

**June 15, 2022 Meeting of the
Coastal Zone Advisory Committee**

The regular meeting of the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee (CZAC) was called to order by Kristina Peacock-Jones at 9:30 a.m. This meeting was held in hybrid format, offered in person meeting space in RCSOB Room 105 and virtually via Microsoft Teams. There were two in-person attendees, (Sean Gimbel and Casey Hanson), all other non-DEP staff attended remotely.

The following committee representatives were in attendance:

Kristina Peacock-Jones	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP)
Casey Hanson	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)
Justin McKeel	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)
Sean Gimbel	Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC)
James Spatz	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Corey Brown	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Nicole Auker	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Cynthia Dunlap	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
Erin Wiley-Moyers	Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Northwest Region
Darin Clark	Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC)

The following agency representatives (non-CZAC members) were present:

Randy Brown	DEP, CRMP Southeast Regional Staff
Stacey Box	DEP, CRMP
J. Samantha Burton	DEP, CRMP
Joe Sieber	DEP, CRMP
Brian Chalfant	DEP, Policy Office
Shelby Clark	DEP, CRMP Northwest Regional Staff
Joy Fronzoli	Erie County Department of Planning and Community Development (ECDPCD)
Amy Verbofsky	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
Tom Hughes	Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)

Introductions:

Kristina Peacock-Jones began the meeting at 9:30 a.m., welcomed attendees, then led the introductions.

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Review and Approval of Minutes:

Kristina Peacock-Jones asked for approval of minutes from the previous CZAC meeting of January 12, 2022. There were no comments or requested changes. Casey Hanson made a motion to accept the minutes and Sean Gimbel seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Coastal Resources Management Grant Program Update:

Stacey Box reported that the 2022 coastal grant applications were reviewed by CRMP staff and submitted to NOAA for its review and approval. The Department received 26 applications, including 16 from DECZ and 10 from LECZ. CRMP expects a slight increase in NOAA grant funds for this year. The FY2021 grant awards announcement was made in conjunction with an accompanying DEP press release.

Upcoming grant application workshops for the FY 2023 grant round are scheduled for August 2022. At this time, the coastal program awaits news from NOAA regarding the status of the anticipated new, federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) program guidance and funding possibilities, and if Pennsylvania will be asked to submit full proposals for any of the three letters of intent being submitted at the end of June.

Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone Update:

Amy Verbofsky (DVRPC) presented updates of recent project development activities in the Delaware Region. Amy began with highlights of major trail projects including the official opening of the Delaware River Trail, a bi-directional pedestrian and bike trail which already has heavy daily use by walkers and bikers. In development is the Bridesburg Riverfront Park, a nice 10-acre park, and the Phase II completion of the K&T Trail.

PennDOT funds of \$2.6 million dollars are being directed to City of Chester for the Highland Avenue and Philadelphia projects. In addition, Amy discussed a number of additional projects with the highly anticipated project planning for the Penn's Landing waterfront development, an 11.5-acre park. This project has a projected completion date of 2026.

Lake Erie Coastal Zone Update:

Joy Fronzoli (ECDPCD) shared Erie County news and project updates with the group, starting with a reminder that Erie's Tall Ships Festival is set for August. Next, Joy covered a wide array of projects recently completed or underway in Erie County. Currently, there are several major development activities under plans and/or construction on the Erie Bayfront. In addition, Joy updated the group on recent Erie-Western Port Authority efforts, and the Master Development and Facilities Plan. Joy shared photos of other projects including the State Street retaining wall, enhancement projects, and the construction of the West Canal Basin Seawall.

Joy noted the local group known as the Community Resilience Action Network of Erie (CRANE). CRANE is undertaking a community vulnerability assessment to identify vulnerabilities, address resiliency and climate change preparedness. Joy provided CZAC with

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additional information, and to visit the CRANE website at: www.pacrane.org. Finally, Joy highlighted several developing local and regional trails plans that will open new public access opportunities and serve residents of Erie County and beyond.

Section 309 Update 2021 Strategy and Assessment:

Samantha Burton (DEP) updated the group on CRMP's Section 309 Strategy and Assessment and its continued development of the enhancement strategy. In this effort, CRMP is complying with the established Section 309 of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act which encourages states to assess its coastal management programs and determine priority management issues to address over a five-year period. Pennsylvania's most recent 309 document was finalized in June 2021 and staff began implementing the new strategy in October of last year. The current effort will continue until September of 2026.

This most recent assessment resulted in development of two strategies, one for each coastal zone, supporting both coastal hazards and cumulative and secondary impacts "enhancement areas." Strategy #1 will integrate and strengthen climate adaptation and resiliency planning in the Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone (DECZ) through two parts:

CRMP is analyzing the possibility of a boundary expansion in the Southeast based on a 2019 recommendation from NOAA to include areas that are anticipated to be impacted by climate change and sea level rise. Key factors to be analyzed include underserved communities, public access linkages, green infrastructure opportunities, and cultural resources. To date, staff have developed an internal working map hosted on ArcGIS online with over 20 data layers reflecting various considerations, including DVRPC's most recently developed inundation and flooding scenarios. By visualizing these many intersecting factors, staff will delineate areas for expansion consideration by year 2 of the project. In year 3, CRMP will obtain stakeholder feedback, including the public and local municipalities comments regarding a final proposed boundary option in year 4.

Samantha stated that the second part of this first strategy will continue CRMP's partnership with DVRPC to build upon climate adaptation activities in the DECZ. CZAC was riveted to Samantha's presentation as she noted that the strategy will include further development on the online *PA Coastal Resiliency Story Map*, such as tools focused on economic resiliency or risk reduction. This strategy also focuses on the facilitation of multi-municipal cooperation to address stormwater and related flooding. The program is currently exploring options to become more involved – staff have recently joined the Darby Cobbs watershed partners team as part of a resilience building project led by Drexel University.

Strategy Two in the Lake Erie Coastal Zone will focus on ways to characterize and manage stormwater impacts on bluff erosion. CRMP will take a comprehensive approach to identify the locations and impacts of stormwater, determine why erosion is occurring, and develop outreach and education BMPs. Six-months into year one of this strategy, program staff continue to gather information and meet with local partners. Staff have utilized GIS and remote imagery to locate potential outfalls, which will be added to a working map (already in development) to correlate

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erosion issues with these areas. Staff anticipate completing fieldwork on a pilot area this summer to document suspected impacts and further refine the project scope.

Casey Hanson of the PHMC, presented an overview of the PHMC's "State Historic and Archaeological Resource Exchange" (PA SHARE) Initiative. Casey began by describing the structure and roles of the PHMC's State Historic Preservation Officer, the PHMC's five bureaus and the overarching authorities of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and the PA History code.

Pertaining to CZAC agencies and partners, PHMC advises and assists agencies in complying with Section 106 of the NHPA, conducting project reviews related to archaeological and historic structures. Most often, the PHMC serves an advisory role throughout the state while working to minimize or mitigate adverse effects to resources. Vital to this service is the long-anticipated and recently completed PA SHARE online database. PA SHARE is a state historical and archaeological resource exchange complete with GIS technology. Given the wide scope of projects, applications and questions presented to the PHMC, project reviews used to take a considerable amount of time. Today, PA SHARE has cut review time in half which has improved service for the Commonwealth.

Agency Updates:

Sean Gimble, PFBC, reported that the PFBC Climate Action Plan will be released very soon. Additionally, Sean provided updates on seven different projects underway or completed in both coastal zones which were made possible via PFBC funding and staff resources.

Cynthia Dunlap noted that DCNR funded a total of 317 projects, doubling its past totals made possible by increased revenue (up \$30 Million from last year).

Public Comment:

Kristina Peacock-Jones asked if there were any comments from the public. There were no public comments.

Other Business:

Kristina Peacock-Jones commented that CRMP biologist Kevin Hess has retired, and the Department is in the process to replace his position. In addition, Kristina announced that she will be leaving CRMP to go to a position within the DEP mining program.

Adjournment:

Kristina thanked everyone for attending. Casey Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting, Sean Gimble seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.