

**MINUTES OF
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
April 8, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

Bob Barkanic, CAC Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 12:34 PM.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

George Ambrose	John St. Clair
Bob Barkanic, Chair	Trisha Salvia, Vice Chair
Jacqueline Bonomo	Jerome Shabazz
Katie Hetherington Cunfer	Thad Stevens
Bill Fink	John Walliser
Jason Foster	Jim Welty
Duane Mowery	

DEP STAFF PRESENT:

Ian Irvin, Executive Director
Casey Damicantonio, Policy Office
Joshua Neyhart, Policy Office

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Barkanic solicited additions or corrections to the March 11, 2025, Minutes. Executive Director Irvin made one correction, regarding the incorrect spelling of a name:

Thad Stevens motioned to approve the Minutes of the March 11, 2025, Meeting, as amended. Jerome Shabazz seconded the motion.

The motion on approving the amended minutes was unanimously passed.

DEP REPORT ON CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Lindsay Byron, DEP Policy Office

Colleen Unroe, DEP Energy Programs Office

This presentation discussed the ways in which climate change, as a result of the release of greenhouse gas emissions associated with human activities, disproportionately impacts vulnerable Pennsylvanians related to climate. Eight workshops were held across the state, in both rural and urban areas, to inform communities about the Climate Action Plan, solicit feedback on sectors and measures, to understand how the measures will impact communities, and to provide relevant resources. Small group discussions were formed after the presentation to enhance dialog and get a sense of what hazards are impacting the communities and the kind of benefits that could come from climate action planning and other important considerations that might have been missed. In total, 145 people attended the eight sessions.

Q&A involved how folks would know what hazards are impacting them the most and the method(s) used to advertise the workshops in advance.

PRESENTATION:

Steve Figgatt, Founder and CEO of Sycamore International, Inc.

This presentation provided information on electronics and solar panel recycling, Sycamore's background and experience, the high-level circular economy, and the outside industry.

Q&A included the customer base around e-waste recycling, examples of school districts with whom Sycamore works, supplies from outside the U.S. and the assessment of tariffs, possible ways to inform the design process so recycling can be better facilitated, and the research that is being conducted on lithium battery recycling.

Harry Campbell, Science Policy and Advocacy Director Pennsylvania Office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

The goal of reducing pollution by 40% in the Chesapeake Bay by the end of 2025 looms large. With the work continuing to be done through community engagement, restoration, policies, education, legislation, and litigation, the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed can be restored for not only the economy and quality of life, but also for the well-being of communities throughout Pennsylvania and the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation's strategic plan includes particular emphasis on legislative priorities over the next two years.

Q&A included an effort to come up with a new Bay agreement for the federal and state partners that would establish goals and outcomes and the number of farms in Pennsylvania sitting within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative Committee

Discussions involved the chart that the Executive Director put together to track bills that are in the House Environmental Natural Resource Protection Committee, House Energy Committee, and the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee and engagement needed with stakeholders on the bills that are most important to DEP and the CAC. Bills specifically discussed were the stream maintenance bills, Senate Bill 403 and 404, sponsored by Senator Yaw.

The Executive Director mentioned that the House Environmental and Natural Resource Protection Committee met on April 7 and passed the Coal-Tar Asphalt Sealants bill.

Lengthy discussion occurred regarding Act 34 of 2021, Alternate On-Lot Systems, and the time it has taken the Department to act.

Public Participation Committee

The committee met this past week and dealt with several issues, including the ebb and flow of public participation and follow up with public commenters. The committee decided to make a formal referral to a committee of the CAC to follow up with a boilerplate email saying that their remarks were heard and had been referred to the appropriate committee for response. The committee discussed having a physical presence with DEP at the Farm Show, possibly even holding a session there during Farm Show week.

Strategic Issues Committee

Did not meet in March.

Solid Waste Recycling Fund Advisory Committee

The Executive Director sat in on the meeting two weeks ago for the solid waste aspects. Nothing to report.

Recycling Fund Advisory Committee

Because of declining recycling fee revenues, there is a proposed change to the formula to increase grant awards. The Executive Director will update the Council as more details become available.

Environmental Quality Board

There was consideration of a final rulemaking on water quality standards and site-specific water quality criteria for a landfill in **New York**.??? That was passed not quite unanimously, but nearly so.

There was consideration of a proposed rulemaking on the legal authority for delegation of federal plans and 40 CFR 62, the chromium issue. It was a referral to move it on up through to the rulemaking process and that was pass unanimously.

There was consideration of a proposed rulemaking on administration of the land recycling program and that passed virtually unanimously.

Finally, there was a controversial issue for consideration of a rulemaking petition from several air and water quality groups relative to unconventional well setbacks which caused concern among the Board, and it was tabled for the moment.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION

Letter to DEP on Reforestation of Mine Lands

The Executive Director has not received any supplemental edits or comments and recommended sending the letter to the Secretary about the various steps that the Council is recommending.

**George Ambrose moved to accept the report as submitted.
John Walliser seconded the motion, and all were in favor.**

2024 Annual Report

The Executive Director proposed to move forward with the 2024 annual report.

**Thad Stevens moved to accept the report as submitted.
John Walliser seconded the motion, and all were in favor.**

Katie Hetherington Cunfer

The Executive Director advised that Katie Hetherington Cunfer is now a member of the Council and volunteered to work on the Legislative Committee and the Public Participation Committee. Per the CAC By-Laws, no motion or vote is required.

The By-Laws do state that the Council has to vote on appointments to various other advisory committees. Chair Bob Barkanic solicited a motion that Katie Hetherington Cunfer be appointed to the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board.

Bill Fink motioned to that Katie Hetherington Cunfer be nominated to the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board. Duane Mowery seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

A vacancy remains on both the Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board and the Aggregate Advisory Board.

Nominations Committee

The By-Laws require that nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair be made in May. A Nominations Committee consisting of former Chairs Jerome Shabazz, Bill Fink, and John Walliser contacted the current Chair and Vice Chair, who both agreed to serve another term. A formal vote will be taken at the June CAC meeting.

Future CAC Meetings

The Chair solicited input from the members about the frequency of CAC meetings, how long the meetings are, how many presentations are being given, the possibility of travel meetings and field trips, and excused absences.

USEPA's Waters of the United States Hearing Sessions

Listening sessions are being held on April 29, an Industry and Agricultural Stakeholder session on May 1 in the morning, and an Environmental and Conservation session in the afternoon of May 1.

Public Engagement

Duane Mowery thanked the Executive Director for setting up a meeting with the County Conservation District Managers. The opportunity to engage with the regulated community was appreciated. He and the Executive Director are now attempting to triage all of the issues presented.

The next meeting of the CAC will be May 13, 2025, at 12:30. The EQB has been canceled that day.

ADJOURNMENT:

Katie Hetherington Cunfer motioned to adjourn the meeting. George Ambrose seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The April 8, 2025, meeting of the CAC was adjourned at 3:26.