

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2022
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Rachel Carson State Office Building,
and via MS Teams

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

Chairperson Steve Krug	Jason Kelso
Vice-Chairperson Marc Mondor	Kimberly Kipin-McDonald
Greg Czarnecki (for Cindy Dunn)	Terry Bossert
Joseph Sherrick (for Gladys Brown Dutrieuille)	Rep. Perry Stambaugh
Adam Walters (for Neil Weaver)	Jaret Gibbons
Lindsay Baxter	Glendon King (for Rep. Daryl Metcalf)
Flora Cardoni	Christopher Sandvig
Elizabeth Marx	Jenny Greenberg
Patrick Henderson	
Ben Sanchez	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Paul Morris, Rep. Sarah Innamorato

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF:

Suzanne Banks, Lindsay Byron, Kerry Campbell, Brian Chalfant, David Althoff, Louie Krak, Daniel Eitzman, Christopher Nafe, Amanda Eyer, Tedd Johns, Sarah Pinter, Robert Haines, Stephen Hepler, Nathan Reagle, Katie Sneeringer

INVITED GUESTS:

Brittany Reno, Sean Furjanic, Yasmin Yacoby, Tom Hughes

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Brian Smiley, Griffin Caruso, Paul Opiyo, Anil Nair, Drew O'Neil, Nate Wardle, Sharon Watkins, Dave Crowther, Evan Franzese, Karl Scherzberg, Laura Edinger, Byran Zicherl

MEETING:

The December 13, 2022, meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC or Committee) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Krug. With 14 of 21 seated members present at the start of the meeting, a quorum was established.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the October 25, 2022, CCAC meeting were presented to the Committee for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Sandvig and seconded by Mr. Henderson. There were no requests to edit the minutes by any members. The motion to approve the minutes carried and was 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.)

Chairman Krug opened the meeting asking for CCAC members and Commonwealth staff (DEP, Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), Public Utility Commission (PUC)) to introduce themselves to the group for the benefit of the newly appointed members of the Committee.

Brittany Reno, Local Climate Action - Sharpsburg Report

Brittany Reno, Mayor of Sharpsburg Borough and a participant in the DEP Local Climate Action Program (LCAP), discussed local climate programs the borough has developed and implemented. Sharpsburg has an approximate population of 3,400 and 24-27% live under the federal poverty line. Climate change has increased flooding events for the borough, as well as caused sewer issues, prompting the borough to consider separating the sanitary and storm sewer systems, increasing green infrastructure, and improving existing gray infrastructure. Mayor Reno noted that the Sharpsburg Neighborhood Organization set goals and worked in conjunction with the adjacent communities of Millvale and Etna to address the problems facing the borough. Six issue areas were identified: food, water, equity, energy, air quality, and mobility. The Triboro Ecodistrict formed as a result of these efforts. Sharpsburg participated in DEP's LCAP and CAPstone programs and partnered with its neighboring communities through the Triboro Ecodistrict. This process allowed them to not only set goals for greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and climate resilience work, but also created a suite of actions highlighting the co-benefits and accounting for equity by creating community gardens and increasing food access. This has led to several programs and initiatives such as a solar installer certification through the Triboro Ecodistrict Solar Co-op in coordination with the Community College of Allegheny County. Sharpsburg has completed solar array installations, low-income resident weatherization programs, residential energy audits, rain gardens, and community gardens to increase green space (with solarized sheds to keep produce fresh). Sharpsburg also participated in DEP's resiliency program in which ProtoGen, Inc. provided a microgrid feasibility analysis for critical facilities.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Marx asked if there are any intentional policies to prevent greenlining or gentrification. Mayor Reno replied that Sharpsburg has directed its efforts toward equity issues to improve the quality of life in the borough, and affordable housing has been the biggest issue. She indicated that there balance must be maintained, as improving Sharpsburg quality of life attracts developers and higher-income residents. Sharpsburg must address the problem at a higher level to create affordable housing. Vice-Chair Mondor stated that Mayor Reno has done a great job engaging the community, identifying community improvements from both top-down and bottom-up economic lenses, and working in concert with neighboring communities utilizing the Triboro Eco-district framework.

Sean Furjanic, Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) Manual

Sean Furjanic, Manager of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Division in DEP's Bureau of Clean Water, presented draft updates to the *Pennsylvania Post-Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) Manual*. DEP contracted with Villanova University on October 1, 2017, to update the 2006 *Pennsylvania Stormwater Best Management Practice (BMP) Manual*, which DEP renamed the *Pennsylvania PCSM Manual*. The draft manual will soon go out for a 90-day public comment period. This effort resulted in essentially a new manual rather than just an update of the 2006 *Pennsylvania Stormwater BMP Manual*. The draft PCSM manual consists of an introduction, PCSM requirements with an interpretation of DEP's PCSM regulations at 25 Pa. Code § 102.8 and guidance on where to conduct a stormwater analysis, discharges to wetlands, and instruction on when to conduct an analysis for temperature-related impacts. The PCSM manual also identifies over 25 stormwater control measures (SCMs) and includes appendices with technical information on topics such as precipitation, soil physics and infiltration, water quality, vegetation use for stormwater management, and construction inspection. Mr. Furjanic detailed the stormwater management hierarchy each project should follow to protect natural landscapes, manage storm water infiltration and release, and control the rate of stormwater flow. He also described the design storm, continuous simulation, and water balance stormwater analysis methods. The draft PCSM manual incorporates increases in expected rainfall due to climate change and projects that runoff will also increase by 8-10% by 2050 due to a 50% increase in days with more than three inches of precipitation. Infiltration testing recommendations such as performing one test every

40,000 square feet are also discussed. Confirmation infiltration testing would be required anytime an erosion and sedimentation (E&S) basin or trap is converted for use as a PCSM SCM or when the contractor is “inexperienced” (i.e., has constructed less than three infiltration SCMs in the past two years).

DISCUSSION:

Chairman Krug asked when the PCSM manual will be implemented. Mr. Furjanic indicated that due to the anticipated high volume of comments that will be received during the 90-day comment period, the PCSM manual will likely not be finalized until 2024. Chairman Krug followed up by asking if training on the new SCMs would be available. Mr. Furjanic indicated that DEP has the Pennsylvania Clean Water Academy learning management system and anticipates that approximately 25 hours of training modules will be available both publicly and to DEP internally. Mr. Henderson asked if the training will also be provided to DEP staff in other parts of DEP (aside from the Bureau of Clean Water). Mr. Furjanic indicated that they anticipate providing training to everyone. Mr. Krug asked if DEP currently conducts any infiltration or construction testing like what is being proposed. Mr. Furjanic indicated that DEP currently does not, but this suggestion continues to be highly recommended. Mr. Krug asked if there were other states that do this type of confirmation testing. Mr. Furjanic indicated that other states such as Minnesota do this type of confirmation testing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comments were presented at this meeting.

Lindsay Byron, DEP – Climate Outreach

Ms. Byron reported on climate outreach efforts that DEP Energy Programs Office (EPO) staff recently conducted, including a presentation to Penn State University Harrisburg on the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan, Activator series events with the Congress of Neighboring Communities (CONNECT), a climate workshop with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3, a workgroup meeting with the Pennsylvania Department of Health on climate change and public health, and the Pennsylvania Municipal League Fall Sustainability Conference. Ms. Byron also provided an update on the Climate Action for Disadvantaged Communities project, notifying the Committee that a contractor had been awarded the project.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Bossert asked if there was any coordination between the local government entities that participated in the LCAP and affiliated programs, mentioning the Sharpsburg Borough flooding as an example where coordination would be necessary and beneficial. Mr. Nafe responded that there have been instances of cooperation between neighboring communities, such as Doylestown Borough and Doylestown Township, and that Sharpsburg Borough works with the boroughs of Etna and Millvale for this purpose. Additionally, efforts are being made to coordinate local governments’ climate planning work with that of counties and regional planning organizations, and EPO is interested in county/regional planning organization recruitment for LCAP. Mayor Reno commented that Sharpsburg Borough has also built relationships with uphill communities to improve green infrastructure and reduce runoff that could cause flooding.

2023 CCAC Meeting Planning:

Ms. Byron presented the proposed agenda for the February 2023 meeting. The proposed focus will be on the Draft 2024 Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment and Climate Action Plan (CAP). The proposed agenda also includes a presentation from an LCAP participant. Chairman Krug suggested that the April meeting include an update on the status of DEP’s implementation of Federal Inflation Reduction Act programs to allow the Committee an opportunity to provide comments and advice. Mr. Nafe suggested having a participant of DEP’s CAPstone or Shared Energy Manager programs speak to the Committee in

April to provide additional information related to climate plan implementation. Ms. Marx suggested that the next CAP include information on successes achieved from existing climate plan implementation. Chairman Krug suggested including a discussion on whether climate action implementation is resulting in reduced emissions. Chairman Krug and Ms. Marx both commented on updating the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS). Mr. Sherrick indicated that AEPS hasn't been updated since 2014. Mr. Sandvig asked to what degree the climate action plan can be more extensively include recommendations to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from transportation. Chairman Krug mentioned that he would also need to review the process for developing the CAP for the new Committee members.

Yasmin Yacoby, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) – An Equitable Energy Future:

Yasmin Yacoby, Deputy Chief of Staff in DOE's Office of Economic Impact and Diversity, presented on equity's role in future energy programs and policy in the U.S. Ms. Yacoby provided background on equity and explained that her office focuses on energy justice for disadvantaged communities (DACs) to achieve equitable participation in the energy system both socially and economically, while also remediating the environmental burdens on frontline communities. Ms. Yacoby discussed how Jim Crow laws and historic redlining contributed to the creation of these communities, which were assigned lower property values that led to blighted properties, diminished food and greenspace access, and worse health outcomes. These discriminatory practices have also caused increased siting of highway routes and industrial operations that increased pollution and other environmental stressors within these communities. Redlining persisted from 1934 to 1968, and many of these formerly redlined communities, which are still predominantly populated by people of color, have high poverty rates, old building stock, increased lead exposure, and high energy cost burdens compared to non-redlined areas. Ms. Yacoby reported that energy insecurity has been increasing in the U.S. since 2015, with DACs bearing the brunt of the impact. She noted that the "grand challenge" for DOE is to transform the energy system, while also ensuring it simultaneously becomes more equitable and just. Ms. Yacoby introduced the Justice40 Initiative to the Committee, which dictates that 40% of the benefits from federal Justice40 programs and funding and programs must flow to DACs, and defined the benefits of these programs and funding and what qualifies as a DAC, while identifying Justice40 policy priorities and eligible programs. She shared that metrics have been developed to measure and report the benefits.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Greenberg asked if a mapping tool that tracks cumulative burdens was available to the public. Ms. Yacoby advised that mapping tools are publicly available based on both DOE's working definition and the White House's official definition of DACs. Mr. Sandvig asked what discussions have been had regarding accountability for actors within states and municipalities to ensure that they are adhering to the Justice40 mandates. Ms. Yacoby replied that she could not speak for other federal departments, but DOE is requiring community benefits plans with each funding announcement. This includes language on Justice40, workforce development, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. Mr. Krak asked if there was concern that mapping of DACs could be used maliciously to further target or negatively impact them. Ms. Yacoby indicated that was not something that had been considered, but reiterated that the tool is being used to ensure that benefits flow to DACs and empower communities to identify themselves as such when pushing back against efforts that negatively impact them. Mr. Sandvig asked a follow-up question to see if any correlation studies have been done between low-to-moderate income communities and DACs. Ms. Yacoby advised that income is one of 36 DAC indicators and noted that race has consistently been a better indicator than income. Ms. Marx noted that water and electricity cost tend to both be issues for DACs in Pennsylvania and asked how DOE is working across sectors to avoid displacing individuals and creating new DACs. Ms. Yacoby indicated that DOE is aware that gentrification is a problem, and these types of intersectional issues are being considered regarding Justice40 implementation. Mr. Henderson noted his concerns about domestic energy supply and foreign energy dependence as they relate to "clean energy" and asked if international environmental standards are under consideration because they may not be as

robust as those in the U.S., and might create environmental justice communities abroad. Ms. Yacoby indicated that there is a concentrated effort to increase domestic manufacturing and energy production, including battery manufacturing and rare earth minerals. She added that bringing manufacturing to the U.S. will allow the country to reduce its contribution to international inequity.

Tom Hughes, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) – Hazard Mitigation Funding Opportunities

Tom Hughes, State Hazard Mitigation Officer with PEMA, presented on hazard mitigation related to climate change impacts and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). He shared that the Justice40 Initiative has already been incorporated into PEMA's programs but noted that the distribution of funds requires that individuals already have insurance policies in place, which is a barrier for many low-to-moderate income households. Mr. Hughes provided an overview of the hazard mitigation planning process that involves first planning a risk assessment and mitigation strategies before adopting, implementing, and maintaining the plan. Mr. Hughes also showed the Committee the Nationwide Building Code Adoption Tracking tool and another tracking tool PEMA completed at the county level. PEMA is currently working to bookend their Hazard Mitigation Plan with the State Pandemic Recovery Plan and incorporate projected climate impacts going forward. Community efforts to mitigate climate change impacts are reviewed using a multi-variable risk assessment. Mr. Hughes discussed how this work relates to that of the Pennsylvania Silver Jackets team, an interagency team comprised of federal, state, and local agencies that develop and implement solutions to flooding hazards. Mr. Hughes described the NFIP and provided an overview of program year 2022 program year and how the program's \$800 million of available funding was allocated and deployed. Additionally, he presented the Building Resilient and Infrastructure Communities (BRIC) program and explained the community eligibility requirements, projects funded, eligible activities, qualitative criteria, and available direct technical assistance. Mr. Hughes also spoke about non-disaster grant opportunities and disaster/hazard mitigation grant programs in the Delaware and Susquehanna River Basins.

DISCUSSION:

Chairperson Krug asked if Mr. Hughes could provide examples of PEMA working with EPO on the efforts presented. Mr. Hughes referred to the BRIC program and changes that were made to the BRIC program related to the Justice40 Initiative to focus on a more equitable distribution of funding, most of which has gone to coastal communities. Kerry Campbell added that EPO received a BRIC award to educate local communities on the importance of enforcing state building codes, highlighting the relationship between energy efficiency and resilience. Mr. Campbell also cited EPO's work on critical facility resilience with ProtoGen, Inc. Vice-chair Mondor asked if local communities that are not complying with building codes are violating the law. Mr. Campbell advised that DEP does not get involved in building code enforcement, but EPO does work to encourage local communities to enforce the most updated codes. Mr. Hughes mentioned that this is also true for PEMA related to community ratings for the NFIP, noting that communities in bad standing will not receive all the potentially available disaster funding.

DEP UPDATES:

Next Meeting

Ms. Byron shared that next CCAC meeting will occur on February 21, 2023, and focus on the 2024 Climate Impacts Assessment and CAP Planning.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Marx and seconded by Mr. Sherrick. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.