

**Minutes of the
June 7, 2017 Meeting of the
Coastal Zone Advisory Committee (CZAC)**

The regular meeting of CZAC was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Mr. Don Benczkowski on June 7, 2017, in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA.

The following committee representatives were present:

Patrick McDonnell	PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
Don Benczkowski	PA DEP
James Peifer	PA DEP
Stacey Box	PA DEP
Matt Walderon	PA DEP
Sam Burton	PA DEP
John Van Zant	PA Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Randy Brown	PA DEP, Southeast Regional Staff
Kevin Hess	PA DEP
Jackie Koons-Felion	PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Shayne Hoachlander	PA Game Commission (PGC)
Joe Frassetta	PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
Amy Verbofsky	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
Michael Piakowski	PA DCNR
Sean Gimbel	PA DEP, Water Resources Planning
Joe Sieber	PA DEP
Tom Hughes	PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)

The following committee representatives attended the meeting by phone:

Jake Moore	PA DEP
Ryan Anderson	Erie County Department of Planning

The following members of the public were present:

Karen Holm	Delaware County Planning Department (DCPD)
Amanda Lafty	DCPD

Introductions: Don Benczkowski began the meeting at 9:34 a.m., welcomed everyone, and introductions were made.

Secretary Patrick McDonnell introduced himself and thanked everyone in attendance. Secretary McDonnell shared DEP's current effort to examine its public participation policies, which will include engaging advisory committees like CZAC. He welcomed comments or questions. Mr. Benczkowski provided a summary of CZAC's function. Secretary McDonnell stated they will be getting out of the office to meet regional office staff and see projects. These visits will start with Erie in August and Secretary McDonnell is open to recommendations on sights to see on these trips. Mr. Benczkowski responded that staff will follow up and thanked the Secretary for his attendance.

COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Minutes: Minutes of the January 18, 2017 CZAC meeting were unanimously approved.

Public Comments: Mr. Benczkowski welcomed Karen Holm and Amanda Lafty from Delaware County Planning Department for their attendance. Stacey Box provided a brief background on the Coastal Resource Management (CRM) Program's local advisory committees, which Ms. Holm represents from the Southeast. Ms. Holm thanked the group and had no further comments.

Mr. Benczkowski announced the next upcoming CZAC meeting date of January 17, 2018. Staff will send out an e-mail with this and the following June date. These meetings will return to the RCSOB 10th floor location.

PEMA efforts in Pennsylvania Coastal Zones: Tom Hughes presented an overview of PEMA's hazard mitigation office and their efforts. Flooding is the number one risk in Pennsylvania and for a municipality to receive grants, its county mitigation plan must be active and include this hazard mitigation activity. Mr. Hughes reviewed a list of projects in the Southeast and Northwest area of the state receiving funds under disaster assistance grants, including property buyouts and emergency generator purchases. Mr. Benczkowski asked about the future land use of bought out properties. Mr. Hughes responded that the land becomes property of the municipality or county, must comply with FEMA's open space requirements, and not impact flooding.

Mr. Hughes described PEMA's non-disaster grants, including the Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Programs. Funds can be used to raise structures above flood elevations and address homes affected by sinkholes.

PEMA is currently working to update the state's 2018 Hazard Mitigation Plan which will address recovery and resiliency. Currently 31 municipalities in the state, but none in the coastal zones, participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System. There is currently no NFIP coordinator due to the retirement of Dan Fitzpatrick at the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED).

PEMA is holding several relevant meetings and events which Mr. Hughes will provide more information for the group. Mr. Hughes welcomed ideas for flood mitigation projects from CZAC. Joe Frassetta (DCNR) commented on opportunities to integrate forested buffers on properties receiving PEMA assistance. Mr. Hughes responded that Department of Housing and Urban Development buy outs could be forested and could also be coordinated with other non-state organizations.

Mr. Hughes provided a background on the Silverjackets interagency committee to address flood protection and preparedness coordination. Several meeting attendees then discussed the new flood zone designations in Erie and municipal involvement in county hazard mitigation planning.

Coastal Zone Grants Update: Stacey Box stated that since the January CZAC meeting, CRM selected projects for FY2017 funding and CRM's overall application is due to the National and

COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) next week. The program is hopeful that grant awards will be announced on time. CRM is currently working with DCED IT, DEP IT, and the DEP Grants Center staff to migrate its existing electronic grant application to a new eGrants platform operated by DCED. The new application will go live for the FY2018 grant round, which runs August 14, 2017 to October 16, 2017. Grant applicants will be required to attend a meeting to discuss the changes to the application process.

Due to procedural changes at NOAA, every applicant will be required to answer a series of questions regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Most projects will fall under a categorical exclusion (CE) of the NEPA. If the project cannot be granted a CE, the applicant will be required to have an environmental assessment, which may require significant time to prepare. These projects may not be the best fit for Coastal Zone funding due to a short period of performance.

Section 309 Update: Climate Adaptation Planning and Community Resiliency: Kevin Hess provided an overview of the Section 309 assessment and strategy, which focuses on climate adaptation and resiliency program enhancement over the next five years. This will be addressed through a three-part process, including a community outreach program working with Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) in the Southeast. CRM will also be reviewing its program policies and CZAC network to better incorporate and address climate change and resiliency.

Status of Coastal Program: Mr. Benczkowski updated the group on the current federal budget outlook. He discussed the Washington Post report on the President's leaked budget memo, which zeroed out the coastal program and other related programs. These items continue to be not funded in the President's current proposal. There is hope that the Senate and House will continue with program funding, but the future situation is uncertain.

Coastal Zone Updates - Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission:

- Amy Verbofsky (DVRPC) provided updates on the Delaware Estuary. Newly opened trails include the K&T, Schuylkill Banks Bartram's Mile, and Green Lane in Bucks County. There are several proposed waterfront development projects, including Liberty on the River, capping of I-95 and its conversion to a park, and a mixed-use development at 735 S Columbus Blvd. DVRPC is currently working with municipalities to increase their capacity to address climate change. Additionally, they are hosting a free workshop open to the public, entitled. "Waterfront Development in a Changing Climate".

Coastal Zone Updates - Erie County Planning Department:

- Ryan Anderson is currently filling in while Amy Murdock is on maternity leave until mid-July. He provided an update on shoreline erosion and beach nourishment, in addition to an overview of current developments on the Bayfront. The County is continuing to implement their comprehensive plan and working to update their Greenways plan. Mr. Anderson also reviewed recently completed coastal zone funded projects.

Jake Moore provided an update on the Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program Request for Proposals, which received 29 applications, including one from Pennsylvania. This

COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

funding opportunity is offered annually and CZAC members should contact Mr. Moore if they have a relevant project to submit for consideration.

Agency Updates:

- Mike Piakowski (DCNR) provided an overview of the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation and their new Riparian Forest Buffer Grant Program. DCNR is currently looking for partners in administering the program.
- Jackie Koons-Felion (PennDOT) discussed the new PennDOT Connects approach to enhance local engagement and improve transportation planning, design, and delivery. It requires collaboration with stakeholders before developing project scopes, including consideration of safety, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, stormwater management issues, etc. PennDOT continues to integrate results from its Extreme Weather Vulnerability Study. Lastly, the 2017 competitive application for the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside funding should be available this summer. Eligible projects may include pedestrian and bicycle facilities, improved public transportation access, safe routes to school, and historic transportation structure preservation.
- Shayne Hoachlander (PGC) discussed Pumpkin Ash control efforts at State Game Lands (SGL) 314, where they attempt to save the tree and treat them with triage. Also at SGL 314, PGC conducted Woodcock habitat management for the past six years. Recent surveys have shown highest numbers this year, so efforts appear to be paying off. Mr. Hoachlander also mentioned that Gary Camus has retired and Dan Dunlap is assisting until the position is filled.
- John Van Zant (PUC) discussed a minor change in CZAC representation responsibilities at his agency. He welcomes the group to contact him with any utility related questions.
- Tom Hughes (PEMA) provided information on upcoming events, including the PA Floodplain Managers Conference on September 12-13, 2017, The Governor's Emergency Preparedness Summit on September 30-October 4, 2017, and a Nonstructural Floodproofing Workshop in Ambler on June 22 and 24, 2017.

Other Business: Mr. Benczkowski welcomed comments from the Delaware County Planning Department. Ms. Holm discussed the Department's current Coastal Zone grant to examine the management structure of the East Coast Greenway.

Sean Gimbel briefly discussed the Lake Erie Domestic Action Plan, which was recently published for public comment. DEP will be holding a webinar to discuss the plan on June 15, 2017. The public comment period ends on June 26, 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am. The next CZAC meeting is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on January 17, 2018.