

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**June 26th, 2018**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Conference Room 105**

**Rachel Carson State Office Building**

**MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Chairperson Steve Krug  
Sara Nicholas  
Joseph Sherrick  
Lindsay Baxter  
Luke Brubaker  
Zakia Elliott  
Robert Graff  
David Buzzell

Patrick Henderson  
Gary Merritt  
Joe Morinville  
Meredith Graham  
Leda Lipton  
Timothy Vickey  
Zachery Smith  
Representative McCarter

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Vice-Chairperson Terry Bossert  
Paul Opiyo

**PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF:**

Jessica Shirley, Kerry Campbell, Allen Landis, Abbey Cadden, John Kerecz

**INVITED GUESTS:** Bill Prindle, Cassie Bhat, and Wendy Jaglom (ICF Inc.), Joshua Schnitzlein (Lycoming County)

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Evan Endres, Deb McCarter, Jaret Gibbons, Alissa Burger

**MEETING:**

The June 26th, 2018, meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Krug. With 16 of 18 seated members present at the start of the meeting, a quorum was established.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the April 26th, 2018, CCAC meeting were presented to the committee by Mr. Krug for approval. A motion to accept the minutes, as presented, was made by Mr. Henderson. Following this, there was a discussion on including a recording of the public comments in the minutes, instead of a summary. Following the discussion, the original motion was seconded. The motion carried by a voice vote, with two votes oppose votes (David Buzzell & Meredith Graham) and one abstain vote (Rep. McCarter).

**MEETING SUMMARY: (This narrative provides a summary of the discussions that took place during the meeting. It is not a transcript of the proceedings.)**

### **Membership Update**

There are a number of terms expiring in July, and there was a discussion on what those members should do to get reappointed. Further, there was a discussion on Mark Hammond's email to the DEP and the Committee about recommendations to the Legislature on changes to Act 70. It was recommended to discuss that email at a later date, since Mr. Hammond was not present to discuss. The CCAC now carries three vacancies (one Senate majority, one Senate minority, and one House majority).

### **DEP Energy Programs Update**

Kerry Campbell, DEP, provided an update on the DEP program reorganization, primarily that there is now an Energy Programs Office and that office will be the primary liaison for the CCAC, not the Bureau of Air Quality.

Mr. Campbell then went on to update the committee on the status of the Pennsylvania Solar Future Plan, Electric Vehicle and Alternative Fuel programs, and CHP microgrid project. The Pennsylvania Solar Future Plan is now in final draft form, and will be released for public comment on July 7<sup>th</sup>. The Pennsylvania Roadmap is also in final draft form, and will be released later this summer. The Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant, which provides funding for alternative fuel vehicle and infrastructure projects, will be reopening in July. Finally, the CHP/Solar microgrid project, located at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, is nearing completion and will be fully operational soon.

### **Department of Environmental Protection GP-5 Presentation**

Krishnan Ramamurthy, DEP, provided an overview of GP-5A, GP-5, and Exemption 38. He reviewed that on January 19, 2016, Governor Tom Wolf launched a groundbreaking Methane Reduction Strategy to reduce methane emissions from natural gas well sites, compressor stations and pipelines. In response, DEP is enhancing its oversight of air emission requirements under federal and state law in order to reduce emissions that harm human health, reduce potent GHG emissions that contribute to climate change, and prevent the waste of Pennsylvania's valuable natural resources.

Formal public comment periods were open from February 14, 2017 – June 5, 2017 (proposed general permits) and from March 31, 2018 - May 15, 2018 (draft final general permits). 9,357 individuals and organizations commented during the first public comment opportunity and 32 provided comment during the second. DEP also received extensive input from advisory boards and committees, and industry and environmental organizations. The final GP-5A, GP-5, and Exemptions List was published in the PA Bulletin on June 9, 2018, with an effective date of August 8, 2018. DEP has prepared a Comment and Response document for both comment periods, as well as a technical support document, all of which are available on DEP's website.

In summary, the permits will continue Pennsylvania's leadership in regulating air emissions from the oil and gas industry; maintain provisions to find and reduce methane leaks to mitigate the impact of natural gas production, processing, and transmission on climate change; implement sensible requirements to reduce emissions that impact human health and the environment; create a clear, understandable, and implementable general permit for facilities in the natural gas industry; and reduce waste of valuable Pennsylvania resources.

### **DEP Driving Pennsylvania Forward Update**

Jessica Shirley, DEP, provided an update on the Driving Pennsylvania Forward program. Some of

the grants are already open, with more programs being rolled out this summer and fall. Following that update, there was a discussion about the selection of level one compared to level two charging stations for workplace charging.

**Presentation from Lycoming County and Resilient PA - Resiliency Plan for Greater Muncy, PA**

Joshua Schnitzlein presented an overview of the work he is leading in Lycoming County aimed at making the city of Muncy more resilient to flooding. A good portion of Muncy, particularly historical and residential portions, is located in a flood plain. This leads to periodically devastating flooding to the area, making some locations inhabitable or dangerous.

Mr. Schnitzlein is leading a stakeholder engagement effort to identify the best ways to make the city more resilient to flooding. The effort focused on creating a resiliency plan for the area, guided by a local advisory committee and partnerships with Penn State University students who help with design plans.

**Public Comment(s):**

None.

**ICF – Work Status Update:**

Bill Prindle, Cassie Bhat, and Wendy Jaglom of ICF, Inc., discussed ICF’s progress on the Climate Action Plan (CAP), including the Energy Assessment Report, adaptation & mitigation strategies, and modeling.

With the Energy Assessment Report, ICF went over the final release timeline as the product begins to be finalized for publication.

ICF then went on to describe the overview of strategies selected for the Plan, highlighting that:

- 20 integrated strategies across 8 sectors
  - Strategies have both mitigation and adaptation benefits
  - 12 strategies are considered mitigation focused
  - 14 strategies are considered adaptation focused
- Each strategy covers a wide range of potential actions
  - Including government, citizen, and business actions
  - 7 strategies include quantified actions

ICF then went through each strategy that was modeled and discussed the assumptions used for each one. The strategies being quantified are as follows:

1. Promote a diverse portfolio of clean, utility-scale electricity generation.
2. Promote clean, distributed generation resources
3. Reduce upstream impacts of energy production
4. Increase end use energy efficiency
5. Promote sustainable transportation planning and practices
6. Promote the production and use of alternative fuels
7. Promote agricultural best practices

ICF went on to describe the process for selecting adaptation strategies, as well as why adaptation strategies should be included. The reasons for adaptation are primarily:

- Since Pennsylvania is already experiencing higher temperatures, more frequent extreme events and flooding, and other climate changes – and those trends are expected to accelerate over the next several decades.
- Changes could fundamentally impact how infrastructure, governments, and businesses operate.
- With change comes to opportunity to mitigate risks and capitalize on opportunities.
- Everyone has a role to play, including state and local leadership, businesses, and citizens.

Given all of that, ICF developed strategies that address expected impacts across sectors, are appropriate for early action, and have Greenhouse Gas mitigation co-benefits. ICF went through each of the adaptation strategies they developed, including descriptions and example actions.

### **Further Discussion:**

The group raised a few questions about the assumptions and initial results of the quantified strategies. Mr. Krug asked a question about the exact definition of Net Present Value (NPV), in which ICF further explained what they did and did not include in that definition. There was also some discussion about the assumption of \$5/MCF gas prices for the Utility-Scale CHP action, which was deemed by the committee as too high. Mr. Henderson suggested it may be as low as under \$2, and recommended using EIA numbers. Bill Prindle explained that this was a ceiling price and represents retail price delivered to the customer for this analysis.

Mr. Brubaker praised the strategies as comprehensive and encouraging, since some of this work is already beginning to get done. Mr. Brubaker did suggest some small adjustments to the adaptation strategy relating to resources and technical assistance to farmers.

Mr. Morinville added that he would like to see some additional information about the numbers behind the NPV calculations. ICF responded saying that they can provide answers and information to specific requests. He also added that it would be really helpful to be able to see more grid capability transparency and access from electric utilities. Mr. Sherrick suggested that this information was already available from the PUC.

During the adaptation discussion, there were questions about more details on some of the strategies. Particularly, Representative McCarter asked about more information about storm water Best Management Practices. ICF responded with some additional detail, and added that work is still being done and the final report will include more detail on each strategy.

ICF responded with specific answers to most of the questions, and added information through utilization of the Appendix slides. The Appendix slides included additional details of the modeling, assumptions, and initial results.

### **Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

Post Lycoming County's, DEP's, and ICF's PowerPoints to the CCAC website.