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COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 13, 2007

Attendees:

Amy Kachonik	Department of Environmental Protection, OWM
Andrew Zemba	Department of Environmental Protection, WPO
Angela Watson	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Ann Safley	Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, BHP
Carolyn Wallis	Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (DCNR)
Chris Linn	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
Dan Snowden	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Jeff Reed	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Jeffrey Dewey	Department of Environmental Protection, WPO
Jerry Woomer	Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
John Booser	Department of Environmental Protection, WPO
Patricia Grim	Governor's Policy Office
Philip Robbins	Department of Conservations & Economic Development
Robert Wisener	Erie County Department of Planning (via teleconference)
Shamus Malone	Department of Environmental Protection, WPO
Zach Hetrick	Department of Environmental Protection, WPO

Mr. Zemba called the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee meeting of June 13, 2007 to order at 9:34 a.m.

Mr. Zemba asked for review and approval of the January 2007 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved via voice vote.

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Mr. Malone spoke regarding the bluff regulations. There is an amendment package for Erie that is still being reviewed internally and soon will be sent for senior approval. They worked with cities to agree on a proposed recession rate from 50 to 25 feet. Local Municipalities must review proposal.

Mr. Zemba agreed to go to the municipalities first and thought the decrees to 25 feet should be sufficient to present to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB).

Mr. Malone noted that 50 feet was the original regulation.

Ms. Grim asked about regulation rates for Erie as compared to other cities. It was explained that each township/municipality may have their own setback, however, most must remain at 50 or above.

Mr. Zemba explained the history of aerial photography.

Mr. Dewey spoke about the PA Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP). He commended Chris Linn and DVRPC on the job they did drafting the document for PA. The draft CELCP document completed a thirty-day public comment period with no comments received. It is currently undergoing DEP executive approval and then will be submitted to NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) for final approval. None of the three 2007 CELCP application submitted by PA made the funding list. No announcement has been made yet regarding the three 2008 CELCP applications that PA submitted.

Ms. Wallis asked about these regarding the amount of money. Applicants can request up to three million dollars per projects with a one-to-one match requirements.

Mr. Zemba also explained who makes the final decision.

Ms. Wallis asked about timing for projects.

Ms. Grim asked about resubmission for projects if they are not approved. Mr. Zemba responded that previous applications could be resubmitted. Each state can submit up to three projects per grant round and for the previous two rounds PA received three applications total, so all three were submitted each year.

Mr. Booser asked if any of the current submissions are from last year.

Mr. Zemba confirmed that they are not.

Mr. Zemba presented an update on the 2007 Coastal Zone grants. The grants have been submitted to NOAA, with roughly a 10 percent reduction in funding this year bringing funds from 2.2 million last year to approximately 2 million this year. Additionally, the 310 money was eliminated from the budget for this year. This was money that went to the conservation districts to address non-

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point source pollution. Mr. Zemba noted that we are working to provide partial funding this year to the districts and expects that the funding may likely be reinstated to the budget for next year

Mr. Zemba explained that the Ethics Commission has slowed down the grant approval process by about one month this year since the grant applications had to be reviewed by a third party. Approvals are expected in August.

Ms. Grim pointed out that the Governor is appealing the Ethic's Commission ruling.

Mr. Linn questioned the rating on grants as to whether or not they are appropriate, as they are all competing against each other and that it provides checks and balances with one another. He also pointed out that all applicants are to sign a letter.

Mr. Dewey spoke about the 2008 project criteria and that the grant round for 2008 funding will open August 27 and will close Oct 22.

Mr. Zemba pointed out that the selection criteria would be the same as last year.

Ms. Grim asked if and how the keystone principles were being incorporated into the 2008 Grant Selection Process.

Mr. Zemba explained that the Keystone Principles have been folded into the upcoming 2008 Grant Application. The Grant Application also lists the selection criteria. He also explained that due to the ethics considerations, the use of local steering committees may be adjusted and the DEP may have to develop a different selection system, but those decisions would be made after the 2008 Grant Application has done its internal review.

Ms. Grim asked about packets that are sent out to the applicants.

Mr. Zemba answered that the selection criteria is sent out with the packets.

Ms. Wallis commented that DCNR selected six of the Keystone Principles from the list that are being used for the basis of grant prioritization.

Mr. Dewey also provided that NOAA's requirements shape the CZMP's selection criteria and requirements which are included in the Grant Application now partnered with the Keystone Principles and the Secretary's Priorities, all of which work to determine which projects are the best fit for funding.

Ms. Grim asked a question about the Growing Greener approvals from April and how they were handled.

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Mr. Linn wanted to discuss the aspect of filing order ranked in accordance to importance. He said order of importance in not necessary, after the previous discussion of having it taken off and now it is back on again.

Mr. Zemba said he would discuss this further with staff. In the end, it was determined that the list given to the committee was not the most recent update. The most updated version of the selection criteria list that was put into the 2008 Grant Application says that they are only listed below and does not mention that they are in any order of importance.

Ms. Grim asked about using a point system for selection.

Mr. Zemba said that he is not using a point system.

Ms. Wallis said there is no consistency, she pointed out that their other programs do use points. This was something that Jim Nagy was following closely.

Mr. Zemba then suggested taking terms of importance off.

Mr. Linn said the local communities have their own criteria close to the state's criteria so it was kept the same.

Ms. Watson spoke about the grant process and how no one criterion is more important than another (in old meeting minutes). She also spoke about criteria verses guidelines.

Mr. Zemba agreed to change to guidelines.

Mr. Wisener said the Erie Bayfront Convention Center will open August 1, 2007. The adjacent hotel is due to open in April 2008. The GAF plant, which is located west of the Convention Center closed at the end of March. A committee has been formed to determine the best use of the land. Currently, DEP staff is working with GAF to complete an environmental study to determine what contaminants are on site and if any remediation is needed. He also spoke about a \$54 million bio-fuel plant that will create 40 new jobs in Erie and create 45 million gallons of soy bean based biodiesel a year. He also spoke about Shades Beach Safe Harbor in Harborcreek Township. A boat launch, beach, and pedestrian walkway for fishing will be created. The project will cost \$2.6 million. The Presque Isle Downs Casino opened in Erie. A portion of the profits will go to Erie County, which is approximated at \$11 million annually. The County is determining the best way to distribute the revenues. .

Mr. Linn spoke about a number of other initiatives:

Green airport initiative

Chester Down Casino (to help a depressed area)

Sugar House Casino (plant calls for public access to greenways which is a CZ requirement)

Skidding on runways

Mitigation Registry

Waterfront in Philadelphia (better waterfront)

Penn Praxis (group helping with outreach)

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Mr. Zemba asked for Mr. Linn to send him information on Penn Praxis.

Ms. Wallis spoke about “Smart Conservation” and agriculture resources.

Mr. Linn spoke about CZ money for feasibility studies and Philadelphia’s green plant.

Mr. Booser asked to comment on climate change report by EPA.

Mr. Zemba announced the dates for the next two meetings for 2008, which are January 16 and June 11.

Mr. Robbins spoke about keystone principles “friendliness” to the Coastal Zone program

Ms. Wallis spoke about Conservation Landscape Initiatives (CLI). This is the area where the highland and Schuylkill intersect.

Mr. Malone asked if there is anything in the Northwest and also asked about information on the website.

Ms. Grim answered that there is nothing yet, hopefully in a couple of months.

Ms. Wallis asked about funding in 2008.

Mr. Zemba noted that there is a need for an Executive Director for the Delaware Estuary (retiree).

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Robbins and seconded by Mr. Woomer.

Meeting was closed at 10:57 am.