

**Minutes of the
June 6, 2018 Meeting of the
Coastal Zone Advisory Committee (CZAC)**

The regular meeting of CZAC was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Mr. Don Benczkowski on June 6, 2018, in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA.

The following committee representatives were present:

Don Benczkowski	PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Coastal Resources Management (CRM) Program
Ken Shaffer	PA Public Utility Commission (PUC)
Mark Shaffer	Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC)
Cindy Dunlap	PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
Amy Verbofsky	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)

The following committee representatives attended the meeting by phone:

Mike Guelcher	Erie County Department of Planning (ECDP)
Amy Murdock	Erie County Department of Planning (ECDP)
Joy Knapp	Erie County Department of Planning (ECDP)

The following agency representatives (non-CZAC members) were present:

James Peifer	PA DEP, CRM
Stacey Box	PA DEP, CRM
Matt Walderon	PA DEP, CRM
Sam Burton	PA DEP, CRM
Kevin Hess	PA DEP, CRM
Derek Norman	PA DEP, CRM (Intern)
Timothy D. Schaeffer	PA DEP, Deputy Secretary for Water Programs
Randy Brown	PA DEP, CRM Southeast Regional Staff
Sean Gimbel	PA DEP, Executive Assistant, Water Programs
Denise Soisson	PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Beth Bonini	PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Bree True	PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)
Jennifer Carle	PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)

The following members of the public were present:

Roger Varner	Ecology and Environment, Inc.
Lindsay Mulgrew	Philadelphia Port Authority (PhilaPort)
Bob Cummings	Philadelphia Port Authority (PhilaPort)
Sarah Whitney	PA Sea Grant

Review and Approval of Minutes: Since there was no quorum for this meeting, the minutes of the January 2018 CZAC meeting could not be approved. These minutes will be tabled for discussion and approval until the next meeting in January 2019.

COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Coastal Zone Program Update: Stacey Box reported that all the Fiscal Year 2017 grant awards have been fully executed and all projects are underway. Fifteen projects were awarded for a total of nearly \$546,000. Total funding for Section 306 and 309 in 2017 was \$1,797,000.

The 2018 CZ projects have been announced and selected and have been forwarded to NOAA for their review. Typically, barring any kind of government shutdown, grant recipient announcements are made sometime before October 1st. NOAA awards are scheduled to begin implementation on October 1, 2018.

The FY2018 CZ funding increased slightly to \$1,996,800. Funding for Section 306 is \$1,832,000, \$537,000 of which is being passed through for grants in the two coastal zones. This year Great Lakes states were each offered \$54,800 in Section 310 funds for habitat restoration projects. These are Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds passed through EPA, and limited to Great Lakes states only. All 310 funding is being passed through for a habitat restoration project.

Local Coastal Zone Updates:

DVRPC: Amy Verbofsky of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) presented updates to the committee on various trail projects and related Coastal Zone activity. The Schuylkill Banks South to Christian Street segment is now open. Grays Ferry Swing Bridge is under construction and the Christian to Grays Ferry overwater segment is to start construction in 2020. Baxter Trail in North East Philadelphia is still closed due to police firing range activity. Currently it is open on weekends only.

The summer Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone Advisory Committee meeting will be held August 7th and the Coastal Zone grant pre-application workshop will be held August 8th at DVRPC.

DVRPC is conducting coastal resiliency municipal outreach meetings with local municipalities for the Section 309 project. Most Municipalities are not concerned with climate resiliency and sea level rise. They are very focused on the “here and now” and their specific needs, such as urban flooding and stormwater needs. Also, DVRPC is currently working with Delaware County to put together half-day workshops. These workshops will also be conducted in Bucks County.

ECDP: Amy Murdock, ECDP (via phone) provided an update on the Lake Erie Coastal Zone and the Erie Bayfront development

Erie County Department of Planning hired Joy Knapp as the new Planning Program Administrator.

Erie County beaches are open for business this season and harmful algal bloom (HAB) is ongoing. There is a collaborative effort between the Regional Science Consortium and Erie County Department of Health to monitor HABS at various public access locations along Lake Erie in Erie County.

Ms. Murdock also gave a brief update on the Erie County Municipal Stormwater Assistance Program. Erie County is currently mapping the infrastructure using digitized maps from the municipalities.

Millcreek Township is finishing their comprehensive plan of a redesign of the entrance to Presque Isle State Park (PISP), and working with PennDOT on a multi-modal study to better connect the park to the city. The existing pedestrian path to and from PISP is unsafe.

Completed Coastal Zone grant projects include construction of the trail at the Lake Erie Community Park in Girard Township and the planning project for Lower Elk Creek Streambank Stabilization.

Section 309 Update, Climate Adaptation Planning and Community Resiliency: Kevin Hess provided an overview of the Section 309 Enhancement Grant. He discussed the urban stormwater and MS4 program topics from the climate resiliency project. CRM will be exploring its role within the water quality framework. Streams in Southeast PA are impaired from a stormwater perspective. Mr. Hess also described opportunities to foster collaboration between municipalities. Mr. Hess is also evaluating habitat connectivity and wetlands regarding climate adaptation planning. Mr. Hess mentioned he has been added to the Chesapeake Bay Program stormwater group. A draft of the state mitigation plan is under review from PEMA, which includes climate resiliency and sea level rise.

The Port of Philadelphia Presentation on Port Activities: Lindsay Mulgrew and Bob Cummings (PhilaPort) presented on the PhilaPort activities and the Port Development Plan (2016-2019). The Port has over 1,000 acres and 17 facilities that include multiple piers, terminals, and distribution centers.

Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project will bring the main channel from 40 feet deep to 45 feet deep at low tide. It is 103 miles long and will be completed in December 2018.

Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Development has a \$188 million commonwealth investment including warehouse construction and electrification of cranes.

Tioga Marine Terminal has a \$12 million investment for various cranes and a new consolidated office.

The Southport Auto Terminal has a \$93 million investment to expand the facility from 149 acres to 240 acres, develop new vehicle processing centers, and make pier improvements.

The Jack's Marina wetland restoration project and the Marshall Island habitat preservation project were mitigation projects resulting from the expansion of the Southport Auto Terminal.

Ms. Mulgrew also mentioned the importance of the 2014 Coastal Zone grant for the Marine Highway Analysis between the Port of Philadelphia and other ports along the M-95 corridor. The outcome of the grant was a MARAD Marine Highway Project Designation and direct service from the Port of Philadelphia to the Port of Canaveral.

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Agency Updates: Mark Shaffer (PHMC) announced that PHMC is transitioning to electronic review system. They are partnering with PennDOT on this project. PHMC has had a setback because of staffing issues.

Cindy Dunlap (DCNR) provided an overview of the Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. She discussed the C2P2 grants and the value of their investment. In this last round C2P2 received 398 applications, which are currently being reviewed. Ms. Dunlap anticipates the announcements to be in September or October 2018.

Bree True and Jennifer Carle (PEMA) informed the committee that PEMA's non-disaster application period starts in October 2018.

Ken Shaffer (PUC) reiterated that he is available for any utility related questions. He is the new PUC CZAC representative taking over for John Van Zant.

Stacey Box read the written update provided by Jackie Koons-Felion (PennDOT). Since the last meeting, PennDOT has been working with their Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs) as part of the development of the 2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP represents the region's federal funded transportation improvement priorities and is required by federal law for the region to receive and spend federal transportation funds.

On May 23, 2018 PennDOT announced \$66.8 million in TA Set-Aside projects via a press release. These are projects and activities defined as transportation alternatives.

Public Comment: Roger Varner introduced himself and expressed interest in the Lower Elk Creek Stream Stabilization project.

Sarah Whitney introduced herself, gave a brief overview of PA Sea Grant, and said she will be the new PA Sea Grant Director starting in July 2018. She also noted PA Sea Grant has its 20th anniversary coming up this year.

Other Business: Don Benczkowski shared that the coastal program will have a NOAA program evaluation next year, which will include engaging CRM partners. CRM will keep the committee informed on this. The program must also develop new performance metrics, which will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Don Benczkowski thanked everyone for their attendance.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

The next CZAC meetings are tentatively scheduled for January 16th and June 5th, 2019. Dates will be confirmed and sent to the committee.