

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
January 18, 2022**

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Barkanic	Trisha Salvia
Cynthia Carrow	James Schmid
Lori Dayton	Jerome Shabazz
Jacquelyn Bonomo	Thad Stevens
Jamie Bracey-Green	John Walliser
Bill Fink	Jim Welty
Mitch Hescox	Tim Weston
Duane Mowery	

CAC STAFF PRESENT:

Keith Salador, Executive Director
Kate Cole, DEP Policy Office

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Shabazz called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Shabazz solicited additions or corrections to the November 16, 2021 Minutes.
Hearing none:

Chairman Shabazz made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 16, 2021. Thad Stevens seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

DEP REPORT:

Standing in for Secretary McDonnell, Executive Deputy Secretary for Programs Ramez Ziadeh provided a brief update on the following:

DEP 2022 Priorities

- The *Office of Water Programs* will continue to focus on the long-term success of watershed restoration efforts.
- One of the main priorities of the Oil and Gas Program will be to establish a stable source of funding that moves away from well permit application fees.
- The Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations will focus on finalizing regulations related to prohibiting the use and possession of electronic liquid-vaporizing devices at underground mine operations and clarifying parts of DEP's regulations related to noncoal mining operations in Pennsylvania.
- The Office of Waste, Air, Radiation and Remediation will continue to move forward with the proposed Carbon Dioxide Budget Trading Program rulemaking for Pennsylvania to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The Bureau of Air Quality will work to finalize a

rulemaking covering control of emissions from existing oil and natural gas production facilities, compressor stations, processing plants, and transmission stations. The Department hopes to work with the Legislature to update the state's Covered Device Recycling Act to ensure Pennsylvanians have convenient access to recycle old electronic devices at no cost to them and to modernize Pennsylvania's Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act. DEP will continue to monitor the shut-down of Three Mile Island Unit 1 and decommissioning of TMI Unit 2 and hopes to work with the Legislature to develop radon-related legislation so schools and daycares will be tested for radon and radon resistant new construction will be used throughout the state. The agency hopes to work on rulemakings to address vanadium toxicity values/MSCs and to address the calculation of soil lead values.

- The Office of Environmental Justice is working to ensure that environmental justice continues to be thoroughly considered throughout all of DEP's programs and is actively working to update the Environmental Justice Policy, which should be out for public comment this year.
- The Energy Programs Office has prioritized actions that will advance PA's readiness for electrification of transportation systems and building systems, will assist PA's transition to a greater percentage of energy generation mix to be supported by clean energy sources, and increase PA's ability to deploy a trained clean energy workforce.
- The Vector Management team plans to expand mosquito control services in 2022 and help fund cleanups for litter and tires to eliminate containers that contribute to mosquito breeding.

Federal Infrastructure Funding Update

The anticipated federal infrastructure funding will impact nearly all programs at DEP. The Department and the Administration have been planning out timelines to ensure the funds are applied for, accepted, and used within the allotted timeframes included in the bipartisan infrastructure law; discussing staffing needs to implement the increased funds; ensuring collaboration among various program areas and agencies as needed; exploring contract models for applicable program areas to ensure projects can be awarded and completed on time; and ensuring that DEP's Fiscal and Grant Center and the Contracts, Procurement, and Bonding divisions are well prepared to aid all programs. The Department is awaiting additional guidance from the federal level on the specifics of the funding.

Chesapeake Bay Grant Awards

On December 16, Governor Wolf announced \$17.4 million in grant funding for projects in 33 counties across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The funding included \$15 million from the Pennsylvania Environmental Stewardship Fund, primarily the Growing Greener Program, and \$2.4 million from the EPA. The grants support coordination of the Bay counties' Countywide Action Plans, implementation of pollution-reducing best management practices, and verification to ensure that BMP projects maintain their pollutant reduction goals. All 34 counties that were asked to develop Countywide Action Plans to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution have now completed them. The 2021 grant funding is geared toward enabling county teams and partners to build on the record progress Pennsylvania is making in the watershed.

A question and answer session followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments. Executive Director Salador did receive written comments from Three Mile Island Alert which he provided to CAC members.

PRESENTATIONS:

Food Waste to Renewable Energy

David Althoff, DEP Energy Programs Office

Larry Holley, DEP Bureau of Waste Management

Robert Young, DEP Energy Programs Office

This presentation provided an overview of the Food Waste to Renewable Energy Assessment, including its relationship to the Climate Action Plan; the goals of the Assessment; food waste management pathways; agricultural, industrial, commercial, and institutional food waste generation in PA; organics processors within the state; GHG emissions reductions and energy generation through the processing of food waste; and recommendations and next steps.

The floor was opened for comments and questions.

Radon Awareness Month

Bob Lewis, DEP Bureau of Radiation Protection

January is National Radon Action Month. Bob Lewis discussed current public service announcement venues, targeted communities, townships and counties in the current campaign, a re-entrainment study, and radon program activities, including proposed legislation related to testing and mitigation in schools, radon testing during real estate transactions, and radon resistant new construction.

The floor was opened for comments and questions.

CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Policy and Regulatory Oversight

The subcommittee recently met and heard a presentation from DEP with respect to a proposed final rulemaking for the control of VOC emissions from oil and natural gas sources. The Department proposed the rulemaking back in December 2019 and received over 4,500 written comments. The comments and the Department's responses were reviewed, as well as changes that had been made to the regulation. After reviewing all the comments, the subcommittee arrived at the conclusion that it should recommend to the full CAC that it send a letter to the EQB in support of the proposed final rulemaking.

Tim Weston moved to recommend that the CAC send a letter to the EQB in support of the proposed final rulemaking. Jim Schmid seconded the motion. Mitchell Hescox abstained. The remainder of the committee approved.

Act 54 Workgroup

A meeting has been scheduled for the last week of January to follow up on the Act 54 report.

Strategic Issues

A meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks, and the new Chair, Jacquelyn Bonomo will report back to the full committee at the March meeting.

Legislative Committee

Regarding HB 610, the subcommittee heard presentations from Tri-Cog Land Bank, the Housing Alliance of PA, and others. Keith Salador has requested an analysis from DEP to help inform the subcommittee's opinion, which has not yet been received. Keith will follow up with the Department.

Public Participation

The subcommittee has a plan to begin shortly.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

The next meeting of the CAC will be February 15, 2022 at 12:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Chairman Shabazz moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Barkanic seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The January 18, 2022 meeting of the CAC adjourned at 3:20 PM.