

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 30, 2020  
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Via WebEx**

**MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Chairperson Mark Hammond	Adam Walters (for Dennis Davin)
Vice-Chairperson Steve Krug	Marc Mondor
Greg Czarnecki (for Cindy Dunn)	Luke Brubaker
Representative Steve McCarter	Lindsay Baxter
Adam Beam (for Robert Graff)	Jaret Gibbons
Zakia Elliott	Kimberly Kipin-McDonald
Glendon King (for Representative Metcalfe)	Gary Merritt
Terry Bossert	Rachel Gleason (for Zachery Smith)
Sam Lehr (for Alissa Burger)	Jim Felmlee
Joe Sherrick (for Gladys Brown Dutrieuille)	Patrick Henderson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Representative Ryan Bizzarro

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

Kerry Campbell, Lindsay Byron, Heidi Kunka, Dave Althoff, Allen Landis, Jessica Shirley, Darek Jagiela, Brian Chalfant, Amanda Eyer

**INVITED GUESTS:**

Mark Hand, Joanne Tosti-Vasey, Madeleine Pelchat,

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Mike Roth, Bob Barkanic, Diana Dakey, John Bell, Korin Tangtrakul, Robert Routh, Josie Gaskey, David Gelman, Peter Gleason, Amy Shallcross, David Hess, Mark Hancik

**MEETING:**

The June 30, 2020 meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chairperson Mark Hammond. With 20 of 21 seated members present at the start of the meeting, a quorum was established.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the April 30, 2020 CCAC meeting were presented to the committee for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Mondor and seconded by Mr. Henderson. There were no corrections proposed for the meeting minutes. The motion to approve the minutes carried by a voice vote and passed.

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

### **DEP's Climate Action Plan (CAP) Activities**

Ms. Byron provided an overview of the most recent DEP activities related to development of the 2021 CAP. She explained that the bid deadline was extended by one week due to a request from a potential bidder. ICF was selected as the contractor with Hamel Environmental Consulting and Penn State University as subcontractors. Ms. Byron noted that Sonia Hamel of Hamel Environmental Consulting was one of the creators of RGGI, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and has extensive state government experience. Penn State completed all of the prior climate impacts assessments for the Commonwealth. Ms. Byron noted that the contract with ICF begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She shared a diagram showing the whole project team and explained that the scope of work covers the impacts assessment and CAP, including 6 engagements with the CCAC. The final draft of the impacts assessment is expected to be completed by December 2020, and the CAP final draft is expected to be done by March 2021.

Mr. Henderson asked for the dollar amount of the contract, to which DEP responded that it was \$399,990. He also inquired as to whether these contractors are different from the cap & trade analysis. DEP stated that several ICF team members are working on both contracts. Mr. Krug commended the DEP on its progress and said he looks forward to working with ICF.

### **Public Comment(s)**

Diana Dakey expressed concerns over a LNG facility that was given a PADEP permit. She explained how the manufacture and transport of LNG emits greenhouse gasses. She said that she has an issue with the exemptions made for this facility and that the LNG transport by truck and railcar must be accounted for. She restated that PA must account for greenhouse gas emissions from LNG produced in PA, even if used outside of state borders.

### **Local Climate Action Program (LCAP)**

Ms. Tosti-Vasey gave an intro on Bellefonte Borough, and then her assigned student from DEP's LCAP, Ms. Pelchat, presented on her involvement with the program this past year. Ms. Pelchat explained the process of creating a greenhouse gas inventory for the Borough using ICLEI's ClearPath tool. She noted that they formed a Climate Action Task Force at the Borough, as well as an online survey to engage the community. They received more than 50% response rate to the survey. Ms. Pelchat explained that they created a Focus Group and had an in-depth conversation via Zoom on their climate action plan. Ten members of the public participated. Ms. Pelchat shared the vulnerability assessment results for the Borough, which included higher temperatures and more extreme storms, which necessitates proper stormwater management. The Borough aligned their greenhouse gas reduction goal with Pennsylvania's, an 80% reduction by 2050 and prioritized actions based on the reduction potential, which Ms. Pelchat noted is a useful feature of ClearPath. Ms. Tosti-Vasey added that the final draft of the CAP will be presented to Borough Council in July, and then the plan will hopefully be approved and posted online.

Mr. Bossert asked what ClearPath was, to which Ms. Pelchat explained it is ICLEI's greenhouse gas inventory tool. Mr. Krug asked recruiting new communities for the next round of LCAP, to which Ms. Kunka explained the process.

### **GreenGov Council**

Mr. Hand gave a presentation on the GreenGov Council. He began by explaining Executive Order 2019-01, which created the Council, as well as goals for all state agencies and the first-ever

greenhouse gas reduction goal for the Commonwealth. Mr. Hand noted that the GreenGov annual report is meant to share state agency progress to the public, as well as to provide recommendations for future years. He stated that 44% of electricity procured by the Commonwealth is produced via renewable energy credits, or RECs, so that one goal from the Executive Order has already been met. Eventually, the Commonwealth hopes to procure the RECs from in-state. Mr. Hand reported that state agencies reduced their energy use by 2.9% in the first year since the Executive Order, which is just shy of the 3% goal. He shared the list of government buildings that are currently scheduled for new construction/major renovations, all of which will meet the 10% reduction in ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning Engineers) standard and/or attain LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification. Mr. Hand explained that meeting the 25% goal for our Commonwealth fleet equates to 990 electric vehicles by 2025. He shared the annual agency certification checklist and its various sustainability measures and detailed how there are Focus Groups that work to improve progress on specific strategies.

Several CCAC members had comments and questions. Mr. Bossert noted that Governor Ridge created the first Governor's Green Government Council, to which Mr. Hand stated how he served as staff for that program. Representative McCarter asked how COVID has impacted GreenGov work, and Mr. Hand responded that the Focus Groups are still active. He said COVID did impact the electric vehicle and building goals initially, but everything is moving smoothly now. Mr. Henderson inquired about RECs and how much are in-state versus out-of-state. Mr. Hand explained that the RECS are currently from out-of-state, but that they were funded through savings from retail shopping for Commonwealth electricity. He stated there is currently a solar ITQ (Invitation to Qualify) for retail suppliers to install solar that PA would purchase. Mr. Hammond commented on vehicle miles travelled (VMT) and how we should focus on which vehicles to replace based on that metric. Mr. Hand explained that GreenGov is focusing on passenger vehicles.

### **Pennsylvania's DRAFT 2020 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory**

Ms. Byron shared the draft of Pennsylvania's 2020 GHG inventory. She explained there has been a net increase in emissions from 2016-2017. GHG emissions by sector were shared. The industrial sector has the most emissions, with electricity production being second, and transportation third. She noted that switching from coal to natural gas has greatly reduced GHG emissions through the years in PA. The combustion of fossil fuels comprises the majority of emissions from the industrial sector. Natural gas combustion comprises the majority of emissions from the residential sector.

Mr. Sherrick said he doesn't think there was an increase in GHG emission from the industrial sector, to which Ms. Byron explained there was an error in previous reports and the emissions from pipeline miles were being overreported. He also asked if there has been a change in the methodology for offsets and sinks from the forestry and land use sector, because we are no longer reporting the same level of offset emissions from this sector. Ms. Byron said she would get back to him on this question.

DEP requested that CCAC members share further comments on the draft inventory within the next few weeks, after which it will be posted as final online.

### **New Business**

There was no new business, but Mr. Hammond reminded everyone to double check when their term expires and to renew their appointments, if need be.

**Next Steps**

The next CCAC meeting will be held on August 25<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Byron noted that ICF will present at that meeting.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Brubaker and seconded by Ms. Baxter. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM.