

MINUTES
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
February 15, 2011

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chairperson Hatala called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. in Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA. The following members were present:

Joyce Hatala, Chairperson	Walter Heine
Mike Krancer, Acting Secretary	Janet Keim
Cynthia Carrow	Pat Lupo
Jim Clauser	Thad Stevens
Gail Conner	David Strong
Eric Conrad	John Walliser

Dan Lapato the former liaison to CAC from the Policy Office informed Council that this would be his last meeting and introduced Chris Gray, who will be the new liaison representing the Policy Office. Chairperson Hatala asked Council members to introduce themselves and thanked Dan Lapato for all his work and being so effective in his job.

The Council considered its first item of business – January 19, 2011 CAC meeting minutes. Pat Lupo moved to approve the January 18, 2011, CAC meeting minutes. Eric Conrad seconded the motion, the motion was carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT

MRAB re-election – Janet Keim moved that Burt Waite and Dave Strong be re-elected to serve on the MRAB, John Walliser seconded the motion, which was approved by Council.

Re-appointments – Joyce informed Council that letters were sent to the appointing authorities regarding re-appointments and vacancies. The Governor's Office acknowledged receipt. There are two vacancies, one in the House and one in the Senate plus two reappointments from each.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joyce asked the audience to introduce themselves and if there was any public comments on agenda item. Present were Bernie Gallagher from the House Appropriations Committee, and Jeff Schmidt, Director of Sierra Club, Pennsylvania Chapter. Mr. Schmidt passed around a letter (without comment) that was sent to Governor Corbett

regarding Marcellus shale drilling issues. Jeff also shared his concerns about Act 54, and about inadequacies in the latest Act 54 5-year report. He urged Council to make an in-depth review of the issues and regulations. He said that the Sierra Club joined with Citizen's Coal Council in requesting an opportunity to present their findings, and that they look forward to working the CAC.

Council had a long discussion regarding setting up a panel on the 5-year report, as well as holding a regional meeting in southwestern Pennsylvania.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Sue Wilson stated that this month's priorities report includes issues raised at last month's meeting and referred to committee for consideration. Sue asked the committees to discuss what projects they wanted to take on first.

Sue spoke about new employees at DEP that she would like to invite to meet with Council, including the new Executive Deputies and Policy Director.

EJAB UPDATE

Nora Carreras, Director of the Office of Environmental Advocate gave an update on two major environmental justice cases that they have been following, one is in the Boro of Eddystone in Philadelphia and one is Hazelton Creek Property, in Hazelton.

The Policy Office and the Office of Environmental Advocacy put together a plain language summary of public participation in the rulemaking process that she shared with members. She is also working on revisions to the plain language summary of the casing and cementing regulations that were promulgated.

CNRAC UPDATE

Kurt Leitholf, Executive Director of CNRAC reported that as of this date there has been no one appointed as Secretary for DCNR. Cindy Dunn is Acting Secretary at the present. Since there is no Secretary, CNRAC canceled their February meeting. He mentioned the possibility of a regional business trip this year being held out west in the Pittsburgh area. Their next meeting is scheduled for March, to be held at Bald Eagle Nature Inn.

Dave asked if CNRAC had comments on the Act 54 report and other issues concerning impacts on wetlands and streams? Mr. Leitholf reported that CNRAC had previously raised concerns about mining too close to the lake. He said DCNR wants to rebuild the dam and restore the lake so people can fish, recreate and otherwise enjoy the lake.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee—Joyce Hatala reported that the Executive committee has an opportunity to meet regularly with Executive Deputy John Hines. N She feels that this is a very positive improvement, and that this makes committees even more important to our work as the chairs can raise issues directly with Mr. Hines.

Administrative Oversight Committee--Eric Conrad reported on the Committee's conference call in early February, which resulted in the draft transmittal letter and draft white paper on permitting. He asked Council to take a hard look at the report, to see if there should be any additions or revisions to the document before submitting it to DEP. After much discussion about the language in the document, Thad made a motion to approve it and Jan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

Air Committee -- John Walliser reported on the committee's February 24 conference call to discuss a draft rulemaking addressing VOC emissions from Flexible Packaging Printing and Lithographic and Letterpress Printing. John moved approval of the letter to be sent to Secretary Krancer; Walter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Environmental Standards – Dave Strong referred to the earlier discussion regarding a panel on the Act 54 report, and stated that the committee will develop a proposal on its next conference call.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sue mentioned that this year marks the 40 anniversary of the CAC. There was much discussion about how to recognize this anniversary. Eric Conrad suggested doing a photo documentary of how things have changed in 40 years.

DEPARTMENT REPORT

Joyce welcomed Acting Secretary Krancer to the meeting. In lieu of a formal report, Mr. Krancer opened the floor up for questions. Sue asked about the personnel changes occurring at the department; he responded that it was too early to report anything at this time. He shared with Council his activities while he seeks confirmation to the post as Secretary of DEP.

Jan expressed her concerns with Marcellus shale and fracking and how this will impact the State's water. Pat also stated that the department must take a closer look on the effects of frackwater. Mr. Krancer assured Council that DEP will pursue strict compliance and regulations and will enforce all laws.

Joyce asked about plans for DEP to be working with other agencies. Mr. Krancer stated that he has already had interaction with PennDot, DCED, Corrections and the Department of Health.

Joyce adjourned the meeting at 2:20pm.

Notice of the February meeting was published in a newspaper of general circulation in Dauphin County and mailed to individuals and offices in compliance with the Sunshine Act (1986-84). These minutes constitute the official record of the Citizens Advisory Council meeting; no official transcript is prepared.