

**MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING  
OF CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
October 20, 2020**

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robert Barkanic, Lehigh County	James Schmid, Delaware County
Cynthia Carrow, Allegheny County	Jerome Shabazz, Philadelphia County
Mark Caskey, Washington County	John St. Clair, Indiana County
Bill Fink, Bedford County	John Walliser, Allegheny County
Mitchell Hescox, York County	Tim Weston, Cumberland County

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chairman Shabazz called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Chairman Shabazz solicited additions or corrections to the August 18, 2020 Minutes. Hearing none, the Chairman requested a motion to approve the Minutes.

**Mitchell Hescox moved to approve the Minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting. James Schmid seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

**DEP REPORT:**

In the absence of Secretary McDonnell, Ramez Ziadeh, DEP's Executive Deputy Secretary for Programs, provided a brief update on the following:

***Drought Update***

There are currently three counties, Clinton, McKean, and Potter, on drought warning and 29 counties on drought watch. The counties on drought watch are in the northern tier of PA between Armstrong and Wyoming Counties. No drought emergencies have been declared for any counties. DEP drought watch and warning recommendations are based on stream flow and groundwater level data from a statewide network of gauges maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey, precipitation and soil moisture, and information received by public water suppliers. Drought status recommendations are made after assessing any departures from the normal range for all indicators for a period of 3-12 months. The Department and the Drought Task Force are continuing to monitor the drought situation throughout Pennsylvania, and the most up-to-date drought information, as well as information on which public water systems have implemented either voluntary or mandatory

water use restrictions for their customers, can be found on DEP's website at [www.dep.pa.gov/drought](http://www.dep.pa.gov/drought).

### ***Drive EV Webinars***

The Department, along with PennDOT and other partners in the Drive Electric PA Coalition, recently held free, public informational webinars on the benefits and basics of driving electric vehicles. Multiple webinars were designed for local governments, businesses, fleet managers, and the general public explaining the basics of electric vehicles and available incentives in Pennsylvania. The live webinars were attended by a total of more than 250 people. Recordings of the webinars and responses to frequently asked questions are available on DEP's website at [www.dep.pa.gov/AmpedEVWebinarSeries](http://www.dep.pa.gov/AmpedEVWebinarSeries) for anyone who is interested in learning more.

### ***Environmental Education Grants***

The Environmental Education Grants program was established by the Environmental Education Act of 1993, which mandates setting aside five percent of the pollution fines and penalties that DEP collects annually to be used for environmental education in Pennsylvania. On September 17, DEP announced the availability of \$400,000 for youth and adult environmental education projects in 2021-22. While all topics are considered for funding, projects that address climate change, environmental justice, and water quality are given priority consideration. Projects with a local focus may receive up to \$3,000, and regional or statewide initiatives may receive up to \$20,000. Projects that engage students and teachers at the local, state, and national levels may be awarded up to \$85,000. Applications for an Environmental Education Grant must be submitted through the eGrants system, and instructions on how to use eGrants can be found on the "Environmental Education Grants" webpage on DEP's website. The application deadline for this round is December 11, 2020.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

#### ***Aimee Erickson***

Ms. Erickson is Executive Director of the Citizens Coal Council located in Washington County. The Citizens Coal Council completed a review of the fifth Act 54 report and will send a copy of its 100-page report to the CAC on October 28. Ms. Erickson requested that the CAC members read the report prior to the November 17 meeting. She requested a slot on the November CAC agenda to provide a PowerPoint presentation on the Citizens for Coal Council findings.

***Abigail Jones***

Ms. Jones is the Vice President of Legal and Policy at Penn Future. PennFuture supports the proposed addition of a human health toxic criterion for the manganese standards of a 0.3 mg/L limit; however, it strongly opposes the proposal to change the point of compliance to the point of water supply. Ms. Jones requested that the CAC join in PennFuture’s support of the more stringent manganese limit and keeping the point of compliance at the point of discharge where it belongs to protect all citizens of Pennsylvania and all uses of the waters of the Commonwealth.

***Faith Zerbe***

Ms. Zerbe is a scientist with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and she echoed the comments shared by Abigail Jones. She believes the rulemaking can be positive if it is done in the right way and if it is not allowed to be dismantled by the quarry and mine operators. Ms. Zerbe believes the most stringent standard for manganese is needed for both the health of the human brain, as well as for aquatic life. In accordance with the EPA health advisory, the standard should be 0.3 mg/L.

**CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE UPDATE:**

Jill Whitcomb, Director of DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Office, provided an update on the Phase III watershed implementation plan, including PA’s progress, current challenges, and next steps.

**CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***Policy & Regulatory Oversight Committee***

Chair: Tim Weston

Members: Cynthia Carrow, Mark Caskey, Bill Fink, Jerome Shabazz, Thad Stevens, John Walliser, Jim Welty

Chairman Weston offered that there have been no meetings and no regulations since CAC’s last meeting. The committee does expect several rulemaking packages from the Air program in the next quarter.

***Legislative Committee***

Chair: Cynthia Carrow

Members: Thad Stevens, John Walliser, Jim Welty

Chairman Carrow offered that the committee has not met. She will communicate with Executive Director Salador on several legislative proposals that the CAC might want to visit.

### ***Strategic Issues Committee***

Chair: Bob Barkanic

Members: Mark Caskey, Mitchell Hescox, James Schmid, Tim Weston

Chairman Barkanic offered that the committee has not met but will do so before the next CAC meeting.

### ***Act 54 Work Group***

Chair: John Walliser

Members: Cynthia Carrow, James Schmid, John St. Clair

Chairman Walliser offered that the committee has not met since the last CAC meeting. The committee did receive DEP's response to the Act 54 report and requested that Executive Director Salador schedule a meeting with the full Council to review the response and recommend follow-up actions.

### ***Public Participation***

Chair: Jerome Shabazz

Members: Bill Fink, John Walliser

Chairman Shabazz offered that the committee will hold a meeting prior to the November 17 CAC meeting.

### ***Advisory Committees***

Executive Director Keith Salador reported that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee is setting up a circular merchant for business-to-business reuse of items that may be repurposed instead of going into landfills.

Keith attended a Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee meeting. The committee reported that there has been no increase in radiation waste trends.

Keith also attended a meeting of DCNR's Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Committee. Secretary Dunn reported that the outdoor economy has seen a significant increase during the pandemic. DCNR recently released an outdoor recreation plan and has out for comment a PA science education standard rulemaking.

### **EQB ELECTIONS:**

Executive Director Salador stated that the EQB election results were as follows:

Bob Barkanic, Cynthia Carrow, John St. Clair, John Walliser, Jim Welty.

Mark Caskey and James Schmid will serve as alternates.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Chairman Shabazz tabled discussion on the SOP until the November 17 meeting.

The Chairman offered that video meetings are not mandatory. Individuals should not feel left out or feel compelled to participate in a process that is not available because of the lack of technology.

**NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION:**

Chairman Shabazz announced that Terry Dayton recently resigned from the CAC. Subsequent discussions will include the best way to recognize Terry for his efforts on the Council.

CAC members expressed interest in understanding DEP's budget. Executive Director Salador will begin the process by requesting a presentation from the Department.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**With no further business, Cynthia Carrow moved to adjourn the meeting. Bill Fink seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The October 20, 2020 meeting of the CAC adjourned at 2:15 PM.**