

**MINUTES OF MEETING
OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
July 11, 2023**

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bob Barkanic	John St. Clair
Jacqueline Bonomo	James Schmid
Jamie Bracey-Green	Jerome Shabazz
Cynthia Carrow	Thad Stevens
Bill Fink	John Walliser
Mitchell Hescox	Jim Welty
Duane Mowery	Tim Weston
Trisha Salvia	

CAC STAFF PRESENT:

Max Schultz, Interim Executive Director, Citizens Advisory Council

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Shabazz called the meeting to order at 12:35 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2023

Chairman Shabazz solicited additions or corrections to the June 13, 2023 Minutes. Duane Mowery requested that the June 13 Minutes be revised to reflect Secretary Negrin's comments that perhaps as much as 75% of Pennsylvania, in his opinion, would qualify for environmental justice classification.

With an addition to Secretary's remarks section of the June 13, 2023 Minutes of a comment made by Secretary Negrin that as much as 75% of Pennsylvania would qualify for environmental justice classification, Thad Stevens made a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 13, 2023 meeting. Duane Mowery seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lisa Johnson, Lisa Johnson & Associates

Ms. Johnson is an attorney who represents citizens who have been harmed by oil and gas operations. She was asked by her clients to approach the CAC regarding the Department's focus on permitting reform, specifically the reduced turnaround time of permitting, failure to notify, failure to test, childhood cancers, and the reception folks receive when engaging with DEP.

Secretary Negrin engaged with Ms. Johnson regarding several of her complaints. He assured her that the culture within the Department is changing and that staff will work hard to address her concerns. In particular, the Secretary highlighted the priorities of DEP, including permitting, cultural competence, and environmental justice. Secretary Negrin also encouraged Ms. Johnson to reach out to him or his office with any other issues or concerns she had.

Tom Pike, Protect PT

Mr. Pike discussed Chevron’s oil drilling operations in Pennsylvania and expressed his opinion that the Department is not doing enough to protect the environment and citizens from the harmful effects of oil drilling—at times even siding with the drillers rather than the victims of its harmful effects.

Secretary Negrin assured Mr. Pike that a new enforcement strategy is being developed by his Chief Council. The Secretary further acknowledged the difficulty in holding bad actors accountable, but the Department will continue to work through those challenges in order to protect the environment.

Craig Stevens, Dimock, PA

Mr. Stevens detailed issues with water contamination caused by drilling in Dimock, Pennsylvania. Mr. Stevens requested that Secretary Negrin travel to Dimock to meet with the community, observe the damage, and fix the issues residents have been living with.

**GUIDANCE FOR DEVELOPING A CHAPTER 105 ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS:
Andy Klinger, Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands**

This presentation outlined changes made to the technical guidance for Chapter 105 applications. This technical guidance was created in response to public comments received by the Bureau. The initiative began with a stakeholder workgroup which included representatives from environmental groups, various industries, DEP, PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA DCNR, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Q&A focused on the changes from draft versions to final version. The Bureau will provide updates to the CAC going forward.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES: DCNR’S EFFORTS AND PROGRESS

Jake B. Newton, Executive Energy Project Coordinator, DCNR

This presentation discussed DCNR’s progress with Electric Vehicles (EVs), with a focus on the use of EVs within their Department as well as making it easier for the public to adopt EVs for their own personal use. Mr. Newton also discussed how DCNR is integrating renewable energy into the infrastructure of state parks. Q&A involved the Ryerson State Park solar project, EV challenges, and the limited use of federal funding.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES: PENNDOT’S EFFORTS AND PROGRESS

Colton Brown, Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Coordinator, PennDOT

This presentation introduced the Council to PennDOT’s National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Program which was created to accelerate the transition from traditional combustion engine vehicles to electric vehicles. The NEVI project is federally funded and has recently gained a lot of traction. Mr. Brown described how resources are being used, PennDOT’s areas of focus, and PennDOT’s projected, near-future goals.

Q&A revolved around car compatibility with EV charging stations, specifics on rollout of the infrastructure, getting information out, and funding.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES: DEP’S EFFORTS AND PROGRESS

Geoff Bristow, Environmental Group Manager, Energy Programs Office

This presentation discussed the grants and programs the Department of Environmental Protection has rolled out over the past few years and how those programs have been implemented. Specifics included an update on the PA Electric Vehicle Roadmap, Pennsylvania's EV Rebate, Driving PA Forward, and the Medium & Heavy-Duty Fleet Replacement Grant.

Q&A revolved around the build-out of EV infrastructure.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION

The Council is actively seeking a new Executive Director. A particular candidate has been identified and the process is with the Office of Administration, who is working on making an offer to the candidate.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Based upon a vote of a quorum of council members, Jerome Shabazz has been re-elected to serve as Chair of the CAC, and Tim Weston has been re-elected to serve as Vice-Chair.

CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Environmental Quality Board

The EQB ruled on four rulemakings:

The final rulemaking on vanadium was approved 19-0.

The proposed triennial review of the water quality standards passed 17-2, with 2 nays.

The proposed water quality standard regulation was adopted.

The Board accepted the DEP's recommendation to deny a petition for rulemaking related to the bonding requirement for conventional oil and gas wells.

Strategic Issues Committee

The subcommittee met briefly on June 30, nothing of substance was discussed. Another meeting will be planned ahead of the September meeting.

Policy & Regulatory Oversight Committee

The committee had nothing to report, as the Department has not presented any regulations to it.

ADJOURN

With no further business Chairman Shabazz adjourned the July 11, 2023 meeting of the CAC at 4:07 pm.