

**MINUTES
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2019**

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Terry Dayton, Greene County	Thad Stevens, Tioga County
Duane Mowery, Cumberland County	Jim Welty, Cumberland County
James Schmid, Delaware County	Tim Weston, Cumberland County
John St. Clair, Indiana County	

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE:

Mark Caskey, Washington County
John Walliser, Allegheny County

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) STAFF PRESENT:

Keith Salador, Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairman Tim Weston called the meeting to order at 10:00 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:

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

The Governor recently signed an Executive Order directing DEP to craft a rulemaking that would align the Department with the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and with the other states who are participating. Climate change is the most critical environmental threat confronting the world and joining RGGI will better protect the health and safety of Pennsylvanians by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. RGGI is a proven market-based solution that has had no significant impact to electricity rates over the last 10 years of existence and an effective mechanism to reduce carbon pollution. The nine current RGGI states have experienced a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions at a pace 90% faster than the rest of the U.S. RGGI's cap and trade system is modeled after the effective regulations to reduce acid rain causing pollutants from power plants in the early 1990s. Without additional action, carbon emissions from power plants will be increasing by 2050. There will be significant opportunity for engagement with the General Assembly, key stakeholders, and residents of Pennsylvania in these early stages. The Department will draft and present a proposed regulation to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) by the end of July 2020.

Climate Change Information Session for the House ERE Committee

On September 19, the Secretary represented the Department at an informational meeting to update the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee on the Wolf Administration's climate change initiatives. DEP received a Greenhouse Gas Cap and Trade Petition in November of 2018 that included a potential regulation designed to create an economy-wide cap and trade system for greenhouse gas emissions. The petition was resubmitted

this past February for consideration at the April 16 EQB Meeting. At that meeting, the EQB accepted the petition for review by the Department. The Energy Programs Office and the Bureau of Air Quality submitted a Request for Qualifications for a contractor to assist with a detailed analysis of the regulation and its potential implementation through a comprehensive report. DEP recently awarded the contract to ICF. For the proposed regulation, ICF will work to develop a program analysis of each sector and a summary report. The sectors that will be analyzed include electricity, manufacturing, transportation, energy production, and delivery for petroleum, natural gas, propane, and coal. These sectors will be analyzed based on different factors, such as how enforcement of the potential regulation would impact the sectors and how it would interact with regulations, programs, and policies already in place. The report is due in the first quarter of 2020. Once DEP completes the report, it will notify the petitioner and the petitioner will have 30 days to provide a written response. DEP will then present the report and any comments from the petitioner to the EQB.

Local Climate Action Assistance Program

The Department is partnering with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA – which is training 37 college students to produce greenhouse gas inventories and climate action plans for local governments. Program participants include 11 higher education institutions in Pennsylvania, as well as 20 local governments, including Erie and Chester Counties, Centre Region Council of Governments, and the cities of York and Reading. The primary purpose of the program is to encourage local governments to develop a greenhouse gas inventory and then develop a climate action plan. ICLEI is currently providing training webinars and technical assistance for participants. Four training webinars have been provided focusing on data collection for various greenhouse gas emission sources, such as energy, waste, transportation, wastewater, and water energy. The greenhouse gas inventories are expected to be finalized by the end of 2019, and the individual climate action plans will be completed during the spring semester of 2020.

DEP Clean Energy Program Plan

The Energy Programs Office submitted a Request for Qualifications for a contractor to develop a DEP Clean Energy Program Plan. The report is intended to be a near-term planning document for the agency and organizations who partner with DEP to inform current and future DEP energy program planning activities. The report is intended to synthesize the energy and environmental work that has been accomplished into one cohesive, strategic clean energy program plan with recommendations for actions in the one to three-year time frame. The plan will assist in identifying near-term program actions needed to achieve Pennsylvania's long-term environmental protection goals, such as leading by example and supporting in-state clean energy production. One contractor responded to the bid, and the bid document has been reviewed and determined to be responsive. The Energy Programs Office is now awaiting the successful execution of the Purchase Order and will then schedule a project kickoff meeting within a few weeks. The Department intends to receive a final report by April of 2020.

DEP Environmental Education Grants Program

The 2020 DEP Environmental Education Grants Program round is scheduled to open on October 31, 2019. Mini-grants will be awarded for local environmental education projects up to \$3,000. There will be two levels of general grants offered: Level I General Grants may be

awarded in amounts ranging from \$3,001 to \$20,000 for implementation of large-scale regional or statewide environmental education projects. Level II General Grants may be awarded in amounts ranging from \$20,201 to \$85,000 for non-formal projects engaging youth and teachers at the local, state, and national levels. Additionally, the programs must demonstrate that at least 30% of program participants are members of an Environmental Justice community. The 2020 grant round opens on October 31 and closes on December 31. Grant awards are planned to be announced on Earth Day, April 22, and awarded projects may begin on July 1, 2020.

Regional Roundtable

The Secretary recently completed his latest regional visit in the northcentral part of the state, touring Graymont Limestone, the Wayne Township Landfill, and Grafius Run in Williamsport which has been terribly affected by flooding. The Secretary visited Turtle Creek with the U.S. Geological Survey looking at wetland and streambank restoration projects, as well as the Clean Water Institute and the Big Level Wind Farm where 3.6 megawatt turbines are being installed.

Discussions with regional staff included interactions between central office and regional offices, assessing how conservation districts are managed, permits, and the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act. Additional discussion surrounded the potential development of non-supervisory technical tracks with the agency.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 20, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Vice Chairman Weston solicited additions or corrections to the August 20, 2019 Minutes. Hearing none, the Vice Chairman requested a motion to approve the Minutes.

James Schmid moved to adopt the August 20, 2019 meeting Minutes.

Terry Dayton seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 MEETING MINUTES:

Vice Chairman Weston solicited additions or corrections to the September 17, 2019 Minutes. Terry Dayton requested that the Minutes be corrected to reflect that while the September 17 CAC meeting opened with quorum, the quorum was lost part way through the meeting. With this correction, the Vice Chairman requested a motion to approve the Minutes.

Thad Stevens moved to adopt the September 17, 2019 meeting Minutes.

Duane Mowery seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION:

Tim Bruno, Chief of the Office of the Great Lakes Program, has served with DEP for 16 years. Tim discussed at length DEP's Great Lakes program and its efforts to meet regional commitments, the history of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and annexes, Lake Erie's phosphorous status and Pennsylvania's Phosphorus Reduction Domestic Action Plan, provisions of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and Agreement, water usage in the Lake Erie Basin, and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and its partners, which include the Erie County Health Department, the Erie County Department of Planning, the Regional Science Consortium, and the Pennsylvania Sea Grant.

2018 CAC ANNUAL REPORT:

Vice Chairman Weston solicited final comments to the 2018 CAC Annual Report. Hearing none, the Vice Chairman requested a motion to adopt the final report.

James Schmid moved to approve the 2018 CAC Annual Report.

John St. Clair seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

EQB ELECTIONS:

Cynthia Carrow, Mark Caskey, Duane Mowery, John St. Clair, and Jim Welty were nominated as full members. Alternates will be James Schmid, Terry Dayton, and John Walliser.

CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Keith Salador attended the recent Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee (LLWAC) meeting and reported that low-level waste disposal availability for generators in the Commonwealth is sufficient at this time. There are enough resources in the two commercial facilities in Texas and Idaho to dispose of the state's radioactive waste. A quick presentation was given on Three Mile Island now that it is no longer in operation. Decommissioning the plant will be a long process and may be a topic for a future CAC meeting in 2020.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION:

Keith Salador polled the members on Cynthia Carrow's proposal to avoid potential travel issues in the winter months. CAC's regular schedule has been to meet 10 months out of 12, skipping August and December. The new proposal is to skip December and January. The members voiced no opposition to changing the meeting schedule going forward. If rulemakings are submitted in December and/or January that require full CAC approval, a conference call, open to the public, can be scheduled.

The November 19 CAC meeting will be a joint meeting with the Environmental Justice Advisory Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Vice Chairman Tim Weston requested a motion for adjournment. Terry Dayton moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Thad Stevens, and all were in favor. The October 15, 2019 meeting of the CAC was adjourned at 12:20 PM.