

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

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

Bob Barkanic, Lehigh County	James Schmid, Delaware County
Jaime Bracey-Green, Philadelphia County	Jerome Shabazz, Philadelphia County
Cynthia Carrow, Allegheny County	Thad Stevens, Tioga County
Mitch Hescox, York County	John Walliser, Allegheny County
John St. Clair, Indiana County	Jim Welty, Cumberland County
Trisha Salvia, Cumberland County	Tim Weston, Cumberland County

**CAC STAFF PRESENT:**

Keith Salador, Executive Director

**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 September 20, 2022 Minutes.  
Hearing none:

**Tim Weston made a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 20, 2022 meeting. Mitch Hescox seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

**DEP REPORT:**

Acting Secretary Ramez Ziadeh provided an update on the following:

*Driving PA Forward Truck and Bus Fleet Grant Awards*

DEP announced \$2.9 million in grant funding to replace old diesel trucks and school buses with zero- and low-emission vehicles. The funding comes from Pennsylvania's share of the national settlement with VW. The Wolf Administration has awarded more than \$64 million statewide from that settlement. The new Driving PA Forward Truck and Bus Fleet Grant projects will take 42 old diesel trucks and buses off the road, replacing them with electric, propane, compressed natural gas, and new clean diesel vehicles. Two school districts, one municipality, and one business received funding.

*Agricultural Energy Efficiency Rebate Program*

DEP's Energy Programs Office re-opened the Agriculture Energy Efficiency Rebate Program for Pennsylvania farmers and agricultural producers on September 17. Approximately \$150,000 is available from the rebate program this year. The program is open on a first-come, first-served basis as funding remains available or through March 31, 2023. Rebates are being offered for three technology categories which provide proven energy savings and can help reduce operating expenses. They include energy efficient lighting systems, energy efficient ventilation equipment,

and energy efficient dairy equipment. Program details can be found on the DEP agriculture energy website: [www.dep.pa.gov/agricultureenergy](http://www.dep.pa.gov/agricultureenergy)

### *PA Sustainability Summit*

From October 3-7, the Pennsylvania GreenGov Council hosted the Pennsylvania Sustainability Summit, a free, virtual conference featuring leading sustainability experts, elected officials, state agency leaders, and policymakers who discussed policies, programs, and funding initiatives designed to help advance energy efficiency, climate resiliency, and create a more sustainable future for the Commonwealth. DEP staff took part in planning the events and presenting on various resiliency topics and Department efforts.

### *Management of Fill Policy Outreach and Efforts*

DEP has recently taken steps to raise awareness about the use of clean fill vs. fill materials that may cause contamination, aka “dirty dirt.” DEP wants residents and contractors in Pennsylvania to make sure fill materials that may contain or cause contamination are not accepted or used. To educate folks on good practices when transferring and using fill, as well as to highlight potential pitfalls in receiving “dirty dirt” from a provider who claims the fill is “clean fill,” DEP has developed a poster targeted toward residents and contractors located in the Northeast portion of Pennsylvania where fill is commonly imported from neighboring states. The poster was developed in collaboration with Conservation Districts in the Northeast region, and DEP has partnered with the Conservation Districts to distribute and display the informational poster. The poster is available on DEP’s eLibrary, along with the Management of Fill Policy. Additional information about DEP’s fill program, including FAQs, is available on the waste program’s website: <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Land/Waste/SolidWaste/Residual/Pages/default.aspx>.

### *Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence 2023*

The Department has begun accepting applications for the 2023 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence. Applications can be submitted to DEP now through December 21, 2022 and is open to any Pennsylvania business, farm, government agency, educational institution, and non-profit organization that has created, or participated in, the development of a project that promotes environmental stewardship in Pennsylvania. To be eligible for consideration, projects must have been completed between October 4, 2021 and October 11, 2022. Application information and FAQs can be found at the Department’s Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence webpage:

[www.dep.pa.gov/about/awards/environmentalexcellence](http://www.dep.pa.gov/about/awards/environmentalexcellence).

### *Follow-Up from September Meeting Regarding the Number of Wells to be Plugged with IIJA Funding*

The estimate is that Pennsylvania could potentially receive up to \$400 million over the next five years, which funds would have to be fully expended within ten years. DEP estimates that the average cost to plug a well is \$68,000. Based on that estimate, anywhere between 3,500 and 5,000 wells could be plugged with the IIJA funding.

Q&A included discussion of funds remaining in Driving PA Forward, maximizing funds within the IIJA, and Phase III WIP milestones.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

**Larry Holley, Program Manager**

**Bureau of Waste Management**

### **Recycling Program Overview**

The presentation provided an introduction to Act 101, including background, successes, and new challenges from recycling contamination; the economic impacts and environmental benefits of recycling; details of recycling in PA, including municipal recycling programs, recyclable materials, organics management, household hazardous waste, recycling education, and used oil recycling; municipal waste management planning generation and disposal; program funding; emerging issues and technologies; recommendations; and looking to the future.

Q&A included the challenges of plastic and glass, handling of exported waste, potential bans on materials and enforcement, drop-off sites and initiatives, and challenges around waste reduction.

**Larry Holley, Program Manager**

**Bureau of Waste Management**

### **Managing Pennsylvania's Electronic Waste**

The presentation provided a background on the global problem of waste electronics, possible health impacts of waste electronics, and effects on residents and local government; statutory requirements and implementation; management by manufacturers, management by state and local government, funding mechanism, removal of the landfill ban, retrievable cells, and enforcement authority; and a recommendation of amendments to the Covered Device Recycling Act.

Q&A included the mechanics of allocating costs among industries of PA, the need for modernization of Act 101 to make sure that all Pennsylvanians have access to free, convenient e-waste recycling, and the disposal of solar panels.

## **TRANSITION PAPER:**

Two members have signed up for topics. Several others have offered to help with final editing. Volunteers interested in working on the transition paper should contact Keith Salador.

## **CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### ***EQB***

At the October 12 meeting, the EQB adopted the following:

- Final Rulemaking: Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule
- Final Rulemaking: VOC RACT Requirements for Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Surface Coatings, Large Petroleum Dry Cleaning Facilities and Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry Processes for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS
- Final Omitted Rulemaking: Control of VOC Emissions from Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Sources

### ***Public Participation***

The committee discussed identifying public communication sources within DEP to get information out to the public, revitalizing the idea of an online newsletter with the assistance of

journalism students or interns across the state working for credit, and seeking more DEP teams to provide updates to build stronger bonds.

**NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION:**

***EQB Elections***

EQB members will be Bob Barkanic, Cynthia Carrow, Trisha Salvia, James Schmid, and John Walliser. Alternates will be John St. Clair and Jim Welty.

Thad Stevens urged a positive vote on House Bills 2404, 2405, 2406, and 2407 related to stream maintenance.

The next meeting of the CAC on November 15 will be a joint meeting with the Environmental Justice Advisory Board.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**With no further business, Chairman Shabazz motioned to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, and the October 18, 2022 meeting of the CAC was adjourned at 2:30 PM.**