

**MINUTES
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 16, 2019**

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cynthia Carrow, Allegheny County	Jerome Shabazz, Philadelphia County
Mark Caskey, Washington County	John St. Clair, Indiana County
Terry Dayton, Greene County	Thad Stevens, Tioga County
Duane Mowery, Cumberland County	John Walliser, Allegheny County
John Over, Fayette County	Jim Welty, Cumberland County
James Schmid, Delaware County	

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) STAFF PRESENT:

Keith Salador, Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Jerome Shabazz called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA, with a quorum.

DEP REPORT:

Secretary McDonnell provided a brief update on the following:

Restore PA

Last month Governor Wolf announced Restore PA, an ambitious five-point rebuilding plan to improve infrastructure, eliminate blight, prevent flooding, and expand broadband internet access funded through a severance tax. Pennsylvania will invest \$4.5 billion over the next four years on high-demand, high-impact projects. Through Restore PA, DEP would see an improvement in Pennsylvania's stormwater infrastructure, an increase in the number of communities using pollution reduction plans, growth in landbanks, and a decrease in the number of abandoned brownfield sites. The projects will be driven by local input and will ensure that high-priority, high-impact projects are funded.

PFAS Update

On April 15 the PFAS Action Team held a public meeting in Abington, PA. DEP and the Department of Health staff shared insight on efforts to address soil and water contamination and health exposures from PFAS chemicals. A drinking water sampling plan was released last week that will be implemented in May. The plan will identify impacted drinking water supplies from more than 300 public water supplies with elevated potential for contamination. A toxicologist will be contracted to research PFAS studies and recommend a scientifically defensible maximum contaminant level for drinking water. Earlier this year DEP's Bureau of Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields began the regulatory process to update the cleanup standards for perfluorinated compounds. The EQB will consider the proposed regulatory updates this summer.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan III (WIP III)

The draft version of the WIP was released last week. Based on previous conversations with CAC members, the steering committee, and the workgroups, there are no surprises in terms of strategy within the document. The comment period is open until early June.

Driving PA Forward

The Driving PA Forward grants and rebates are still available. The second and third round applications for the \$6.4 million Class 8 Truck and Transit Bus Grant Program are due in May and September. The \$3 million DC Fast Charging and Hydrogen Fueling Grant Program remains open and applications are due in July and December. The first round of applications is currently being reviewed. The \$3 million Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Rebate Program remains open at this time. The On-road Rebate Program has exhausted its funds but will reopen in 2020. Businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and other organizations are eligible to apply for all programs.

Reconfirmation Hearings

Secretary McDonnell's reconfirmation hearings are set for April 30.

Environmental Council of the States (ECOS)

Last week was the spring meeting of the ECOS. Being a national issue, PFAS presentations were given. Discussions were held around LEAN and how to further improve processes in both federal and state programs. The Secretary participated in several panels, including an improv panel on active listening.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

An environmental justice roundtable was held in Philadelphia last week at the Overbrook Environmental Education Center. The Secretary thanked Jerome Shabazz and his organization for hosting the event and for the thoughtfulness and attention to detail that went into organizing the discussion.

PRESENTATION:

Aneca Atkinson is currently both the Director of the Office of Program Integration and the Acting Deputy Secretary for Water Programs. Aneca discussed the Department's activities around a sampling plan and the establishment of an MCL for PFAS and PFOA in the Commonwealth. The Chesapeake Bay WIP, which was a two-year effort, was submitted to the EPA on time. The comment period is open until June 7, and the final WIP is due on August 9. Comments are expected from the EPA no later than the end of June, and all comments will be digested and changes made as necessary. The Water Program has been working on the 2018 Integrated Water Quality Report, pursuant to the 303b and 305b federal Clean Water Act requirements. The March 30 *Pa Bulletin* announced the proposed rulemaking for the fee increase for water quality permits. The public comment period is currently open, and a public hearing will be held the first week in May at the Southcentral Regional Office.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 19, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Shabazz solicited additions or corrections to the February 19, 2019 Minutes.

**Mark Caskey moved to adopt the February 19, 2019 meeting Minutes.
Jim Welty seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Shabazz offered that Keith Salador will be sending out letters to the Governor's Office, the House, and the Senate in an effort to get CAC's five vacancies filled. A conference call was held with members whose terms are expiring to discuss the protocol to be reinstated if they so desire.

Keith Salador stated that he will provide an overview of the CAC at the upcoming Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals' annual conference on May 9 in State College, the theme of the conference being collaboration.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Thomas Gillespie, Professional Geologist and former member and past President of the Pennsylvania State Registration Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists offered detailed comments on DEP's practice of allowing its permit application reviewers to impose either design alterations or directed revisions on legally finalized design documents, which authority is not granted to the Department and is inconsistent with the legal requirements placed on licensed design professionals by the Engineer, Land Surveyor and Geologist Registration Law and implementing regulations.

Harvey Katz, a retired marine biologist, who has conducted many years of basic research into aquatic systems discussed the data he has collected and encouraged the CAC not to listen to the rhetoric related to climate change, but to look closely at actual data.

Mr. Katz also read aloud a letter from Melissa Troutman of Earthworks addressed to Executive Director Keith Salador surrounding the environmental and health issues of spreading of oil and gas wastewater on Pennsylvania roads.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

POLICY AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT (PRO) COMMITTEE

The PRO Committee has a conference call scheduled for early May with the Air Program to discuss two proposed rulemakings. The PRO Committee will report its recommendations at the May CAC meeting.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Cynthia Carrow and Keith Salador suggested that this committee schedule a conference call in May to discuss the various environmental bills being pursued in the General Assembly.

MINING RECLAMATION ADVISORY BOARD

Terry Dayton offered that the MRAB is meeting at the end of April.

SEWAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Duane Mowery stated that the SAC sent a letter to the Secretary expressing interest in joining with the Department to develop criteria and higher priority revisions to Act 537. Revisions to onlot technologies (Act 26 of 2017) is an ongoing process.

WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Water Program reported to WRAC that they are in the process of developing a small project stormwater permit (under five acres) and they are continuing to work with Villanova to update the BMP manual.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Representatives from the Department of General Services (DGS) discussed the Commonwealth's strategy to reduce energy consumption by 3% every year under Executive Order 2019-01. Utility bills of state agencies will be tracked, and the progress will be made public. DGS will also be looking into improving facilities through updating light bulbs, boilers, and other maintenance activities. DEP updated CCAC on efforts being made through the Northeastern Transpiration Initiative, including progress on the work plan necessary to implement the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

James Schmid suggested that the authors of a recent U.S. Geological Survey report on small stream baseflow in Western PA be invited to talk with the CAC members about their findings.

Nicki Kasi of the Chesapeake Bay program will discuss the WIP draft at the May 22 CAC meeting..

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Chairman Shabazz requested a motion for adjournment. Thad Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Terry Dayton, and all were in favor. The April 16, 2019 meeting of the CAC was adjourned at 1:20 PM.