

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
May 9, 2023**

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Barkanic	John St. Clair
Jacqueline Bonomo	James Schmid
Jamie Bracey-Green	Jerome Shabazz
Cynthia Carrow	Thad Stevens
Bill Fink	John Walliser
Mitchell Hescox	Jim Welty
Duane Mowery	Tim Weston

CAC STAFF PRESENT:

Max Schultz, Interim Executive Director, Citizens Advisory Council

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Chairman Shabazz solicited additions or corrections to the February 14, 2023 Minutes. Hearing none:

James Schmid made a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting. Jamie Bracey-Green seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

DEP UPDATE:

Ian Harlow, Executive Deputy Secretary for Administration and Management

The Administration is currently engaged in budget negotiations with the Department of Environmental Protection (the “Department”). It is expected that there will be a slight increase in the amount of state dollars received (approximately \$9.5 million); \$41 million is sought for the Clean Water Fund to offset personnel costs and the remainder would be funding for 47 new positions, 15 of which will be in the Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands, 15 to the Bureau of Air Quality, and 17 dedicated to the RGGI initiative. The Department is carrying 275 vacancies, 204 of which are in the process of being posted or a candidate being selected. DEP was successful in working with the Governor’s Budget Office to get its complement increased by 25 positions. The CAC Executive Director vacancy is expected to be posted for internal and external distribution in the near future, and the posting date will be shared with the Council.

DEP is working to modernize its infrastructure and IT systems and has hired a Chief Customer Service Officer. The Chief Customer Service Officer is tasked with engaging communities, stakeholders, and businesses and will identify shortcomings within the agency, as well as process improvements. The Secretary has also established a Center for Environmental Excellence, headed by Saleem Chapman. Both the Customer Service Office and the Center for Environmental Excellence will report directly to the Secretary and will provide a continuous

feedback loop. Mr. Harlow explained how the Chief Customer Service Officer and Center for Excellence are key to the Department's four pillars: operational excellence, environmental justice, cultural competence, and climate leadership.

Q&A encompassed staff vacancies; revenue sources to cover costs; positions created over the last year; an explanation of the 17 RGGI positions and the handling of RGGI funds; and a request for feedback on the budget implications of the Chesapeake Bay settlement. A question was raised about the DEP Electronic Waste Fact Sheet that was previously promised to the Committee. Mr. Harlow will follow-up with the department and provide an answer.

IIJA/IRA PROJECTS UPDATE:

Louie Krak, Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

Abbey Cadden, a long-time member of the Department's Policy Office, has joined Mr. Krak as a Department of Environmental Protection Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator. Both Mr. Krak and Ms. Cadden report to Bryan Regli, Executive Director of Critical Investments, Office of the Governor. Mr. Regli oversees all federal funding opportunities.

This presentation covered the sources of IIJA funding for various Department programs, including Mining, Oil and Gas, Energy, Environmental Justice, Water, Waste and Brownfields, the National Dam Safety Program, and Coastal Zone Management.

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

This presentation provided details on home electrification rebates, greenhouse gases, and clean energy tax credits.

Q&A involved topics such as the initial grant and formula grant funding for plugging wells, the release of funds or rescission processes, environmental justice pollution prevention dollars, and prioritization of spending.

CARBON CAPTURE UTILIZATION & STORAGE

Kristin Carter, Assistant State Geologist, Pennsylvania Geologic Survey

This presentation described the current status of Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) in Pennsylvania and how the technology will be vital to the Commonwealth's future energy transition. Ms. Carter also discussed federal level activities related to CCUS, state level projects that Pennsylvania Geological Survey has undertaken, and how Pennsylvania can be best prepared to deploy and utilize the technology.

Q&A encompassed the type of water supplies needed, impacts to wells (gas/oil) and drinking water, how the Department's programs could provide assistance, and whether DCNR is giving consideration to being a host of a sequestration project.

HYDROGEN HUB DEVELOPMENT

Joanne Kilgour, Executive Director, Ohio River Valley Institute

This presentation provided information on hydrogen hubs in the region and across the United States, the timeline for Department of Energy decisions on hydrogen hubs, and the legal and

regulatory landscape. Ms. Kilgour also highlighted some of the concerns with the technology including economic challenges, insufficient demand, extremely high cost, and significant environmental justice objections.

Q&A encompassed the status of hydrogen pipelines, how hydrogen would impact current infrastructure, and the possible need for additional assistance from taxpayers.

ACT 54 REPORT

John Stefanko, Deputy Secretary, Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations (AAMO)

AAMO indicated its awareness of the CAC's concerns with AAMO's Act 54 reports. AAMO noted that it reported back to the CAC on several occasions and that its sixth Act 54 report is currently in progress. AAMO will take all previous comments into consideration, and is working to incorporate those comments and find a solution.

Q&A encompassed the nature of the Sixth Act 54 Report and whether it resembles the preceding reports, CAC's displeasure with the reports generally, and the outdated BUMIS system.

TEAM PA

Abby Smith, President and CEO

This presentation focused on carbon capture and hydrogen deployment in the areas of agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and life sciences. In particular, Ms. Smith detailed the work that is being done, accomplishments to date, and participating industry leaders, organizations, and stakeholders.

Tom Murphy

Topics of this presentation included the ability of hydrogen hubs to bring diverse supply chains together, connecting with stakeholders to define and execute strategies for community engagement, workforce and economic development, and program monitoring.

Q&A involved discussion of environmental impacts and regulations needed for the deployment and utilization of hydrogen hubs and CCUS. Feedback was requested by Team PA on the improvement of programs to address potential issues in advance.

CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Strategic Issues

Jacqui Bonomo

The presentations on carbon capture and hydrogen decarbonization laid very basic groundwork. The committee will meet to discuss the environmental impacts and perhaps request further deep dive presentations. Send thoughts to Jacqui Bonomo, Jerome Shabazz, or Max Schultz.

Public Participation

The committee is due for new nominations for officers. Cynthia Carrow has been charged with pulling together a nominating committee.

Policy and Regulatory Oversight

The committee held a short meeting. If there are matters other than air issues, please advise the committee.

Act 54

John Walliser

After the February CAC meeting, a synopsis letter was drafted and shared with the committee. Mr. Walliser requested consideration for approval of the letter to be submitted to the Department.

Council members discussed whether a vote would be an endorsement of the letter alone or include the Act 54 Report and appendices. Council members also discussed whether the comments should be distributed to the Governor and the House and Senate Committees and posted on Council's webpage.

John Walliser made a motion to support the letter with a modification made by Max Schultz and endorsed by Jerome Shabazz that the CAC does not support the Act 54 Report and appendices. James Schmid seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION

Max Schultz advised that the new Room 105 technology is expected to be fully functional for the June 13 CAC meeting. The Chairman would like to see the full Committee meet in person during calendar year 2023.

ADJOURN

With no further business, Tim Weston motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jacqui Bonomo seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The May 9, 2023 meeting of the CAC was adjourned at 3:50 pm.