

**MINUTES OF
CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL
April 9, 2024**

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jerome Shabazz, Chairperson	Dwayne Mowery
Timothy Weston, Vice Chairperson	Trisha Salvia
George Ambrose	James Schmidt
Robert Barkanic	Thaddeus Stevens
Cynthia Carrow	John Walliser
William Fink	James Welty
Jason Foster	

CAC STAFF PRESENT:

Ian Irvin, Executive Director
Jessica Shirley, Interim Acting Secretary
Ezra Thrush, Policy Office
Max Schultz, Policy Office
Casey Damicantonio, Policy Office

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Shabazz called the meeting to order at 12:32 PM.

DEP UPDATE

Interim Acting Secretary Jessica Shirley provided the following update:

Governor's Energy Strategy

- PACER, Pennsylvania Climate Emissions Reduction Act, would be a Pennsylvania specific cap and invest program. It would enable Pennsylvania to determine the cap on the amount of carbon and then invest directly into Pennsylvanians. 70 % of the revenue that's generated from that cap and invest program would be directed back to Pennsylvanians as an electricity bill rebate. If PACER is passed it will take Pennsylvania out of RGGI.
- PRESS, Pennsylvania Reliable Energy and Sustainability Standard, is the second legislative initiative that's supported by the governor. PRESS continues the successful elements of the Alternative Energy Portfolio

Standard (AEPS) but it's also more inclusive to ensure reliability by adding nuclear power and next generation technologies like fusion, fission and clean forms of natural gas.

- The third piece to mention in the Governor's energy strategy is around hydrogen, specifically the hydrogen hubs. The two that are located in Pennsylvania, one is called the Mid-Atlantic Clean Hydrogen Hub MACH 2 that's based out of Philadelphia, and the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub or ARCH 2 that is in Southwest Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio area.
- The final piece of the strategy is to continue plugging abandoned oil and gas wells. DEP is in the process of talking with the Department of Interior to draw down the next round of funding which DEP is calling Formula One (\$79m). DEP will be creating a grant program specifically for smaller operators to be able to access like a rebate program to plug wells. The other program that DEP has received funding is for MERP, Methane Emissions Reduction Program that will plug at some of PA's lower producing conventional wells.

Q & A included the fact that DEP is focusing on plugging the wells that are causing the most environmental impact, which is why the price per plugged well may appear high. Also, DEP is looking into educating the public on hydrogen and hydrogen hubs, but the concept is so new it has been difficult to get that information out quickly.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The following individuals, and the organizations they represent, if any, provided comments at the meeting. Links to their written comments are provided. In cases where written comments were not provided, a brief summary is provided:

[Susan Sunhee Volz, Advocacy Coordinator for Clean Air Council](#)

[Karen Feridun, Co-Founder of Better Path Coalition](#)

[Tom Pike, Policy Advocate for ProtectPT](#)

[Chris Davies](#)

[Benita Campbell](#)

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Shabazz solicited additions or corrections to the [March 12, 2024 Minutes](#). Hearing none:

Chairman Shabazz motioned to approve the Minutes of the January 9, 2024 meeting. Timothy Weston seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

PRESENTATIONS:

DEP Discussion and Q&A on Trenchless Technology Guidance

Andrew Foley DEP Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands

Trenchless methods are often chosen by applicants as the least environmentally impactful method of construction. This guidance outlines the steps and options to be considered when the use of a trenchless technology construction methodology is proposed. The level of analysis recommended by the guidance is expected to be commensurate with the level of environmental risk. DEP has reviewed and considered all public comments.

Q&A included the fact that the Oil and Gas industry are the main industries using trenchless technology and those sectors were represented on the workgroup that put this guidance together.

CAC COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominations Committee

In accordance with the bylaws, the Committee was appointed, comprising of Cynthia Carrow, William Fink, and John Walser.

Legislative Committee

The Committee will meet on April 24th with Noah Fatzinger from DEP's Legislative Affairs Office. Noah will be describing legislative initiatives from the Governor's Office, including electronic waste.

Public Participation Committee

Since Reverend Hescox and Doctor Green have officially left CAC, George Ambrose is now Chair of the Public Participation Committee. A letter has been provided to CAC members to use for recruitment for the Committee.

Strategic Issues Committee

The Committee wants to hear a lot more about the impacts of the hydrogen hub projects.

EQB

The April meeting was cancelled.

Mining and Reclamation Advisory Board

The next meeting will be April 25.

Aggregate Advisory Board

Next meeting is May 7, 2024.

Low-Level Radioactive Waste

Has not met.

Solid Waste Advisory

Will meet on June 26.

Oil and Gas Technical Advisory Board

Meeting on June 13.

Radiation Protection Advisory Committee

Will meet on April 17.

Sewage Advisory Council

March 20 meeting was cancelled.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION:

In March, the Executive Director sent the 2022 Annual Report, the 2023 Annual Report, and Membership Handbook to members for suggestions and edits. The Executive Director will accept additionally suggestions and edits for a few more weeks before finalizing all three documents.

ARCH2

Denise Brinley, Vice President of Strategic Growth and Client Engagement TRC Companies

The Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2)'s mission is to use the nation's lowest cost natural gas as primary feedstock to enable and sustain a regional hydrogen economy while ensuring the economic benefits are shared fairly and equitably among local communities. The goal is to also maintain a clean hydrogen ecosystem that spans multiple end-use applications that serves as a model for a national hydrogen network.

Q&A included that DOE is going to have a third party firm do the environmental impact statement on their behalf and that they are going to make sure that the agencies and the public are well informed on the process and impacts of these projects well in advance, rather than waiting until the last minute.

The next meeting of the CAC will be May 14, 2024 at 12:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Jerome Shabazz moved to adjourn the meeting. Timothy Weston seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

The April 9, 2024 meeting of the CAC was adjourned at 3:52 PM.