

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
August 27, 2013
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
14th Floor Conference Room
Rachel Carson State Office Building**

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT INCLUDED:

Christina Simeone, Mark Hammond, Steve Krug, Darren Gill, J. Scott Roberts, Michael Winek, Robert Graff, Luke Brubaker, George Ellis, Rep. Greg Vitali, James Warner

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES ABSENT INCLUDED:

Paul Opiyo, Ed Yankovich, Robert Bear, Laureen Boles, Seth Cassell

PROXY VOTING:

Christina Simeone for Laureen Boles and Michael Winek for Robert Bear

PA DEP AND COMMONWEALTH AGENCY STAFF INCLUDED:

Dean Van Orden (DEP), Mark Brojakowski (DEP), Jessica Shirley (DEP), Vince Brisini (DEP), Rob Altenburg (DEP)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC INCLUDED:

Marie Cusick (StateImpact PA), John Pippy (PCA), Karen Melton (Sierra Club)

REGULAR MEETING:

The regular meeting of The Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) was called to order on August 27, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. by Committee Chairperson Christina Simeone. Members and guests introduced themselves. With the eleven members present and the two official proxies, a quorum was established.

Mr. Van Orden gave a brief report on the status on the vacancy created within the Department's Climate Change program with the departure of Mr. Sherrick. Dean stated the interviews for the position have been conducted and a replacement should be named within the next month.

Ms. Simeone posed a question as to the status of the vacancies remaining within the committee. Mr. Van Orden reported that the Department has not had any notification from any legislative offices concerning appointments to the committee. There remain five vacancies.

Ms. Simeone questioned the Department on the status of the Climate Change Impact Assessment Report. She stated that it has been a year since the report was presented to the committee. Ms. Shirley replied that the report was still undergoing the review process within the Department. Mr. Ellis added that he wanted to know how the committee can produce an action plan without the report for guidance. Representative Vitali asked that the report be tracked down and a follow-up be submitted to the committee, specifically requesting the name of the person in the review process with whom the report currently resides. Ms. Shirley said she would do that.

MINUTES:

Meeting minutes from November 29, 2012; December 14, 2012; January 3, 2013 and January 4, 2013 were presented to the committee prior to the meeting for review. Motions to accept the minutes were made by Mr. Warner and seconded by Ms. Simeone. The motions carried.

WORK PLAN DISCUSSION & VOTING:

Forty (40) work plans were presented to the committee members prior to this meeting for review and endorsement consideration. The following work plans were discussed and acted upon:

Coal Mine Methane – Endorsed - 13 yea- 0 nay- 0 abstained - The committee noted that assumptions about natural gas prices should be consistent across all work plans.

Manure Digesters – Endorsed - 13 yea- 0 nay- 0 abstained

Sulfur Hexafluoride – Endorsed - 13 yea- 0 nay- 0 abstained - The committee recommended minor changes to this work plan and requested DEP to send a revised version of the work plan for review before the next meeting.

Durable Wood Products - Not Endorsed - 2 yea-11 nay- 0 abstained - Concerns included lack of detail implementation about how to increase demand for durable wood products in PA.

Forest Protection Initiative (Easement) – Endorsed - 9 yea- 4 nay - 0 abstained

Forest Protection Initiative (Acquisition) – Endorsed - 8 yea- 5 nay- 0 abstained

Re-Roof Pennsylvania – Endorsed - 9 yea- 4 nay- 0 abstained

Increased Recycling Initiative – Endorsed - 13 yea- 0 nay- 0 abstained

Diesel Anti-Idling Program – No CCAC action required; recent legislation

Biofuel Development and In-State Incentive – No CCAC action required; recent legislation

Reforestation – Held back by the Department for further consideration and DCNR review. Discussion points included: Feasibility, calculations, cost effectiveness and end use of timber.

Alternative Fueled Public Transit Fleets – Not voted on; motion to table by Ms. Simeone for edits pertaining to a general chapter write-up to address CH₄ leakage from natural gas production and transportation; motion carried.

Discussion points included: Leakage rate of CH₄ from unconventional NG production and cost.

Alternative Fueled Taxicabs – Not voted on; tabled pending chapter write-up to address CH₄ leakage from natural gas production and transportation.

Increased AEPS – Not voted on; pulled by DEP for further consideration after a 25-minute committee discussion which resulted in no resolution.

Discussion points included: no subcommittee meeting concerning this work plan revision, stakeholder/industry solicitation, high electricity prices, grid reliability, PUC support and data contained in tables.

Increasing Ridership and Efficient Passenger Transit – Remove as work plan and only include in chapter write-up.

A total of 15 of the 40 work plans were acted upon by the committee. Seven (7) received the committee's endorsement, one (1) was not endorsed, two (2) required no action on behalf of the committee (recent legislation), two (2) were held back by the Department for further consideration, two (2) were tabled for edits and one (1) was removed as a work plan.

Mr. Van Orden stated that committee member comments on the work plans that have already been endorsed should be submitted to the Department no later than September 16, 2013. The voting record listing the endorsed work plans will be distributed to the committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S): None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Graff, and seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.