

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

March 8, 2016

10:00 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.

**10th. Floor Conference Room
Rachel Carson State Office Building**

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Chairperson Steve Krug, Vice-Chairperson Mark Hammond, Sarah Nicholas, Joe Sherrick, Patrick Henderson, Gary Merritt, Steve Winberg, Rob Altenberg (alternate for Christina Simeone), Luke Brubaker, Mike Winek, Rob Graff, Terry Bossert, J. Scott Roberts

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES ABSENT:

Rep. Greg Vitali, Rep. Ryan Bizzaro, Jim Warner, Paul Opiyo, George Ellis

PROXY VOTING:

Gary Merritt for George Ellis

PA DEP STAFF:

Mark Brojakowski (DEP), Frank Purtell (DEP), John Krueger (DEP), Jessica Shirley (DEP), David Althoff (DEP), Lori Mohr (DEP), Kevin Hess (DEP), Sean Gimbel (DEP)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Margaret Parsons (American Lung Association), Evan Enders (The Nature Conservancy), Grant Gulibon (Alternate for Brubaker), Marc Mondor (Alternate for Krug)

REGULAR MEETING:

The March 8, 2016, regular meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Krug. Roll call was taken and, with 13 members present at the start of the meeting, a quorum was established. Members, DEP staff and guests introduced themselves.

MINUTES:

The minutes for the November 3, 2015, Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) meeting were presented to the committee for approval. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Mr. Brubaker and was seconded. The motion carried by voice vote with two abstentions (Mr. Bossert and Mr. Roberts). Ms. Shirley of DEP's Policy Office offered a clarification on the term "Minority Report Comments" noted in the November 3, 2015 minutes. She stated that the term was used to include final comments from the CCAC and not necessarily an actual formal Minority Report. Committee members agreed with Ms. Shirley's explanation.

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

2015 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN (Update):

Ms. Shirley presented a tentative timeline for the finalization of the 2015 Pennsylvania Climate Change Action Plan (Update). The tentative dates for the finalization of the Update are as follows:

January 30, 2016 - Public comment period opens for 60 days

March 30, 2016 – Public comment period closes

April 19, 2016 – Meeting materials distributed for CCAC meeting

May 3, 2016 – CCAC Meeting

May 24, 2016 – Comments from CCAC members due to DEP for inclusion in Appendix

June 30, 2016 – Finalization of 2015 Pennsylvania Climate Change Action Plan

A discussion on the timeline followed. CCAC members and DEP discussed the amount of public comments that may be received and if there would be enough time for DEP to edit the Update in time for the May 3, 2016, meeting. If it becomes necessary to delay the May 3 meeting, the DEP and the Committee agreed that May 17, 2016, would be an acceptable date for rescheduling the meeting.

2018 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN PLANNING PROCESS:

Mr. Krug initiated a discussion of establishing a planning process for the development of the 2018 Pennsylvania Climate Change Action Plan (2018 Plan). He led off stating that the 2018 plan would be the third update of the original 2009 Action Plan. He summarized how the 2009 and 2013 action plans contained nearly 40 work plans and that the 2015 plan now contains 13. He stated that this was not a bad thing, but it gives an indication of how much more attention was paid to prioritizing and obtaining the most greenhouse gas reductions and cost effectiveness from a group of more implementable work plans. He suggested that perhaps it was time to move to a different format other than individual work plans for the 2018 Plan. Many of the members agreed with Mr. Krug, stating that the work plan format/concept had run its course and that a different approach should be explored.

Many ideas and concepts were suggested by individual members. Mr. Sherrick reminded the committee of the elements that must be included in the action plan per the underlying statute, and that the work plan concept meshes well with the statutory requirements. The Committee suggested that the DEP bring a new planning process to the table at the next meeting indicating in what direction the DEP would like the committee to proceed for the 2018 Plan. In turn, the CCAC members would come to the table with more specific and organized ideas and suggestions for a path to the 2018 Plan. The DEP agreed with the Committee's suggestion but indicated that the department would probably not be prepared to do this as soon as the May 3 meeting. In addition, the possibility of having an independent facilitator or strategic planning professional on board for this process was discussed. The committee feels this could be advantageous to provide structure and focus to the role of both DEP and the CCAC in the development of the 2018 Plan. The DEP will explore that possibility.

Ms. Shirley communicated to the Committee that a Bill to amend Act 70 of 2008 has been introduced on the floor of the PA House. House Bill 2030 sponsored by Representative Santarsiero, according to the Representative, is legislation that will strengthen the Commonwealth's role in the fight against climate change. (Text of House Bill 2030 is not available at this time).

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION:

Ms. Shirley presented an overview of a recent DEP initiative to produce a white paper on Climate Change Adaptation for Pennsylvania. An internal work group made up of several DEP bureaus has been working with the Policy Office to develop a framework for addressing climate change as it affects the citizens, businesses and economy of the Commonwealth. The idea is not to develop a new layer of adaptation strategies but rather a way to better understand the existing plans that have been developed throughout Pennsylvania and develop adaptation strategies and maintenance plans to meet the needs of our most vulnerable sectors. Ms. Shirley stated that there is no need for any committee action at this time, but a future discussion on inclusion of adaptation, in one form or another, in the 2018 Plan is likely.

DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS:

Mr. David Althoff of DEP’s Pollution Prevention and Energy Assistance office offered a PowerPoint presentation on the current Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program (AFIG). The AFIG grant program seeks projects to improve Pennsylvania’s air quality and reduce consumption of traditional transportation fuels. Eligible applicants include: school districts, municipal authorities, political subdivisions, incorporated non-profit entities, corporations, and limited liability companies or partnerships that are registered to do business in PA. Individuals are not eligible to apply; the AFIG Vehicle Rebate Program is available to individuals. Eligible projects include: alternative fuel vehicles (retrofit and new vehicle purchase), alternative fuel refueling infrastructure, home-based refueling and fleet refueling, biofuel purchase incentives and innovative technology. Applications are scored competitively. Projects must be completed within 12 months of application submission period. Completion dates for 2016 projects are: 4/29/2017, 8/26/2017 and 12/30/2017.

Mr. Purtel of DEP’s air quality climate change program presented a spreadsheet he developed that lists the “Other State Climate Change Action Plans.” The information provided on the spreadsheet included: The state’s name; emissions goal (if any); climate change legislation (if any); the date of the latest report (if any); and the URL where the report can be accessed. The purpose of this presentation is to provide the Committee with examples and ideas that may prove useful to them in the development of the 2018 Plan. Mr. Purtel’s presentation was followed by Committee discussion.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The CCAC continues to carry three vacancies on its membership roster and the Department continues to work on filling these vacancies. In addition, the terms of six members will expire in 2016. The members whose terms expire were encouraged to contact their representative appointing authority to request reappointment.

PUBLIC COMMENT(S):

None

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Winberg and seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.