

**MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING
OF CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
July 21, 2020**

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert Barkanic, Lehigh County	James Schmid, Delaware County
Cynthia Carrow, Allegheny County	Jerome Shabazz, Philadelphia County
Mark Caskey, Washington County	Thad Stevens, Tioga County
Mitchell Hescox, York County	John Walliser, Allegheny County
Duane Mowery, Cumberland County	Jim Welty, Cumberland County
John Over, Fayette County	Tim Weston, Cumberland County
John St. Clair, Indiana 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 June 16, 2020 Minutes. Hearing none, the Chairman requested a motion to approve the Minutes.

Jim Welty moved to approve the Minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting. Cynthia Carrow seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. One abstention.

DEP REPORT:

Secretary McDonnell provided a brief update on the following:

Coronavirus Update

The Department continues to telework. Since March 16, the staff has conducted 23,845 inspections, issued 10,411 permit applications and authorizations, processed 93% of applications within the Permit Decision Guarantee timeframe, and responded to 112 emergencies. On July 1 the Department discontinued acceptance of requests for temporary suspension of regulations or permit conditions; however, 43 temporary suspension requests were granted during the county shutdowns. A complete list of all approved waivers, including the applications and DEP approval letters, can be found on DEP's website.

OnBase Permit System

DEP has rolled out a new online permit application tool allowing for faster processing and more time to focus on parts of the permit application that relate to

the environment and public health. Paper applications will still be accepted, but applicants are strongly encouraged to use the new tool to improve the efficiency of the permit application submission and review processes. The OnBase tool is intended for permits and applications that are not currently able to be submitted through DEP's e-Permitting system.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Update

The Governor has extended the deadline for the Department to deliver a draft regulation to the EQB until September 15 to conduct additional outreach among the environmental justice community, affected communities, and the general public. With this additional time, DEP has been collaborating with DCED and L&I to develop a strategy to assist transitioning workers and communities and to develop documents to make RGGI information more accessible to the general public and available in languages other than English. The economic modeling has been completed so there are now modeling results through 2030. The modeling has shown that by joining RGGI there will be an increase of 27,000 net jobs, a \$1.8 billion increase in gross state product, and a \$6.9 billion increase in disposable personal income. An analysis has been completed using EPA methodology showing that participation in RGGI could save the lives of 639 Pennsylvanians by 2030 thanks to lower carbon emissions, as well as lower emissions of other air pollutants associated with electricity generation like nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide.

Integrated Water Quality Report

On June 27 DEP released its draft 2020 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report detailing the current health of Pennsylvania's streams, rivers, and lakes. The report features a map viewer that allows users to zoom down to individual stream or river sections and export information, which is useful for residents looking to learn more about their waters and for decision makers at the local level for planning purposes. The report now highlights specific efforts to restore impaired watersheds. Summary tables of waters assessed and changes identified between 2018 and 2020 have been included. Video tutorials have been created to walk users through the features of both the report and the mapping application. The report is currently open for public comment through August 11.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

Robert J. Barkanic

Bob lives in Lehigh County and is President and Managing Director of The Barkanic Group, LLC, an energy and environmental consulting firm. He recently received grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to assist farmers with

energy decisions. Bob has been an Adjunct Professor of Energy Policy at Penn State University and was the Senior Director of Energy Policy with Talen Energy. Prior to Talen Energy, Bob was Senior Director of Energy Policy at PPL EnergyPlus, Senior Director of State Government Relations at PPL Corporate Service, and was Deputy Secretary of Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection at DEP in 2002, starting with the Department as a nuclear engineer. Bob has a bachelor's and a master's from Penn State. He has three children, all of whom have degrees from Penn State. He is a registered professional engineer in Pennsylvania and sits on multiple boards, including the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and the Wildlands Conservancy.

Mitchell Hescox

Mitch is a native of Cambria County, Pennsylvania. His father and grandfather were coal miners. Prior to becoming a pastor, Mitch served the coal and utility industry as Director of Fuel Systems for Allis Mineral Systems in York. He is President and CEO of The Evangelical Environmental Network, a pro-life Christian organization who understands that climate change is the greatest moral challenge of our time. Mitch co-authored a book on climate change and faith entitled *Caring for Creation: The Evangelical Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment*. He lives in southern York County and has four children and eight grandchildren.

PRESENTATIONS:

THREE MILE ISLAND DECOMMISSIONING OVERVIEW

Dave Allard, Director of DEP's Bureau of Radiation Protection, provided an overview of the decommissioning efforts at the recently shuttered Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant. After the accident in 1979, the site was decontaminated to the extent possible and sealed off, but damaged fuel from the reactor vessel remains, as well as unknown amounts of radioactive material. GPU Nuclear, the company that operated the plant during the meltdown, plans to transfer its license to Salt Lake City-based Energy Solutions, one of a few companies that purchase shuttered nuclear facilities to take over decommissioning, with the goal of dismantling and disposing of radioactive materials cheaper and faster. On March 26, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission published a notice in the Federal Register for review of the transfer, setting a 30-day period for public comment. On April 6, Secretary McDonnell wrote a letter to the NRC detailing multiple concerns, including the lack of funds to properly clean up the site, unknown levels of radiation that remain on the site, how and where the remaining radioactive materials will be disposed of, whether any of the low-level waste would be disposed of in Pennsylvania landfills, and how the process could affect

the health of the Susquehanna River. The Department asked for more time to review the company's plan for decommissioning and is seeking legal assurances that financial resources will be available to complete the decommissioning once started and expects that no radioactive waste from TMI Unit 2 will be left on Three Mile Island. A spokesperson for the NRC said that "staff reviewing the application will carefully consider any comments submitted."

CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environmental Quality Board

Mark Caskey reported that a vote was taken to accept a petition to change Tom's Creek in Adams County from a High-Quality stream to Exceptional Value and the petition was referred to the Department for study. Consideration was given for dam safety and watershed management regulations involving Lake Erie and some of the buffer zones around it. A final rulemaking was passed raising Air Quality fees. A vote will be taken on RGGI on September 15.

Act 54 Working Group

John Walliser reported that the workgroup has had conversations with multiple experts on methods and different means of analyses for collecting information related to impacts to surface water and water bodies resulting from mining operations. The workgroup is also awaiting a recommendation and response document from the Department with respect to the Act 54 Report completed by the University of Pittsburgh. It is anticipated that the workgroup will come back to the full committee after internal deliberations and recommend a path forward on collecting public comment and setting forth a process for developing CAC's response to the report.

Radiation Protection

Keith Salador reported that the Radiation Protection Bureau's clerical staff are still going to the office to process paperwork and checks, mainly from certified radon individuals who need to maintain certification to be able to work in the field. The committee heard the latest presentation on the proposed rulemaking for analytical x-ray devices, which should be presented to the EQB later this year.

Mining Reclamation Advisory Board

John St. Clair reported that MRAB has been discussing the bond status and financials for post-mining discharge sites where the state is responsible for treatment, alkaline addition TGD liners and caps for refuse piles, and disposable areas TGD. A separate group is going to work within MRAB to formulate recommendations to the Department about caps and liners for coal refuse piles. An

engineering manual for surface mines has now been through DEP legal review. MRAB and the Aggregate Advisory Board will provide a conglomerate review.

2019 CAC ANNUAL REPORT:

The annual report was previously circulated to the CAC members and edits were incorporated. Chairman Shabazz solicited any additional edits or corrections. Hearing none, the Chairman requested a motion to approve the annual report.

**Tim Weston moved to approve the 2019 CAC Annual Report.
Jim Welty seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

DRAFT CAC SOP:

Chairman Shabazz offered that the draft SOP was created to establish an organized approach for more complicated and deeper issues that may arise. The Chairman requested any additional comments or thoughts on the draft SOP. Hearing none, the Chairman tabled a vote until the next meeting. The document will be recirculated.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION:

The floor was opened for feedback on a draft commendation letter to DEP and the Governor. With disagreement among the CAC members, Chairman Shabazz tabled the matter until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

**With no further business, Chairman Shabazz requested a motion for adjournment. Thad Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting.
Tim Weston seconded the motion, and all were in favor.
The July 21, 2020 meeting of the CAC adjourned at 2:00 PM.**