

**MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING
OF CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
June 15, 2021**

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Barkanic, Lehigh County
Jacquelyn Bonomo, Luzerne County
Cynthia Carrow, Allegheny County
Lori Dayton, Greene County
Bill Fink, Bedford County
Mitch Hescocx, York County
Duane Mowery, Cumberland County

John St. Clair, Indiana County
Trisha Salvia, Cumberland County
James Schmid, Delaware County
Jerome Shabazz, Philadelphia County
Thad Stevens, Tioga County
John Walliser, Allegheny County
Jim Welty, Cumberland County

Executive Director

Keith Salador

CALL TO ORDER:

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

CAC ELECTIONS:

With only one nominee for each of the positions, Jerome Shabazz and Tim Weston were successfully re-elected as Chair and Vice Chair.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Shabazz solicited additions or corrections to the May 19, 2021 Minutes.

Duane Mowery requested that the Minutes be revised, under the Act 34 report, to reflect the date of the meeting of the Senate and House Environmental Resources and Energy Committees as April 27.

Jerome Shabazz made a motion that the May 19, 2021 Minutes be revised to reflect the correct date of April 27, 2021 and moved that the Minutes be approved upon revision. James Schmid seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

DEP REPORT:

In Secretary McDonnell's absence, Darrin Bodnar, Executive Deputy Secretary for Administration and Management, provided a brief update on the following:

Pandemic Workload

Following the order from Governor Wolf on March 16, 2020 to close all Commonwealth offices to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Department transitioned to full-time telework. Since then the Department has conducted 108,283 inspections, processed 44,155 permit applications and authorizations, 94% of which have been within the Permit Decision Guarantee timeframe, and responded to 350 environmental emergencies related to issues critical to public health and safety.

Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant Awards

DEP recently announced more than \$3.4 million awarded in 2020 Alternative Fuel Incentive Grants to 20 cleaner fuel transportation projects. The AFIG awards will put 209 cleaner fuel school buses, garbage trucks, package delivery trucks, and other vehicles in use, including the first electric tractor-trailer to receive AFIG funding. Four projects will install a propane fueling station and 10 electric vehicle chargers, including two that will be solar powered. More than half the projects will help improve air quality in environmental justice communities. DEP will be opening the 2021 AFIG program soon with two submission periods, one ending in August and one ending in December, with approximately \$5 million available. Announcements on when the next grant round will officially open will be provided on DEP's Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant program webpage.

IT/HR/Return to Work Update

IT

The agency is currently working on four main projects: electronic permitting, electronic inspections, electronic content management, and electronic grants.

HR

DEP has an authorized complement of 2,513 salaried positions, salaried vacancies of 232, and a vacancy rate of 9.2 percent. Just prior to the pandemic, the agency had approximately 100 more positions filled than it did at the beginning of the Wolf Administration. Since then there has been a steady decline because of the hiring freeze, the pandemic, the rescission of employment offers, and attrition. With the loosening of the hiring freeze and the reopening, HR will be asked to be more assertive in filling positions.

Returning to the Office

The Department will be returning to onsite work in July, the details of which are still being worked out, and are expected to be fully reopened by the end of August. The telework program will be continued, with many folks having the benefit of teleworking from home part-time.

Spotted Lanternfly Season Warning

The Spotted Lanternfly has been found in 34 Pennsylvania counties and are a huge threat to Pennsylvania's agricultural industry. The economic impact could total in the hundreds of millions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs for those in the grapes, apple, hops, and hardwood industries. It is imperative to first kill any lanternflies seen and then go to the PA Department of Agriculture's website or call 1-888-4BADFLY to report the sighting. This is particularly important for sightings outside the 34 Pennsylvania counties currently known to have Spotted Lanternflies.

PRESENTATIONS:

2021 Climate Impacts Assessment

Lindsay Byron, Climate Program Manager in DEP's Energy Programs Office

This comprehensive presentation discussed DEP's climate program, the 2021 climate impacts assessment report, and Pennsylvania's ongoing energy and climate efforts.

Pennsylvania Energy Storage Assessment

Geoff Bristow, Regional Energy Program Manager, DEP's Energy Programs Office

An overview was provided on what energy storage looks like in Pennsylvania today, an analysis of energy storage potential, barriers to energy storage, and policy recommendations to improve the current situation.

2021 Pennsylvania Clean Energy Industry Workforce Development Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis

Kerry Campbell, Energy Program Manager, DEP's Energy Programs Office

This presentation discussed the need for new entrants into the clean energy workforce, current employment statistics and overall hiring difficulties in that workforce, and provided an employment gap analysis with recommendations for moving forward.

CAC REPORTS:

Environmental Quality Board

The EQB approved a final rulemaking regarding administration of the Land Recycling Program to update the statewide health standard for medium specific concentrations and toxicological data in connection with response actions at remediated sites and remediation based on current information available.

The EQB also approved a second rulemaking regarding amendments to Chapters 88 and 90 relating to anthracite coal and coal refuse disposal respectively to implement Act 74 of 2019 and resolve differences between the Commonwealth and federal regulations relating to temporary cessation of coal refuse disposal sites and also to clarify several items related to the design of coal refuse disposal sites.

A third rulemaking was approved by the EQB to establish a maximum contaminate level for perfluorooctanic acid, known as PFOA, based on available data, studies and science, and consideration of all factors, such as health effects, technical limitations, and costs, in determining MCML level.

Act 54 Committee

The committee recently received language from the Department on draft revisions for the Technical Guidance Document. A meeting will be convened in July to discuss the revisions and the committee will report back to the full Council with some reflections at the September meeting.

Policy & Regulatory Oversight Committee

On June 1 the Bureau of Air Quality briefed the committee on a draft final form rulemaking for the Control of VOC Emissions from Gasoline Dispensing Facilities, Stage 1 and Stage 2. The rulemaking provides for the decommissioning of Stage 2 equipment, two new leak tests and testing on an annual basis, requires low polluting nozzles and hoses, and allows for the option to use new technology. After the Air Quality briefing, the PRO committee unanimously voted to recommend that the full CAC recommend that the final form rulemaking be presented to the EQB for consideration.

Jerome Shabazz made a motion that the CAC recommend that the draft final form rulemaking for the Control of VOC Emissions from Gasoline Dispensing Facilities, Stage 1 and Stage 2, be forwarded to the EQB for consideration. James Schmid seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION:

With the impending reopening of DEP's offices, thoughts we solicited on the return to in-person meetings. After some discussion, Chairman Shabazz suggested the possibility of finding two strategic months annually to convene in person. A poll will be sent to the members seeking recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Chairman Shabazz moved to adjourn the meeting. James Schmid seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The June 15, 2021 meeting of the CAC was adjourned at 3:30 PM.