

COASTAL ZONE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
June 15, 2005

Attendees:

Jerry Woomer	Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Chris Linn	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
Robert Weisner	Erie County Department of Planning (By Telephone)
Don Gephart	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Angela Watson	Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
John Hines	Department of Environmental Protection(DEP), Water Planning Office WPO
John Booser	Department of Environmental Protection, (WPO)
Andrew Zemba	Department of Environmental Protection, WPO
Shamus Malone	Department of Environmental Protection, WPO
Sandra Rishell	Department of Environmental Protection, WPO

Mr. Zemba called the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee Meeting of June 15, 2005 to order at 9:37 AM. Mr. Zemba stated consideration of the approval of the minutes from the January 2005 CZAC meeting would be held until the next meeting due to lack of a quorum. Mr. Zemba then asked for introductions of those in attendance.

Mr. Nagy reviewed the FFY (Federal Fiscal Year) 2006 Coastal Zone Project Criteria and Grant Application. He stated that due to budget constraints, there would be no direct mailing of materials, other than a postcard directing applicants to the electronic version of the application on DEP's website.

Mr. Gephart informed the Committee that DCNR Community Conservation Partnerships Program (C2P2) grants are available and Round 12 applications are due in September. The grant application will be updated in Round 13 to reflect the priorities set forth in the new DCNR Action Plan. Mr. Gephart asked if there is an opportunity to start discussing the incorporation of the action plan into the CZM application. Mr. Hines agreed it would be good to start looking at this possibility, and Mr. Gephart agreed to mention the subject to DCNR senior staff in order to help with coordination of efforts.

Mr. Gephart informed the Committee that some clients expressed concerns over the cost of ink cartridges when DCNR went electronic with their C2P2 manual, and that the CZM program may want to be prepared for similar comments about the electronic CZ application. Mr. Hines suggested that hard copies be made available upon request.

Mr. Zemba reminded meeting attendees that state agencies are eligible for CZ grants, and that they would need to fill out an application if interested.

Mr. Linn provided updates on various projects underway in the Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone, including: Lardner's Point Park; Coast Day; Watershed Workshop; Little Neshaminy Creek Plan; South Port Expansion Plan; Great Bend and the Ridley Creek Access Project.

Mr. Gephart asked if Chris could contact the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary and see if they would be interested in a dialogue with Philadelphia to talk about linking Coast Day to a large marketing project that will soon be undertaken.

Mr. Nagy complimented DCNR on their leadership efforts regarding River Conservation Plans. Mr. Gephart said there are only two areas in the five-county Southeastern part of the state not yet covered, and that he is working with Philadelphia Water Department and Delaware County on possible projects to complete RCPs for those two areas.

Mr. Linn reported that he is close to finishing a draft Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program plan for Pennsylvania. Mr. Zemba stated that the WPO will need to work closely with his office on next steps once the draft is finalized. Mr. Gephart suggested Mr. Linn also contact Dick Sprenkle, who is helping to complete DCNR's land acquisition policy.

Mr. Wisener gave an update on Erie County projects, including: the Tom Ridge Environmental Center; the Bayfront Convention Center and Hotel; McAllister Place, East Dobbins Landing; Erie Bluffs State Park draft master plan; Horse track/Casino by MTR Gaming; Seaway Trail Designation/Scenic Byway; Lake Erie Access Improvement Program; and Brugger Property acquisition.

Mr. Malone discussed Chapter 85 (Bluff Recession Setback) proposed regulatory changes, and provided history of the regulations and the related Act. Explanations were provided for proposed changes currently under review. Mr. Linn asked a question on what areas are subject to regulation, and Mr. Zemba explained that the study is intended to delineate those areas through the use of aerial photography. Mr. Gephart mentioned that some communities are seeing challenges to riparian ordinances with minimum setback distances. Mr. Zemba stated that the Act provides requirements regarding setbacks. Mr. Zemba discussed the next steps for the regulatory package, which include finalizing draft regulations that will undergo formal review and presentation to the Environmental Quality Board.

Mr. Malone discussed beach replenishment at Presque Isle State Park, which has had a problem with beach erosion since the early 1950s. Sand replenishment is needed and sand availability is a problem. Mr. Malone has been part of a team that has been investigating the possibility of obtaining sand from the Conneaut Harbor in Ohio and moving the sand by barge to Presque Isle.

Mr. Zemba asked for discussion regarding upcoming CZAC meeting dates for 2006. It was decided that meetings would be held in January and June, and Mr. Zemba will work with Committee members to decide actual dates that will be public noticed later in the year.

The Coastal Zone Advisory Committee meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.