

**Minutes of the
June 8, 2016 Meeting of the
Coastal Zone Advisory Committee (CZAC)**

The regular meeting of CZAC was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Mr. Don Benczkowski on June 8, 2016, in the 10th Floor Conference Room of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA.

The following committee representatives were present:

Don Benczkowski	PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Greg Czarnecki	PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
Shayne Hoachlander	PA Game Commission (PGC)
Mark Shaffer	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)
Jordan Van Order	PA Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Scott Bollinger	PA Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC)
Amy Verbofsky	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
Amy Murdock (phone)	Erie County Department of Planning (ECDP)
Bill Creason	PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)
Stacey Box	PA DEP
Lori Mohr	PA DEP
Kevin Hess	PA DEP
Matt Walderon	PA DEP
Jennifer Orr	PA DEP
James Peifer	PA DEP
Sean Gimbel	PA DEP, Water Resources Planning
Randy Brown	PA DEP, Southeast Regional Staff
Anya Dodge	PA DEP, Intern

Introductions: Don Benczkowski began the meeting at 9:33 a.m., welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Mr. Benczkowski took some extra time to introduce Jennifer Orr as the new Bureau Director for the PA DEP Compacts and Commissions Office.

Minutes: Minutes of the January 13, 2016 CZAC meeting were approved with only one change. The update for the Erie County Planning Department included mention of the Erie County Comprehensive Plan on page 3. This should be Erie City Comprehensive Plan, not the County as previously noted.

Public Comments: Mr. Benczkowski asked if there were any comments. Upon hearing none, the meeting moved to the next agenda item.

DCNR and Climate Change, Planning for the Future: Greg Czarnecki discussed DCNR's approach to climate change. He presented evidence to show that anthropogenic activity has had an influence on the climate in recent years. It is believed that the vast population has contributed to variety of climatic trends such as an increase in temperature, an increase in heavy precipitation, and a longer growing season. Mr. Czarnecki focused on Pennsylvania and how the

climate has left many areas within DCNR's jurisdictional lands at risk and vulnerable to factors such as fragmented habitats, invasive species, zones of hybridization, loss of species diversity, and an increase in flooding. In order to handle these issues he indicated that actions such as assisted migration, carbon sequestration, vulnerability analyses, and adaptation plans should be implemented. He stressed the importance of taking a new approach to conservation by planning ahead for what will come in the future rather than just focusing on the present and past.

FFY 2016 Coastal Zone Grants Update: Stacey Box stated that 2015 grants were sent in May 2016; they were released late due to the budget impasse. In addition, the 2016 grant application has been sent to NOAA and the 2017 grant round will be open from August 15th to October 17th. There has been a match deficit and the program anticipates another year of being short on match. Ms. Box asked the group for any projects or ideas with a coastal zone connection in order to meet the match for the coming year. There was no immediate response by the partner agencies.

Section 309 Update: CRM Program's Section 309 Strategy

- Building Capacity to Facilitate Climate Adaptation Planning and Community Resiliency: Kevin Hess explained the five year cycle of money for section 309. The plan for the first year is a one day workshop working with municipalities. The focus will likely be the significant storm water issues in the Philadelphia area and the problems with flooding along the Delaware River.
- Coastal Marine Spatial Planning Update: Matt Walderon provided an update on the Marine Spatial Planning effort. Unfortunately, due to the travel ban, about half of the data collection opportunities were not able to be collected; however, two trips have been conducted so far this season. These trips completed side scan and single beam acoustic data collection in the near shore for all of Presque Isle, side scan data collection for the open lake dredge disposal area, side scan documentation of the wreck Isolde, and side scan and Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) documentation of the Susquehanna shipwreck. For the remainder of the season Mr. Walderon plans to gather data with the side scan and single beam acoustic for the near shore areas at certain stream mouths and a few offshore locations. Side scans and ROV documentation will also be completed for a couple of ship wrecks. The program is currently building map layers for the interactive map. Mr. Walderon concluded with a video featured in the Erie Times-News showing side scan and ROV documentation of a ship wreck. He also indicates that the Patriot News plans on doing a story in the near future.

Coastal Zone Updates - Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission:

- Amy Verbofsky (DVRPC) provided updates on the Delaware Estuary and presented information and visuals on the Schuylkill River Trail. She noted expansion plans throughout areas of the trail project and the plan to cross the trail to the opposite side of the river. She also discussed a one day hazard mitigation workshop which focused on hazard risks in developments. This workshop specifically focused on flooding as it is the number one hazard posed in this area. Local municipality representatives from Pennsylvania and New Jersey attended as well as PEMA and FEMA.

Coastal Zone Updates - Erie County Planning Department:

- Amy Murdock (Erie County Planning Department) presented a variety of projects occurring on the Erie bayfront. These projects include bayfront developments with Harbor Place, GAF Site/Bayfront Place, and the Cobblestone Hotel. There have also been a variety of projects on Presque Isle State Park including 2016 sand replenishment, connections to the Millcreek Township sewer system, and renovations of the beach houses and showers on beaches six and eight. She also noted that Presque Isle experienced prevalent erosion this year which could be due to the lack of ice coverage across the lake. Other projects include a variety of improvements to the Presque Isle Light House and a new roof for the amphitheater at Liberty Park. Ms. Murdock also discussed the recently completed CZM grant projects and the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary proposal.

Agency Updates:

- Scott Bollinger (PFBC) explained that legislation should change how Erie watershed money could be used. He noted that PFBC is currently opening up habitat areas and has added about twenty miles of public access through the Erie Access Improvement Program.
- Jordan Van Order (PUC) briefly commented on a new commissioner who will be coming on board.
- Mark Shaffer (PHMC) described the disaster planning for protection of historic properties in storm events. This project will identify over 500 historic buildings within the Philadelphia region. This plan will establish elevations of the buildings and ways to protect them. He provided a handout on the plan. Further information on this plan will be presented by Jeremy Young of PHMC at the January 2017 meeting.
- Shane Hoachlander (PGC) discussed the invasive species control program and its expansion to some privately owned property. He also noted that the Erie Airport expansion will influence areas of wetlands and forests. Wildlife Conservation Officer Hoachlander concluded by stating that there has not been an increase in cost of a hunting license in the past seventeen years. This has influenced their labor force and ability to maintain cooperation with other partners.
- Bill Creason (PEMA) briefly mentioned two million dollars in post-disaster mitigation grants for the state.

Other Business: After Mr. Benczkowski asked if there was any additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:46 am. The next two CZAC meetings are scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on January 18, 2017 and June 7, 2017.