

**MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING  
OF CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
August 18, 2020**

**CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Robert Barkanic, Lehigh County	Jerome Shabazz, Philadelphia County
Cynthia Carrow, Allegheny County	Thad Stevens, Tioga County
Mark Caskey, Washington County	John Walliser, Allegheny County
Mitchell Hescox, York County	Jim Welty, Cumberland County
Duane Mowery, Cumberland County	Tim Weston, Cumberland County
James Schmid, Delaware County	

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Vice Chair Weston called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Chairman Shabazz solicited additions or corrections to the July 21, 2020 Minutes. Hearing none, the Chairman requested a motion to approve the Minutes.

**Tim Weston moved to approve the Minutes of the July 21, 2020 meeting.  
Thad Stevens seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.**

**DEP REPORT:**

In the absence of Secretary McDonnell, Ramez Ziadeh, DEP's Executive Deputy Secretary for Programs, provided a brief update on the following:

*Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative*

The Department has conducted additional outreach among the environmental justice community, affected communities, and the general public. Collaboration has continued with DCED and L&I to develop a strategy for assisting transitioning workers and communities. Documents have been developed to make RGGI information accessible to the general public and available in languages other than English, including making the Department's "Guide to Environmental Regulations" available in Spanish and creating "RGGI 101" fact sheets. A webinar was presented to the public describing some of the basic mechanics of RGGI and highlighting the economic and health benefits of RGGI participation. The webinar was attended by over 300 members of the public and is posted, along with modeling results, on DEP's RGGI website for review by the public. Any questions or comments about the presentation can be sent to DEP through the resource account identified at the end of the RGGI presentation or questions may be sent directly to Ramez. RGGI will be presented to the EQB on September 15 and materials for the meeting will be posted on the EQB website for public review prior to the meeting.

*Manganese Rulemaking Status*

This proposed rulemaking seeks to lower the limit of manganese in surface waters from 1.0 milligram per liter to 0.3 milligrams per liter and includes language describing two alternative points of compliance for meeting the proposed manganese limit, including at the point of

discharge or at the point of all existing or planned potable water supply withdrawals. The EQB will receive comments on both alternatives to assist in determining which one is the appropriate point of compliance to include in the final rulemaking. The comment period opened on July 25 and will be open for 64 days, closing on September 25. The EQB will host three virtual public hearings to also accept comments. The hearing dates are September 8 at 2 PM, September 9 at 6 PM, and September 10 at 2 PM. Information about registering to provide comments at the virtual hearings and how to access the virtual hearings is available on the EQB webpage.

#### *Small Business Advantage Grant*

The Small Business Advantage grant program funded by HSCA opened on July 27 and has \$1 million available for grant funding to small businesses and farmers for energy efficiency, pollution prevention, and natural resource protection projects. New to the program this year is the opportunity for farmers to install solar pumping systems for agricultural operations. Pennsylvania-based small businesses can apply for 50% matching funds of up to \$7,000 to adopt or acquire energy-efficient or pollution prevention equipment or processes. Only costs incurred between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 are eligible under this round. Applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis and will be accepted until fiscal year 2020-21 funds are exhausted or April 12, 2021, whichever occurs first. The complete grant application package, which includes step-by-step instructions and instructional videos for completing the online application, is available by visiting the DEP Small Business Ombudsman's Office website.

### **CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS AND MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:**

#### *Aggregate Advisory Committee*

Tim Weston reported that a draft of the mining engineering manual has been produced, is under review by the committee, and will then go out for public review and comment on September 18.

Keith Salador solicited volunteers for the Strategic Issues subcommittee (no members and no chair) and the Public Participation subcommittee (two members and no chair).

Cynthia Carrow volunteered to join the Public Participation subcommittee.

After lengthy discussion about the purpose of the Strategic Issues subcommittee and how it goes hand-in-hand with the proposed draft SOP, members who volunteered to join included Bob Barkanic, Mark Caskey, Mitchell Hescox, James Schmid, and Tim Weston.

**Chairman Shabazz made a motion to discuss the draft SOP.**

**Tim Weston seconded the motion.**

### **DRAFT CAC SOP:**

Following lengthy discussion, the draft SOP was tabled until such time as the members have the opportunity to review the document in more detail and provide written comments to Keith Salador to be incorporated into a revised draft of the SOP.

**DRAFT COMMENDATION LETTER TO DEP STAFF:**

**Chairman Shabazz made a motion to discuss the draft letter of commendation. Tim Weston seconded the motion.**

Chairman Shabazz solicited additional comments or concerns. Hearing none,

**Chairman Shabazz made a motion to adopt the letter of commendation to DEP staff. All were in favor, with one member opposed.**

**NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION:**

CAC members expressed concern about the lack of time for wholesome discussion around regulatory proposals and complex issues. The consensus was that more time should be allotted at monthly meetings to discuss concerns and perspectives.

Chairman Shabazz expressed desire for the Public Participation subcommittee to continue discussions related to how the pandemic has changed the ability to reach the public and report out on issues being discussed.

Members inquired about the proper forum for asking questions on CAC Monthly Reports put out by the Department. Questions should be posed to the Secretary during CAC monthly meetings or may be posed to Keith Salador who will reach out to the Department for answers.

Members discussed reconstituting the budget workgroup to continue looking at DEP's budget, permits, and fees.

*September 15 CAC Meeting*

Because the September 15 EQB meeting is likely to be lengthy and because CAC has five members on the EQB, Chairman Shabazz recommended that the September 15 CAC meeting be canceled.

**Chairman Shabazz made a motion that CAC cancel its September 15, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark Caskey, and all members were in favor.**

The CAC will reconvene on October 20.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**With no further business, Chairman Shabazz moved to adjourn the meeting. Cynthia Carrow seconded the motion, and all were in favor. The August 18, 2020 meeting of the CAC adjourned at 2:05 PM.**