

CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 2024
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Rachel Carson State Office Building,
and via Teams

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

In-Person:

Chairperson Steve Krug
Adam Walters (for Rick Siger)
Lindsay Baxter
Elizabeth Marx
Patrick Henderson
Kevin Warren

Online:

Greg Czarnecki (for Cindy Dunn)
Jason Kelso
Christopher Sandvig
Flora Cardoni
Jennifer Greenburg
Paul Morris
Perry Stambaugh
Vice Chairperson Marc Mondor
Jaret Gibbons

MEMBERS ABSENT: Stephen DeFrank, Sara Innamorato, Daryl Metcalfe, Zach Smith, Terry Bossert, Ben Sanchez

PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF:

In-Person: Lindsay Byron, Megan Porta, Kerry Campbell, Laura Rigge, David Althoff, Lena Smith, Angela Liang, Amanda Amsbaugh

Online: Maria Solomidou, Currier Wolfe, Colleen Unroe

INVITED GUESTS: Adam Agalloco, Mark Hand, John McGranor

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: **Online:** Nate Reagle, David Hess, Trent Machamer, Robert Gottlieb, Anthony Hennen, Emily Eyster, Nate Eachus, Jeaneen Zappa, Nick Troutman, Steven Cook, Grant Gulibon, Laura King, Robert Routh, Nick Manning, John Kolesnik, Glendon King, Roy Gothie, Evan Franzese, Andrew McMenamin

MEETING: The August 20, 2024, meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC or Committee) was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Mr. Steve Krug. With 12 of 21 seated members present at the start of the meeting; a quorum was established.

MINUTES: The June 24, 2024 CCAC meeting minutes were presented to the Committee for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Warren and seconded by Ms. Marx. Mr. Henderson opposed the motion and Ms. Baxter abstained from voting. The motion to approve the minutes without amendments was 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.)

Officer Elections

There was a call for nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from the floor by Mr. Krug. Ms. Cardoni nominated Ms. Marx for the Chairperson and Ms. Marx accepted. Ms. Marx nominated Ms. Baxter for Vice-Chairperson, who also accepted. The members present both physically and online voted, and those votes were tallied and revealed following the break later in the meeting. There were 14 votes each for both Ms. Marx and Ms. Baxter, making them the new elected officers for the CCAC.

Public Comment

Mr. Nate Eachus from Luzerne County provided public comment. He discussed methane emissions, their impact on climate change, and how to mitigate them. Mr. Eachus also discussed the importance of climate change education and that natural gas industries have been found to underreport emissions.

2024 Climate Action Plan

Ms. Porta shared a summary of the feedback received from committee members on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) final draft presented during the June meeting. A summary of that feedback was provided with the meeting materials.

Mr. Henderson asked if the recently enacted SB 831 regarding CCUS was removed from the legislative recommendations completely or if it's discussed elsewhere in the CAP. Ms. Byron clarified that it was removed from the legislative recommendations and not discussed elsewhere in the CAP. Mr. Henderson also stated that the reference states shown in Table 21 on AEPS are misleading because some states are outsourcing emissions, not achieving decarbonization. He also reiterated his previous comment that it would be appropriate to include the 18 percent AEPS target rather than the 8 percent for Tier 1. He also notes that the PRESS proposal would eliminate the 0.5 percent carveout for solar. Ms. Marx thanked DEP and ICF for their responsiveness and thoughtful consideration of her concerns, comments, and feedback.

Mr. Agalloco from ICF, DEP's contractor, provided a brief overview of the final CAP, reviewing the chapters and other components, encouraging members to review the final version that was distributed. He then discussed that DEP's work with ICF is now shifting to focus on public engagement and development of a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) required by EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grants (CPRG). He briefly shared how the 2024 CAP will tie into the CCAP (or CAP+) which is due to EPA in December 2025.

Discussion

Ms. Baxter asked which Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) received planning grants. Mr. Agalloco stated that those MSAs are Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and the Lehigh Valley. Ms. Baxter also asked about the application period for CPRG Implementation Grants. Mr. Agalloco stated that the deadline for CPRG Implementation Grant applications closed in April of this year.

Ms. Marx asked if there is any funding available for implementation measures in the CCAP. Ms. Byron stated that DEP is required to identify sources of funding tied to each GHG reduction measure in the CCAP.

Mr. Krug asked what the potential funding available for Pennsylvania is out of the \$4.6B in CPRG Implementation Grants. Ms. Byron stated that the Commonwealth applied for and was awarded nearly

\$400M in grant funding to implement measures in the Industrial Sector. Mr. Agalloco added that only 25 grants were awarded across the country.

Mr. Krug asked if there was any discussion necessary regarding the 2024 Climate Impacts Assessment (CIA). Ms. Byron stated that DEP is currently working to finalize this document and are working on a roll-out plan.

Mr. Sandvig asked via Teams chat how much money the state is putting toward match for the CPRG. Ms. Byron clarified that there was no requirement for PA to provide matching funds, and the Commonwealth has not provided matching funds.

Following the presentation and discussion, Ms. Byron stated that DEP requests that CCAC members prepare letters to be appended to the CAP which indicate their areas of agreement and disagreement with the CAP. DEP asked that these letters be provided no later than September 30, 2024. Letters may be emailed to Ms. Byron at lbyron@pa.gov and Ms. Porta at meporta@pa.gov.

Mr. Krug stated that the committee would take a break, and committee officer election results will be announced after the break. Mr. Krug then stressed the positive impacts that the committee has by providing their feedback on these plans and assessments, and thanked committee members for their contributions.

Planning for Storms, Flood Hazard Mitigation, and Community Resiliency in Pennsylvania

Mr. McGranor with the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) provided a presentation regarding PA Municipal Planning Code (MPC), Act 247, and various plans and ordinances involved with stormwater management, hazard mitigation plans, and flood hazard ordinances. He discussed how the changing climate is affecting local governments, including the transportation infrastructure, utility infrastructure, provision of water, increased demand for electricity and telecommunications, loss of wetlands, and public health and safety.

Discussion

Mr. Krug asked if there have been any updates to the MPC since its development in 1968. Mr. McGranor stated that he isn't aware of any major updates to the bulk of the MPC, particularly in relation to climate change and planning. Mr. Krug then asked what the process is to amend the current MPC. Mr. McGranor responded that amendments would require legislation.

Mr. Sandvig asked what incentives are in place to get municipalities to modernize subdivision ordinances. Mr. McGranor stated that the municipalities control subdivision ordinances for the most part, meaning that anything they would implement would supersede the existing county-level subdivision ordinances.

Mr. Henderson asked if Mr. McGranor is aware of any data regarding the increase in impervious surfaces in individual municipalities. He replied that he is not, though that does not mean there isn't state level data available.

Ms. Marx asked if there is any database of PA county plans available. Mr. McGranor stated that there used to be an online library through DCED or one of its partners in eLibrary, but it was not up to date. She also asked if there is any guidance or technical assistance available for municipalities from DCED, particularly that they are taking into account EJ communities. Mr. McGranor stated there was not, but it could be a possibility in the future.

Mr. McGranor also clarified that every county is responsible for determining projections regarding how climate

change will affect how they update their stormwater management practices and predict changes in precipitation events.

Mr. Krug added that DEP's CIA has shown that flooding is the greatest risk for the state and encouraged all in attendance to read the new report when it is released.

DEP Updates

Ms. Byron provided a summary of notable upcoming climate outreach events DEP is involved with

Mr. Hand, GreenGov director with the Department of General Services, discussed the upcoming GreenGov Sustainability Summit in October, presented by the GreenGov Council and Penn State University. The theme of the summit this year is "Climate Action from All Angles" and the focus is how work at the local, state, or federal level can all help PA advance their goals towards carbon neutrality by 2035. GreenGov is also offering a sustainability series consisting of seven webinars offered in partnership with Penn State. They are broad-based sustainability webinars offered monthly into the spring.

Ms. Byron discussed in more detail the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)-funded CPRG Implementation grants, including the \$396 million that was awarded to PA for the Reducing Industrial Section Emissions in Pennsylvania (RISE PA) program. This program will be discussed in greater detail in a future meeting. DEP is anticipating those funds to be disbursed in October 2024.

Ms. Byron also noted DEP progress on other Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and IRA programs.

Next Meeting

Ms. Byron reminded committee members that the next meeting will be held on October 22, 2024, and reviewed a proposed agenda. She also requested ideas on other meeting topics and presentations from the committee. Mr. Sandvig stated that other states are looking into various strategies in the transportation sector that do not include electrification and perhaps we could discuss some of these strategies in upcoming meetings. Ms. Cardoni suggested discussion on DEP's plans for implementing EPA's Power Plant Rule. Mr. Henderson stated that it would be beneficial to have experts from PJM discuss grid resiliency and reliability. Ms. Baxter suggested a discussion on financing options for end-users regarding recommendations outlined in the CAP. Mr. Mondor suggested an update on DEP's Abandoned and Orphan Well Plugging Program. Ms. Marx stated that she would like to hear from utilities on long-term infrastructure and climate planning.

New Business

Mr. Mondor commended Mr. Krug's service as Chairperson and thanked everyone for his time as Vice-Chairperson. Both Ms. Baxter and Ms. Marx agreed and offered their appreciation for their service on the committee. Ms. Byron shared her appreciation for Mr. Krug's and Mr. Mondor's leadership on the committee.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Krug and seconded by Mr. Mondor. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 am.