) natural gas production, a *de facto* consumptive use (threshold is any quantity withdrawn).
- For conservatism when planning water availability in the Basin, SRBC considers 260 million gallons per day (MGD) to be the maximum allowable average consumptive water use – 260 MGD represents the average daily sum for consumptive water use across all such permittees. This volume is considered conservative because consumptive uses do not coincide in time.
- To date, SRBC maintains a tracking list of > 20 proposed Data Center projects, although just a single such project sponsor has applied for and received SRBC approval for consumptive water use. The Commission's only approved "data center" water use authorization approves up to 60,000 gallons per day during the project development phase; however, SRBC anticipates that full expansion of this proposed data center will trigger an increased water use permit.
- From a Water Management perspective, with respect to data center projects, SRBC understands the following:
    - Equipment cooling approaches & technologies will dictate the primary water need for data centers.
    - Evaporative cooling approaches are expected to drive high consumptive water use, whereas, certain "dry" cooling approaches as well as closed-loop heat exchanges, including geothermal approaches, are expected to substantially limit consumptive water use;

- Demand to accommodate data center power requirements will increase water use in the electricity-generating sector; and,
- Any water withdrawal or consumptive use that exceeds SRBC thresholds requires approval and daily reporting of both withdrawal and consumptive use quantities.

[Excerpts from Meeting Chat:]

It would be helpful for communities to have some kind of graphic of the spectrum of issues they should be considering when approached by a potential data center. Anyone know of such a resource?

The City of Lancaster (PA) developed a web page resource with available Data Center Information: https://www.cityoflancasterpa.gov/data-center/

The PennState Extension posted an article, "Data Centers and Water Use in Pennsylvania", that includes various facts & figures, frequently asked questions (and answers), and a list of resources cited: https://extension.psu.edu/data-centers-and-water-use-in-pennsylvania

Cumberland County (PA) will host on Tuesday January 20, 2026 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM, a public forum: Understanding Data Center Development in Cumberland County. More information and reservations are available here: https://www.cumberlandcountypa.gov/5325/Public-Forum---Understanding-Data-Center

Andrew Gavin
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Graham Markowitz – Hydrologist in the Planning & Operations Program at SRBC and a Professional Geologist, Graham works on water availability studies, drought monitoring and coordination, and flood studies. Graham joined SRBC in 2013 and prior to joining SRBC, he worked with the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program in New York.

Take aways from the Identifying Optimal Groundwater Recharge Locations Presentation:

- Preserving, conserving, and augmenting groundwater recharge is important for water quality benefits, contributions to stream/river baseflow, and enhanced drought resiliency.

- SRBC staff developed a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) framework to identify areas of greater – lesser groundwater recharge potential throughout the Susquehanna Basin.
- Recharge Potential describes the likelihood of a land surface area to accept (or limit) infiltration and distinct from Recharge Rate, recharge potential is independent of climate factors (precipitation and evapotranspiration).
- SRBC's GIS Optimal Groundwater Recharge/Critical Aquifer Recharge Area tools have been used to:
    - Prioritize acquisition of conservation easements.
    - Inform planning, zoning, and designated "growth" areas.
    - Site possible stormwater management projects intended to enhance aquifer recharge.
    - Educate and inform citizens and community decision-makers about the value/importance of groundwater recharge areas.
    - Develop model ordinances.

[SRBC Groundwater Recharge Product Availability]

Datasets available for download at the Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA) geospatial data portal

- Groundwater Recharge Potential
- Highest Groundwater Recharge Potential Areas

Additional information available on SRBC web page

- a GIS Tool to ID optimal groundwater recharge areas
- Preview layers on the Susquehanna Atlas

If a local assessment of recharge potential in any region, county, watershed, or other scale is desired, a request can be made through the Commission's website

Graham Markowitz
gmarkowitz@srbc.gov

Part 3 | News & Announcements

Road Salt Resource Links:

- PA Road Salt Action (PARSA) Working Group

  https://www.littlelehigh.org/salt-deep-dive

- Stroud Water Research Center: Salt Snap Shot

  https://stroudcenter.org/news/what-fall-salt-snapshot-revealed-about-groundwater/

- Winter Salt Week

  https://wintersaltweek.org/

- Winter Salt Week Webinar – Official Website of Arlington County Virginia Government<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Sustainability/Streams/Prevent-Pollution/Winter-Salt/Winter-Salt-Webinar>

- Snow and Ice Management Association (SIMA) Based in Midwest USA

  https://www.sima.org/msic

- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Smart Salt Training

  https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/smart-salting-training

- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services – Commercial Green SnowPro Certification

  https://www.des.nh.gov/land/roads/road-salt-reduction/green-snowpro-certification

- Webinar: The Science of Salt – Improving Application Practices and Protecting Water Quality

  Thu December 18, 2025 2:00 to 3:30 pm EST

  A free event, but registration ~~is~~/WAS required:

  https://groups.io/g/HTExchange/topic/the_science_of_salt/116682515

- Resource about watershed-friendly salt alternatives from PSU Extension: https://extension.psu.edu/watershed-friendly-deicing

Other News & Resource Links:

- The Ground Water Protection Council's Annual Forum will be in Anaheim, CA from September 15-17, 2026. We will have a Source Water Protection Workshop - stay tuned! https://www.gwpc.org/
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has an interactive map, available at this link, that shows the priority source water areas (identified for ground water & surface water), updated annually. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/source-water-protection

- Private Well Class, offering webinars that cover types of wells, well construction, the basic components of well systems, and water treatment options. - https://privatewellclass.org/

- University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, stormwater seminar series calendar https://wrc.umn.edu/events/mn-stormwater-seminar

- Environmental Finance Center Network webinar, From Plan to Progress: Investing in your green stormwater infrastructure workforce Jan 8, 2026 noon to 1:00 PM (EST) https://efcnetwork.org/event/webinar-from-plan-to-progress-investing-in-your-green-stormwater-infrastructure-workforce/

- Northeast Mid-Atlantic Partnership for Forests & Water: upcoming events Stronger Together: Forests & Water Partnerships Thu Jan 15, 2026 2:00 to 3:30 PM (EST) https://northeastmidatlanticpartnershipforforestsandwater.com/events/

- Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission Public Comment Period from Dec 13,2025 to Jan 12, 2026 for Proposed Regulation No. 7-589/Safe Drinking Water Revised Consumer Confidence Report Rule. The proposed amendments would further protect the health of people in Pennsylvania who consume drinking water provided by public water systems and would make information about drinking water provided by community water systems more accessible and understandable. To comment: https://forms.gle/61V4tH6p2XNM8imP8

- Still time to complete the survey for the December 2025 SWP Partnership Meeting https://forms.gle/61V4tH6p2XNM8imP8