

**MINUTES
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
JULY 17, 2018**

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Terry Dayton, Greene County
Bill Fink, Bedford County
Duane Mowery, Cumberland County
John St. Clair, Indiana County
Jim Sandoe, Lancaster County
James Schmid, Delaware County
Thad Stevens, Tioga County
Don Welsh, Chester County
Jim Welty, Cumberland County
Tim Weston, Cumberland County

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT VIA PHONE:

Mark Caskey, Washington County
Jerome Shabazz, Philadelphia County

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Don Welsh called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA, with a quorum.

APPROVAL OF JUNE 19, 2018 MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Welsh solicited additions or corrections to the June 19, 2018 Minutes. Hearing none, Chairman Welsh requested a motion to adopt the Minutes.

Terry Dayton moved to approve the June 19, 2018 meeting Minutes. Thad Stevens seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

DEP REPORT:

The Secretary then provided a brief update on the following:

State Budget

The overall General Fund spending plan for 2018-2019 is \$32.7 billion, which is an increase of \$700 million (2.2%) over the prior year for the entirety of the Commonwealth. In terms of DEP, the Department received everything it asked for except for a reduction in the River Basin Commission funding and a slight decrease in the Environmental Program Operations line item which funds the field offices. DEP is now able to move ahead with filling additional positions that were proposed as part of the budget, and the agency has already begun that process. DCNR received an increase of approximately 15% over the prior year. Their biggest line item was State Forest Operations.

Environmental Justice: Director and Draft Policy

Allison Acevedo was named the new Director of the Office of Environmental Justice. Allison previously operated a consultancy in Philadelphia providing guidance on education, program development, policy, and strategic planning for non-profit organizations. She worked with the Overbrook Environmental Education Center and provided guidance to the Overbrook Youth Environmental Stewardship Program. Allison was Director of Education for the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. She was a staff advisor to Representative Curtis Thomas and Senator Allyson Schwartz and worked as an attorney at the U.S. Department of Labor.

An additional position has been allocated to the Office of Environmental Justice, so the office will be comprised of three advocates and a Director. Allison will be instrumental in bringing on an environmental advocate for the Southeast Region.

A draft of the Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy has been opened for comment from July 14 to July 28. The draft policy outlines opportunities for community involvement and public participation throughout the permitting process. It addresses document availability, public hearings, public comment periods, and community input before, during, and following a permit review. The Secretary encouraged the CAC members to review the Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy and share it with others who may have interest.

Finding Pennsylvania's Solar Future: Draft Plan and Comment Period

The draft plan was noticed for public comment on July 7 and will remain open until August 20. The document is the result of extensive stakeholder engagement to determine how best to develop solar energy in Pennsylvania. It includes not only growing businesses and creating jobs, but also technical considerations involved in connecting solar power to the grid. The plan includes strategies for generating 10% of in-state electricity from solar. The Secretary encouraged the CAC members to review the draft plan and share it with others who may have interest.

Chesapeake Bay Update

Final Planning Targets

The Bay Program Partnership Principals' Staff Committee approved final planning targets on July 9 to reduce nitrogen levels by 34 million lbs. between now and 2025.

Countywide Action Plans

The planning process is being piloted in Lancaster, York, Franklin, and Adams Counties before rolling out the plan state-wide.

Scoping Scenarios

Preliminary results as to potential reductions that can be achieved from statewide technical and financial assistance and outreach initiatives from the Agricultural and Forestry Sector were presented to the Phase 3 WIP Steering Committee on July 10.

BMP Verification Plan

Revisions to the existing BMP verification plan are needed to ensure the plan is effective and that correct practices are tracked and verified over time. A one-day workshop is planned for August 30 to solicit input from different entities who can help with that effort.

Conowingo Dam

A separate Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan is being developed to address the fact that the Conowingo Dam is no longer trapping sediment.

Safe Drinking Water Fees

The Safe Drinking Water Program has been in the process of updating its fee structure through regulation. On April 17 the Environmental Quality Board approved the Safe Drinking Water General Update and Fee final rulemaking package. It was approved by IRRC on June 28.

Legislative Priorities for the Fall

Act 101

Concepts are still being developed in collaboration with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Recycling Fund Advisory Committee looking at everything from who the recycling mandate should apply to, what materials should be included, how to deal with organics, and increasing education.

CDRA

The Covered Device Recycling Act remains an issue, and the Department remains engaged with the legislature.

Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund

This program supports the Department's Land Recycling and Brownfields program, the RCRA Hazardous Waste program, and emergency response activities and is also used as ancillary funding for a variety of other departmental functions. It supports approximately 250 employees in DEP's central and regional offices, so the agency must make sure it has enough resources to carry out those programs.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Interviews for the new CAC Executive Director have now been completed. The results will be announced shortly, with the intention being that he or she will be installed in that position in time for the September CAC meeting.

PRESENTATION:

John Stefanko, Deputy Secretary of the Active and Abandoned Mining Operations program, provided an in-depth presentation on coal distribution and locations in Pennsylvania and problems caused by past coal mining; bureaus, staffing, and office locations with the Bureau of Active and Abandoned Mining Operations; funding and annual work volumes; reclamation efforts and active treatment sites; Act 54 report update; karst work group; Title IV Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act reauthorization; and the AML Pilot Program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AD HOC BUDGET COMMITTEE

Don Welsh continues to work with the Department to try to understand the budget numbers that have been made available to the Committee and to work on a finished product not only for the CAC but also for the citizens of the Commonwealth to understand the budget process. The end goal is to find a better way to figure out the Department's budget, and then determine if there are recommendations that can be made by the CAC about movement of the dollars. Slight progress has been made. Mark Caskey volunteered to join the Ad Hoc Budget Committee.

POLICY & REGULATORY OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Tim Weston detailed the Committee's review of the proposed Air Quality fee package and CAC's draft letter to the Secretary in support of the Department's proposal to present the rulemaking package to the Environmental Quality Board for publication as proposed rules, with provision for an adequate period for public comment.

Tim Weston moved to approve the draft letter to the Secretary indicating Council's concurrence with the Department's proposal to present the proposed Air Quality fees rulemaking package to the Environmental Quality Board for publication as proposed rules, with provision for an adequate period for public comment. Terry Dayton seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

AG ADVISORY BOARD

Bill Fink indicated that the Board has a subcommittee working on an erosion and sedimentation manual for agricultural operations, with strict requirements on meeting compliance with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION

Transition Report

Chairman Welsh solicited volunteers to work on the upcoming transition report. Volunteers included:

- Bill Fink (Chesapeake Bay TMDL)
- Tim Weston (Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Infrastructure Challenges/Water Resources Management)
- Thad Stevens (Sewage Facilities)
- Jim Sandoe (Climate Change)
- Don Welsh (State/Federal Relationship)
- Terry Dayton (Ideas for Promoting Environmental Mitigation)
- Jim Sandoe (Waste and Electronics Recycling)

Possible topics include: business transformation, preparing Pennsylvania for the evolving energy future, and legacy problems (radiation sites, hazardous waste sites, abandoned mine lands, abandoned wells, and sediments).

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Council will be September 18, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Chairman Welsh requested a motion for adjournment. Bill Fink moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Terry Dayton, and all were in favor. The July 17, 2018 meeting of the CAC was adjourned at 1:00 PM.