

**MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING
OF CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
June 16, 2020**

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cynthia Carrow, Allegheny County	John St. Clair, Indiana County
Mark Caskey, Washington County	James Schmid, Delaware County
Terry Dayton, Greene County	Jerome Shabazz, Philadelphia County
David Dunphy, Philadelphia County	Thad Stevens, Tioga County
Bill Fink, Bedford County	John Walliser, Allegheny County
Duane Mowery, Cumberland County	Jim Welty, Cumberland County
John Over, Fayette County	Tim Weston, Cumberland County

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Jerome Shabazz called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Shabazz solicited additions or corrections to the May 19, 2020 Minutes. Hearing none, the Chairman requested a motion to approve the Minutes:

Terry Dayton moved to approve the Minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting. Cynthia Carrow seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

DEP REPORT:

Sitting in for Secretary McDonnell, Ramez Ziadeh, Deputy Secretary for Programs, provided a brief update on the following:

Coronavirus

As counties begin to enter the green phase of reopening, DEP is continuing to work from home. Roughly 93% of departmental staff have been able to transition to telework to continue the mission of the agency and have continued to review permits, respond to complaints and environmental emergencies, and complete other work. Since March 16 when the agency transitioned to working remotely, DEP has conducted 16,569 inspections and has taken final action on 7,303 permit applications and authorizations, processing 94% of the applications within the permit decision guarantee timeframe despite those requirements being suspended for the duration of the emergency disaster declaration. DEP has responded to 77 emergencies related to issues critical to public health and safety.

DEP is working to roll out a new online permit applications submission tool. This tool, although different from the e-permitting process in that it is more like a dropbox, will help applicants submit applications electronically. Applicants will be able to upload permit applications, along with any other plans or forms required, and the permit applications will be routed to staff electronically. The system will not automatically generate comment letters or deficiency letters, and applicants will not be able to go online to look up the exact status of a permit application, which can be done through eFACTS. The use of this new tool, called OnBase, will not be mandated by the Department. Applicants who do not have computer access may still submit paper copies. Any permit that is not available through the e-permitting platform can be submitted through the new OnBase system. A press release will be issued announcing the new tool and will include instructions for its use.

Senate Bill 1030

On June 5, Governor Wolf signed SB 1030 into law. The Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act requires sewage planning approval when a subdivision is proposed for new land development. Proposals must establish that site conditions allow for the safe and effective treatment and disposal of sewage on the proposed lots. The Governor issued a signing statement with SB 1030 to explain the Administration's understanding of what the Bill will mean in practice and how the new law should be administered. While SB 1030 removed certain provisions of the Sewage Facilities Act related to scientific, technical, and field-testing standards for the evaluation of alternate on-lot sewage treatment systems, the legislation did not remove the obligations that DEP maintains under the Sewage Facilities Act and under the Clean Streams Law to ensure that sewage facilities plans and sewage disposal and treatment technologies protect public health and the waters of the Commonwealth. Governor Wolf noted that DEP will still have the regulatory authority to classify an on-lot sewage treatment system or disposal technology as an alternate sewage system and to approve the use of alternate sewage systems. The Department is currently working to identify what implementation of SB 1030 will entail, including how to update two technical guidance documents related to the Sewage Facilities Act.

PRESENTATIONS:

KEEP PA BEAUTIFUL LITTER STUDY

Shannon Reiter is President of Keep PA Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Ms. Reiter discussed in detail a comprehensive litter study, which included a visible litter study, public attitude survey, municipal litter and illegal dumping cost study, and a Litter Summit held in November of 2019, all of which

provided the organization with key information that will assist in the development of strategies to reduce littering behavior. Ms. Reiter has been working on illegal dumping since 1990, and she discussed the need to shift resources from merely cleanup of litter to prevention. Keep PA Beautiful is working to develop a strategy for getting ahead of litter, including behavioral change through education and outreach and the building of infrastructure.

FOOD WASTE RECYCLING:

Larry Holley, Program Manager in the Bureau of Waste Management, discussed food waste reduction, recycling, digestion activities, and waste processing. The last waste composition study was conducted in the early 2000s to evaluate what was in the waste stream as far as materials, types, and where the waste was being generated. The Bureau will conduct another waste composition study to compare where the Commonwealth is 20 years later and believes the study will support prioritizing food waste management as the largest portion of the waste that is being disposed of. The Bureau will look at food facilities in all six DEP regions, including transfer stations, landfills, and waste energy facilities, doing random sampling of trash being taken to facilities from commercial and residential settings, and the waste will be broken out into 80-100 different categories. Mr. Holley discussed in detail the success of the recent Food Recovery Infrastructure Grant Program, as well as a waste composition joint project between DEP's Energy Program and the Waste Program looking at food waste to energy capacity in the Commonwealth for purposes of identifying renewable energy and diversion opportunities from commercial, institutional and industrial facilities. The Bureau will also be looking at opportunities to improve multiple general and specific waste permits.

CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Act 54 Working Group

John Walliser reported that a conference call had been held last week. The call set forth an initial approach, as well as three items to discuss with the Department. First, public outreach to solicit input on the most recent iteration of the Act 54 Report. Before doing public outreach, the working group decided to wait until there is a complete response document from the Department in response to the recommendations made by the University of Pittsburgh. The response document will hopefully be in hand in the next month or two, and the working group will report back to the full CAC at that time. Secondly, the Department asked for initial feedback on making the data underlying the report more accessible to the public. Preliminary comments were provided back to the Department. Lastly, the

Department asked for input on revisions to an existing technical guidance document, and the group is gathering information on that request.

Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Jim Welty advised that the committee met several weeks ago. The agenda included the presentation on litter and illegal dumping that was presented to the CAC today, as well as a presentation regarding markets for mixed paper growth in Pennsylvania. Empire Recycled Fiber gave a presentation on revitalizing recyclables with respect to mixed paper. There was one action item, which was approving a draft proposed rulemaking on municipal waste permit by rule for Rural Transfer Facilities, previously known as Convenience Centers. The Solid Waste Advisory Committee voted unanimously to move the rulemaking to the EQB for consideration.

Environmental Quality Board (EQB)

Aside from approval of the EQB Minutes, Mark Caskey reported that Max Environmental, about a year ago, submitted a petition to delist a leachate as a hazardous waste. DEP had advised to approve that petition, and it passed unanimously at the EQB meeting. The members did ask questions about when the RGGI vote would take place. The Department indicated that there is still a lot of work to be done and that there may not be a vote until late fall or early winter because economics.

ANNUAL CAC ELECTIONS:

Via virtual poll of the members prior the meeting, Cynthia Carrow, on behalf of the Nomination Committee, reported that Jerome Shabazz and Tim Weston were unanimously nominated as Chair and Vice Chair of the CAC.

Cynthia Carrow made a motion to accept the unanimous vote by virtual ballot for Jerome Shabazz to serve as Chair and Tim Weston to serve as Vice Chair of the CAC. Thad Stevens seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION:

Public Comment Outreach

Chairman Shabazz asked the members to think about what public outreach looks like during COVID and after and revisit what other methodologies for public outreach should be taken into consideration to make sure the public can participate in the process as much as possible.

The Chairman offered the idea of sending a letter to Governor Wolf and Secretary McDonnell to commend the efforts of DEP staff to stay available and functional during the pandemic via telework. Members believe that it would be appropriate for the CAC to thank the Department staff for their efforts to be responsive during this unusual circumstance. Chairman Shabazz requested that members wishing to comment further communicate with Keith Salador, who will draft a proposed letter from the CAC and circulate it prior to the next meeting when a vote can be taken.

Keith Salador is working on a draft of the 2019 CAC Annual Report which he will circulate to the members and get on the agenda for the July CAC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Chairman Shabazz requested a motion for adjournment. Tim Weston moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Cynthia Carrow, and all were in favor. The June 16, 2020 meeting of the CAC was adjourned at 2:00 PM.