

**Minutes of the  
January 17, 2018 Meeting of the  
Coastal Zone Advisory Committee (CZAC)**

10<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room – Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg PA

The regular meeting of CZAC was called to order by Mr. Don Benczkowski at 9:33 a.m. with the introduction of twenty-two attendees, including the following:

Don Benczkowski	PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Coastal Resources Management (CRM) Program
Diana Olinger	National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
John Van Zant	PA Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Scott Bollinger	Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC)
Mark Lombard	PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Shayne Hoachlander	PA Game Commission (PGC)
Mark Shaffer	Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC)
Cindy Dunlap	PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
Amy Verbofsky	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
James Peifer	PA DEP, CRM
Stacey Box	PA DEP, CRM
Matt Walderon	PA DEP, CRM
Sam Burton	PA DEP, CRM
Kevin Hess	PA DEP, CRM
Joe Sieber	PA DEP, CRM
Allen Landis	PA DEP, Policy Office
Jennie Demjanick	PA DEP, Policy Office
Randy Brown	PA DEP, CRM Southeast Regional Staff
Sean Gimbel	PA DEP, Executive Assistant, Water Programs

The following committee representatives attended the meeting by phone:

Jean Lynch	PA DCNR
Amy Murdock	Erie County Department of Planning (ECDP)

The following members of the public were present:

Roger Varner	Ecology and Environment, Inc.
--------------	-------------------------------

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the June 2017 CZAC meeting were approved contingent upon one change. Shayne Hoachlander (PGC) noted that a clarification is necessary on page two of the minutes, where he had “...discussed Pumpkin Ash control efforts at State Game Lands (SGL) 314, where they attempt to save the tree and treat them with triage.” The minutes will be corrected to clarify that the PGC’s control efforts are focused on the destructive, invasive emerald ash borer (insect), not the Pumpkin Ash trees.

**Coastal Zone Program Update:** Stacey Box reported that the Fiscal Year 2017 grants were announced later than the normal schedule. Grant agreements were sent in early January and

## COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

none have been returned. The group discussed the concerns and potential of a federal government closure. Diana Olinger (NOAA) had no prediction or information regarding a shutdown.

Don Benczkowski gave an update of 2018 program activities and CRM program priorities. The CRM program will continue efforts in measuring control points along Lake Erie's shoreline, monitoring the bluff recession rate. Matt Walderon continues to fulfill DEP's role regarding issues with federal consistency permit coordination. DEP staff will be supporting municipalities and managing the Bluff Recession Setback Act work (via municipal ordinances).

**Local Coastal Zone Updates:** Amy Verbofsky of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission highlighted three recent project areas, including:

1. Trail Projects
2. Urban Waterfront Action Group (UWAG) Presentation; and
3. Pennsylvania Coastal Resiliency

**Trails:** Amy noted the ribbon cutting ceremony of the Tinicum Route 291 trail. Last summer, planners celebrated the trail opening and project success in Delaware County. She noted that the Schuylkill Banks section is currently closed, and soon will be opened for public use. Another recent trail project success was with the groundbreaking of the Tacony Northeast section in Philadelphia, phase 2 groundbreaking of a smaller linear project (.3 miles length). Finally, Bridesburg Park, which is also located in Northeast Philadelphia, has seen significant progress. This former 10-acre industrial site is now being restored to a waterfront park. At this time, Bridesburg Park is amid a 15-month design phase, estimated to cost between \$5-7 million dollars.

**UWAG:** Pier 25N (Philadelphia, North of Ben Franklin Bridge) was purchased by a developer proposing a mixed residential waterfront use for the site. The city looks forward to the upcoming project presentation to UWAG and to learn more about how the developer is working with permitting agencies.

**PA Coastal Resiliency Project:** For this project, DVRPC has conducted widespread outreach and received 13 municipal responses to date. DVRPC has scheduled meetings with five municipalities. The partnership of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), DEP and county government are joining forces and are focused on floodplain planning, waterfront development, planning tools, and localized flooding challenges. DVRPC is working with municipalities to support their goals, smart growth, sound land use and resiliency planning. DVRPC provided educational posters for communities to better understand sea level rise and long-term planning in the Delaware estuary, and provides a website with resources for funding and resiliency planning.

Allen Landis, with the DEP Policy Office, is interested in obtaining DVRPC's listening tour report/minutes/findings. CRM staff agreed to provide the report to Allen and upon request will provide the documents to members of CZAC.

**ECDP:** Amy Murdock, ECDP (via phone) provided an update on current property developments on the Erie Bayfront.

**Bayfront Development Updates:** Among the ongoing Bayfront improvements, the recent and notable planned development of a new hotel has created great local interest. The hotel is planned for a site near Dobbins Landing, adjacent to the Bayfront parking area and convention center.

**Erie County Municipal Stormwater Assistance Program:** ECDP has designated three areas of service and support to offer to municipalities, including assistance with GIS and mapping services, planning and administrative support, and education and outreach.

**Local Planning, Erie-Western PA Port Authority (EWPPA) Master Development and Facilities Plan:** The EWPPA completed its landmark plan that will provide guidance for managing a sizeable number of properties/acres it owns along the Erie waterfront.

**Erie County Parks, Trails, and Recreation Plan:** ECDP has been leading an effort to coordinate a municipal level plan throughout the County. This plan is not a county managed plan; rather, it is managed primarily by individual municipalities. ECDP has received an unprecedented level of municipal and agency cooperation. This body of work involved outreach to 30 municipalities and agencies regarding 35 parks and trails. Into 2018, ECDP continues its efforts of moving parks and trails forward. In response, the feedback has a common theme, primarily expressing the municipalities' need for a centralized support system. A centralized system would serve to support the parks, trails and recreational amenities for municipalities that own and operate them. ECDP recognizes the need for organizational capacity to plan and implement regional trail connections. The municipal feedback amplifies an increasing need for better wayfinding, advertisement and accessibility to amenities. It is likely that staff of *eriecountypaoutdoors.org* will seek state agency funding to recreational opportunities and improve public access to beaches.

**Section 309 Update, Climate Adaptation Planning and Community Resiliency:** Kevin Hess provided an overview of the Section 309 assessment and strategy, which focuses on climate adaptation and resiliency program enhancement over the next five years. During this cycle, the strategy will be implemented through a three-part process, including a community outreach program and working closely with DVRPC in Philadelphia. CRM staff will also be reviewing the eleven program policy areas to incorporate and address climate change and resiliency.

**Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan Update:** Allen Landis (DEP Energy & Sustainability Project Manager) described his role in PA's climate change/resiliency planning. Allen updated the CZAC on the progress of the pending *2018 Climate Action Plan*. As part of his William Penn Fellowship with the Governor's Office, Allen spoke to the enabling legislation driving this effort (*PA Climate Change Act of 2008*). The Act created the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) and requires an updated action plan every three years.

The 2018 Climate Action Plan will provide a comprehensive, statewide energy analysis and assessment of Pennsylvania's resource potential. The plan will set a greenhouse gas reduction strategy. Adaptation strategies will identify key vulnerabilities in sea level rise, more frequent

## COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

and extreme weather events, flooding, human health risks, invasive species, and more. A consulting firm is writing the plan which is expected to be published in late 2018. Allen discussed how coastal zone impacts and concerns will be incorporated into the Climate Change Action Plan.

**Discussion of Coastal Zone Advisory Committee Direction:** CZAC members were provided with the Executive Order that created CZAC and its committee by-laws. Discussion followed with a review of the Executive Order, CZAC membership structure and procedures. Members agreed that while CZAC has never had a vice-Chairman, the committee is effective, functioning properly and focused in the right direction. Committee members suggested that any drastic structural changes appear to be a solution in search of a problem. Any CZAC members interested in serving in a larger capacity should let the Program know.

The DEP Policy Office is revising its Advisory Committee Guidelines. The policy was sent to all CZAC members prior to this meeting

**Agency Updates:** Cindy Dunlap (DCNR) provided an overview of the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. DCNR continues its work in partnering with agencies to provide projects such as the recently completed trails projects in the greater Philadelphia area.

Cindy announced the Bureau's grants application period opened on January 2, 2017 and closes in April. This year, DCNR's grant program has a \$44 million-dollar budget and will be directed towards acquisition of parks and trails.

Cindy added that 2018 is DCNR's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Mark Shaffer (PHMC) announced news that a large number of permits PHMC reviews are no longer completed using U.S. mail and hardcopies. Rather, the agency is transitioning into an all-electronic permit review platform. PHMC is using transition assistance with its major partner PennDOT and a contractor, moving away from paper to an online system. This new system allows greater transparency and public comment opportunities.

Mark Lombard (PennDOT) offered to provide a future presentation for CZAC regarding their bridge replacement program or its recent vulnerability assessment report. In other news, in 2018 PennDOT will manage a \$2.4 billion project spending program this year, which includes all types of transportation infrastructure projects. PennDOT also has a list of historic truss bridges which are available for purchase. Mark noted that although costs are a challenge, these bridges may be key to completion of parks and trails projects, while preserving the historic bridge. Mark discussed the new "PennDOT Connects" approach to enhance local engagement and improve transportation planning, design, and delivery. Finally, PennDOT continues to integrate results from its Extreme Weather Vulnerability Study, which could be presented at a future CZAC meeting.

John Van Zandt (PUC) has been promoted and PUC will be naming his replacement for CZAC in the near future. John offered his assistance with any utility-related questions for coastal issues.

## COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Scott Bollinger (PFBC) informed CZAC that in the Lake Erie area, the PFBC continues to work on the Erie Access and Improvement Program. PFBC provided 44 new public fishing easements totaling 22.5 miles of new stream fishing opportunities. In the Delaware, PFBC continues to administer its Boating & Fishing Infrastructure Grants Program for building docks capable of securing boats 26' or larger. Scott highlighted a public dock project in Bristol Borough that was well-received locally.

Shayne Hoachlander (PGC) discussed invasive species control efforts by PGC in the Northwest region of the state. Shayne also announced that he will be retiring in March. Don thanked him for all his dedicated years of collaboration and commitment. Shane believes that Mr. Chris Deal (PGC) will be replacing him, at least temporarily along with PGC alternate Nate Dalik.

**Public Comment:** None

**Other Business:** It was noted that the coastal program will be having its NOAA program evaluation in the future. Accordingly, CRM staff requested recommendations from CZAC members as to how the program and working partnerships could be improved.

Shane (PGC) commented again to reinforce that he will miss working with everyone, and agrees with the committee consensus to not modify the committee structure or format.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

The next CZAC meeting will be held on June 6, 2018.