

**Minutes of the
June 4, 2014 Meeting of the
Coastal Zone Advisory Committee (CZAC)**

The regular meeting of CZAC was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Mr. Don Benczkowski on June 4, 2014, in the 10th Floor Conference Room of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA.

The following committee representatives were present:

Don Benczkowski	PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Interstate Waters Office (IWO)
Shayne Hoachlander	PA Game Commission (PGC)
Julia Donahue (phone)	Erie County Department of Planning (ECDP)
Tom Ford	PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
Chris Linn	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
Dave Miko	Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC)
Amy Miller	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
Ann Safley	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)
Mark Shaffer	PHMC
John Van Zant	PA Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

The following DEP staff members were present:

Stacey Box	PA DEP, IWO
Randall Brown	PA DEP, Southeast Regional Staff
J. Samantha Burton	PA DEP, IWO
Ben Eppley	PA DEP, IWO
Laura Henry	PA DEP, Policy Office
Kevin Hess	PA DEP, IWO
Dave Jostenski	PA DEP, IWO
Lori Mohr	PA DEP, IWO
Jacob Moore (phone)	PA DEP, Northwest Regional Staff
Jim Peifer	PA DEP, IWO
Leslie Sarvis	PA DEP, IWO
Joseph Sieber	PA DEP, IWO

Mr. Benczkowski welcomed everyone and introductions were made.

Secretary Remarks: Mr. Benczkowski stated that the Secretary, E. Christopher Abruzzo, was unable to attend the meeting. He was originally scheduled to provide remarks and attend a portion of the meeting.

Lake Erie Resource Mapping: Shipwrecks: Mr. Benczkowski stated that Matt Walderon was originally scheduled to present this agenda item, but is unable to attend the meeting. Samantha Burton provided the presentation on his behalf.

The Coastal Resources Management (CRM) Program has been conducting Shipwreck mapping work for its Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) initiative. The goal of MSP is to prepare for and balance potential conflicts between different uses in Lake Erie, such as shipping, boating, diving, and habitat use. One step in this process is to document the location of resources, such as shipwrecks. Currently CRM is working to confirm these site locations and collect video documentation of known wrecks. The field crew uses a towed sidescan sonar instrument to record terrain of the lake bed. Ms. Burton presented several examples sonar images of the Gerkin and S.K. Martin wrecks. The field crew also uses an underwater remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) to record digital video of the sites. Ms. Burton presented a short video taken by the ROV of the Charles Foster, Albion, Gerkin, and one unknown shipwreck.

Next steps in the MSP effort include completion of shipwreck documentation, development of the plan itself, including stakeholder involvement, and creation of a planning and decision guidance document. Non-sensitive data will be publicly available to planning and agencies to provide a basis to balance conflicts.

Dave Miko, from Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), asked about the vessel used for shipwreck field work. Mr. Benczkowski responded that the crew uses the 23' DEP boat that is similar to the PFBC law enforcement boat.

Mr. Miko asked about sensitive data on the MSP. Mr. Benczkowski responded that we will not be releasing sensitive data, but it will be used to denote areas to be protected. It is important to not release information on unknown shipwrecks especially to prevent pillaging. Ms. Burton stated that CRM soon will be determining how sensitive spatial data will be mapped and presented in the final guidance document.

Mark Shaffer stated that CRM should notify PHMC if and when a new wreck is found so the agency can add it to their GIS. CRM agreed that they have been and will continue to do this.

Coastal Zone Grants Update by Stacey Box: 45 Coastal Zone grant applications were evaluated, ranked, and submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 funding. CRM expects to make a funding announcement in August or September 2014. The FFY 2015 Coastal Zone grant round will open in mid-August and close on October 2014.

Ms. Box stated that other state agencies can apply for a Coastal Zone grant if the project is located within the Section 306A or Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Program (CNPP) area and is aligned with CRM priorities. Mr. Shaffer and Ms. Box commented that PHMC's Pennsbury Manor has been awarded grants for pathway repair, fences, and has a current application in for storm damaged tree maintenance. Agencies should contact Ms. Box if they are interested in applying for a grant or they have comments to disseminate the solicitation.

Ms. Box provided electronic copies of the updated Coastal Zone Grant Application Instruction Guide and the Grant Administration Guide (post-award instructions) to CZAC members by e-mail last week. Minor revisions were made the instruction guide, including provisions for Act 47 financially distressed municipalities. Chester City is the only designated distressed

community in the 306A zone. The Grant Administration Guide document underwent a major overhaul, including revised text, revised attachments, and a new NOAA reporting form. CZAC members should provide feedback to Ms. Box by June 6, 2014.

Section 309 Overview and Stakeholder Engagement by Kevin Hess: Mr. Hess provided a presentation on CRM's Section 309 Assessment and Strategy. Section 309 refers to a section of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act that offers funding for coastal states to enhance their programs in nine predetermined enhancement areas. This process operates on a five year cycle, including an assessment of the past five years and a new strategy for the next five years. CRM is beginning to draft the 309 Assessment and Strategy for 2016-2021. A draft document will be due to NOAA in Spring 2015. There will be time allocated for CZAC input.

The current 309 Strategy (2011-2015) includes analysis of Lake Erie Coastal Zone boundary expansion, aquatic invasive species rapid response planning and monitoring contracted through Pennsylvania Sea Grant (PSG), and data gathering for support of the Lake Erie Marine Spatial Plan, which includes the previously discussed shipwreck work. Prior to the 2016-2021 upcoming enhancement, CRM first developed a draft document and then sought comment. Now, NOAA is requiring programs to obtain stakeholder input prior to developing a draft document. Mr. Hess provided a list of stakeholder groups that will be engaged statewide and in each coastal zone.

The 309 process must result in a definite program change, which could include a change to coastal zone boundaries, new authorities, revised coastal programs, new Special Area Management Plans, etc. Prior 309 documents are available on the CRM website. Finalized guidance from NOAA will be available in June 2014.

Mr. Hess distributed a survey to CZAC representatives and instructed the group to rank the enhancement areas listed with high (no more than three high priorities), medium, or low priority and answer additional questions on the second page. Mr. Hess allowed representatives to complete the first page of the survey the day of the meeting or submit it electronically to him by July 4, 2014. CRM will contact representatives in July if a survey has not been returned. Additional stakeholder input can be made up until the end of October 2014. Questions should be directed to Mr. Hess at 717-783-9491.

Lake Erie Boundary Expansion Status by Joe Sieber: CRM has been exploring expansion of the Lake Erie Coastal Zone boundary in response to a request of the local Coastal Zone Lake Erie Advisory Committee. The effort has been coordinated and approved by DEP's Office of External Affairs, Environmental Advocate, Legislative and Policy and Press Offices, the Secretary, Deputy Secretary for Water, and DEP Regional Director. In Summer 2013, CRM and PSG conducted three public meetings in Erie and Crawford County. In November 2013, CRM provided updates to the local Coastal Zone Advisory Committee and conducted a fourth public meeting including the Erie County Planning Commission and public. PSG continues to provide public outreach efforts related to boundary expansion.

Public response to boundary expansion has been mixed with most in favor and a few municipalities not in favor. CRM has received ten letters of support and four written responses

not in favor of boundary expansion. Tom Ford asked which municipalities were opposed. Mr. Sieber responded with Beaver, Spring, and Summerhill Townships in Crawford County and Platea Borough in Erie County. Mr. Ford suggested only expanding to areas that are interested in being included. Mr. Sieber stated that CRM has developed several alternative expansion options. Mr. Benczkowski described the advantages of expansion, including potential to use Coastal Zone funds towards acquisition and construction activities in the upper watershed.

Mr. Ford asked about the role of CZAC in boundary expansion moving forward. Mr. Sieber stated that a program change approved by NOAA would be needed to formalize expansion. Mr. Ford recommends moving forward with those that are interested. Mr. Benczkowski stated that the CRM is still in the information gathering phase. Dave Jostenski stated that boundary expansion is currently a lower priority.

Mr. Benczkowski stated that CZAC representatives can contact him or Mr. Sieber with questions or comments on boundary expansion.

Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone Update by Amy Miller: Ms. Miller described the Spruce Street Harbor Park, which is a temporary two-month popup park to be located at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. It is scheduled to open on June 26, 2014. A series of floating barges will create the park and will include water gardens, restaurants, climbing nets, fire pits in the evening, an urban beach, and a boardwalk area with popup stores.

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is opening a facility in a currently vacant area along the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia, near Bainbridge and South Streets. The facility will be 2.5 million sq. ft., 22 stories, and will include office and research space. The construction will include public space options and parking. Chris Linn stated that the Schuylkill Banks Trail will be extended south at this site along the Schuylkill to Exelon's property and will include a railroad track crossing.

Waterside, a large residential development, is currently under phased construction in Bensalem, Bucks County. The final development will be comprised of 176 homes on 45 acres, and will include eight acres of public access park land with walking trails and wetlands. Mr. Miko asked if the development will include a boat launch. Ms. Miller stated that it does not, but there is a nearby marina.

New Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain maps have been issued for Philadelphia and Delaware County. There is currently an open comment period with a public meeting scheduled for June 6, 2014. Included counties must adopt new floodplain ordinances in response to the updated maps.

Chester City will be voting to adopt their climate adaptation plan this month. Chester City and Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) have been working with NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE), Delaware County Planning Commission, and PSG. The plan addresses coastal hazards, flooding and other weather events, and stormwater management. The plan also includes an analysis and vulnerability assessment of vacant land along the Delaware River. Mr. Sieber asked about

developing similar plans in other areas. Mr. Linn stated that PSG and DVRPC held two successful workshops in Ridley and Eastwick area in Philadelphia. Mr. Sieber asked if there is an expectation of other communities to wait for NOAA funding. Mr. Linn responded that the study results could be incorporated as part of a comprehensive plan or it could be done separately if there are other funds available. Mr. Sieber asked if other communities will be able to obtain insurance estimates from private companies, like they were provided with Chester City. Mr. Linn stated that he was not sure. DVRPC did not work with private insurance companies for the Chester City plan.

Mr. Benczkowski thanked DVRPC for providing additional match for their Coastal Zone grant.

Lake Erie Coastal Zone Update: Ms. Donahue provided an update on the status of 2011-2013 Lake Erie Coastal Zone Grants:

2011 Project:

- Investigating & Researching Environmental Health Issues by Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit is a two-week summer school for kids interested in the environmental field and discusses many coastal zone priority topics.

2012 Projects:

- The County-Wide Stream Study by Erie County Conservation District provides education to teachers and students on the concept of watersheds, point, and non-point source pollution. The grantee received a six-month extension to finish out the school year.
- The Lampe Marina Courtesy and Fuel Dock Replacement by Erie Western Pennsylvania Port Authority is currently on hold until matching funds are in place. The Port Authority received a six-month extension to generate matching funds.

2013 Projects:

- The Lakeside Trail Project by Lawrence Park Township will construct an accessible asphalt trail from Lake Cliff Park to Lakeside Boat Launch. The required phase I archeological survey is complete and will be sent to PHMC in about one month. The dig was negative.
- The Creating Lake Erie Coastal Zone Stewards project by Erie Times-News in Education provides environmental education outreach in the Erie-Times News newspapers. The project is almost complete with four weeks of papers remaining.
- The City of Erie's Comprehensive Plan will complete the second phase of its plan development. They are currently preparing to conduct an RFP to obtain a consultant.
- The Headwaters Park Master Site Plan by Erie County Conservation District will guide future development at the headwaters of Mill Creek. Currently, the district has held stakeholder and public meetings. They have also received a \$25,000 grant from the Erie County Greenways Program for additional planning efforts.
- The McKean Area Comprehensive Plan involves McKean Township and McKean Borough and will include Elk Creek, Walnut Creek, and Lamson Run.

Ms. Donahue stated that she provided a presentation at the Lake Erie Beach Glass Festival held on Memorial Day weekend on the topic of bluff recession. Approximately 6,000 people attended

the festival, which included booths and a lecture series. Ms. Donahue is also planning to present at next year's event.

The Erie County Greenways Program received 29 applications this year totaling more than \$900,000. The County awarded 6 grants this year for \$135,000 total. Ms. Donahue is working to match up the Greenways Program grants to serve as potential match to complimentary Coastal Zone grants. She is also working to publicize the program.

Remediation is continuing at the GAF Roofing Manufacturing site on the west side of Erie's Bayfront with safety railings, irrigation, and plantings. Benches, trash cans, life rings, and dog stations are due by mid-July. The site may also include construction of a new hotel. This planned hotel was recently approved to be located across from Liberty Park on the south side of the Bayfront Parkway.

The Weather, Wave, and Water Buoy has been deployed two miles northwest of Presque Isle Lighthouse in 45' of water. Updates from the buoy are available in real-time online at www.palakeeriebuoy.com.

Mr. Benczkowski asked PHMC representatives if they will see the Lakeside Park archeological survey. Mark Shaffer stated that his colleague, Kira Heinrich, will review the report. They expect the survey from Mercyhurst University in about one month. Ms. Donahue said that it was either finished just recently or will be completed in about a week. Mr. Shaffer said they will try to turn it around quickly. Typically a review takes about 30 days. Ms. Donahue stated that The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) will also have to review the survey since they have funded the playground on site. Mr. Ford stated that development staff will review it.

Jake Moore provided a regional update. He has been providing education and property owner outreach. Mr. Moore spoke at a stormwater workshop and represented CRM at a successful Earth Day event at an Erie Explosion indoor football game. On May 8th, he also provided a presentation on coastal processes at an Earth Action Summit event. Mr. Moore continues to work on permits and coordinating the International Coastal Cleanup events.

Review and Approval of Draft Minutes: Ms. Miller noted a correction to the January 15, 2014 minutes. Within the "Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone Update", it should state that the Schuylkill was named 2014 River of the Year, not 2013. A motion to approve the January 15, 2014 minutes, including this revision, was made by Shayne Hoachlander and seconded by Mr. Ford. Motion carried.

Public Comments: No members of the public were in attendance.

Agency Updates:

Mr. Ford from DCNR stated that his agency closed their most recent grant round in April 2014 and received 400 applications. DCNR will fund about half of the applications with an expected announcement in the Fall, which they anticipate will be earlier than previous years. Mr.

Benczkowski inquired on the average grant award amount. Mr. Ford responded that an award averages around \$100,000 with a maximum of \$250,000. However, large projects in Philadelphia, such as pier acquisition, could exceed \$500,000. Mr. Benczkowski asked about grant round timing. Mr. Ford stated that it is similar every year. Mr. Ford also stated that the Schuylkill River was named River of the Year for 2014. There are a host of activities, including sojourns scheduled across the state.

Mr. Shaffer from PHMC stated that the agency appreciates the shipwreck mapping work and would like CRM to provide undocumented wreck information for entry into their GIS system. PHMC staff will also look into expediting the Lakeside Park survey review. In Southeastern Pennsylvania, there is extensive work being done with redevelopment, although industrial use has negated a lot of the archeological resources. There are a large number of transportation projects along I-95 with archeological findings. Ann Safley added that PHMC does administer a small grant program for planning and construction/rehabilitation work. PHMC will notify Mr. Benczkowski when next solicitation and awards are announced. The agency will be attending a workshop in Erie, PA in mid-June sponsored by the Erie County Historical Society.

John Van Zant from Pennsylvania Utility Commission stated that it was a busy winter. CZAC committee members are welcome to forward utility issues or questions to Mr. Van Zant.

Mr. Hoachlander stated that Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) owns 3,500 acres of State Game Lands (SGL) 314 along Lake Erie that borders Ohio. They recently added some new tracts, including inside and outside the existing border, and are interested in pursuing expansion. To the south, half of SGL 101 is included in the proposed Lake Erie Coastal Zone expansion area. Mr. Hoachlander stated that without expansion, CRM funded acquisition opportunities would be lost. On SGL 314, PGC is working with a weed management cooperative to control invasives along the bluff, including European Alder and Phragmites. There is a current wetlands restoration project funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative occurring in SGL 314 outside the current coastal zone boundary. Mr. Sieber asked how expansion would impact PGC. Mr. Hoachlander stated that they could miss hundreds of acres of game land expansion through Coastal Zone grant funded acquisitions. A similar situation exists in SGL 101. By statute, PGS can only pay \$400 an acre out of the game fund. Any more must be supplemented by grants.

Mr. Miko is a new CZAC representative from PFBC. They are currently looking at nearshore fish communities and also microbead issues in Lake Erie. Several Great Lakes states are banning microbeads from personal care products and PFBC is looking to champion efforts to address these substances. Mr. Miko also stated that there are many invasives in the Conneaut Creek watershed that could benefit from boundary expansion. PFBC supports and seeks partnerships to connect the public to the water. Mr. Benczkowski encouraged Mr. Miko to talk to CRM program staff, including Randy Brown and Mr. Hess about activities in the Southeast.

2015 Proposed Meetings: Mr. Benczkowski proposed Wednesday, January 14, 2015 and Wednesday, June 3, 2015 for next year's CZAC meetings. All meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. in RCSOB, 10th floor conference room. The committee will be notified once the dates are firm.

Other Business:

Mr. Benczkowski thanked PFBC, PHMC, and DCNR for their assistance in turning around Pennsylvania National Diversity Inventory (PNDI) reviews quickly.

Mr. Benczkowski stated that Ms. Safley is retiring after 23 years at PHMC. Mr. Shaffer recommended Ms. Heinrich as a replacement since she works in the Northwest Region.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m..