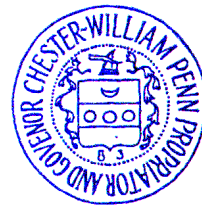




THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS

Josh Maxwell
Marian D. Moskowitz
Eric M. Roe

Matthew J. Edmond, AICP
Executive Director

PLANNING COMMISSION

Government Services Center, Suite 270
601 Westtown Road
P. O. Box 2747
West Chester, PA 19380-0990
(610) 344-6285 Fax (610) 344-6515

Chester County Environmental and Energy Advisory Board

Hybrid Meeting – GSC Room 351E/Zoom
Government Services Center
October 22, 2025

AGENDA

- 2:30 p.m. 1. CALL TO ORDER
A. Welcome *Paul Spiegel, Chair*
B. Introduction of new Board member Jeff Byers
- 2:35 p.m. 2. ACTION ITEMS
A. Adoption of July 23, 2025 Minutes *Paul Spiegel*
B. Meeting time for 2026: potential action *Paul Spiegel*
- 2:40 p.m. 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS
A. Nominating Committee meeting needed to nominate chair, vice chair and secretary for 2026 *Paul Spiegel*
B. EEAB Subcommittee Reports
1) Environmental Subcommittee *Seung Ah Byun, Subcommittee Chair*
a. EAC outreach and support progress *Ann Colby-Cummings/Rachael Griffith*
2) Clean Energy Subcommittee *Kevin Warren, Subcommittee Chair*
a. Energy Strategy update *Steve Krug & Mark Connolly*
C. Presentation: Data Centers' potential impact in SE PA *Jeff Byers, PECO*
D. Sustainable Landscape Management Plan discussion *Rachael Griffith*
- 3:40 p.m. 4. UPDATES AND COMMENTS
A. County Department Updates *Paul Spiegel*
B. Planning Commission Director's Report *Matt Edmond*
C. Sustainability Director's Report *Rachael Griffith*
D. Facilities Director's Report *George Martynick*
E. Other Updates from the Board *Board Members*
F. Public Comment
- 4:00 p.m. 5. ADJOURNMENT

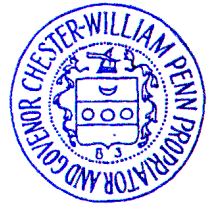
Next quarterly meeting – January 28, 2026

Attachments:

Draft July 23, 2025 Minutes
Department Updates – October 2025
Sustainable Landscape Management Plan overview



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Environmental and Energy Advisory Board
Government Services Center Room 351E/Zoom

July 23, 2025
Hybrid meeting

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Paul Spiegel, Chair; Carol DeWolf, Vice-Chair; Matthew Edmond, Secretary; Kelsey Boyd; Seung Ah Byun; Ann Colby-Cummings; Steve Krug; George Martynick; Britnee Sanseverino; Sarah Sharp; Dave Stauffer.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Mark Connolly; Madhu Gurthy; Marcus Kohl; Richard Moseley; Christian Strohmaier; Kevin Warren; Wyatt Williams.

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Bronwen Barnett; Rachael Griffith; Gene Huller; Kate Hutelmyer; Carol J. Stauffer; Sally Warren; Nina Weisblatt.

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Jaxon Dierker; Jonathan Meyers; Nathaniel Smith, Ryan Mawhinney.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board meeting, held in the Government Services Center in Room 171 and via Zoom video/audio on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, was called to order at 2:33 P.M. by Chair, Paul Spiegel.

Approval of April 23, 2025, Minutes:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 23, 2025, MEETING WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MS. COLBY-CUMMINGS, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Climate Action Plan Update: Ms. Griffith facilitated a discussion and interactive survey for board members to review priorities for the upcoming revision and update of the five-year Climate Action Plan that was originally adopted in late 2021. The revised plan is planned to begin in the fourth quarter of 2025 and be proposed for adoption in late 2026.

Subcommittee Reports

Environmental Subcommittee: Ms. Boyd reported Natural Lands just closed on a 10.5 acre easement in East Bradford Township. They also updated their statewide stewardship handbook.

Ms. Colby-Cummings reported on EAC support efforts she has been leading that include developing a database of all county-wide EACs, which she is hoping to complete by Labor Day. Responses to her EAC outreach efforts have been enthusiastic. She has been in touch with We Conserve PA regarding topics for their fall conference for EACs in Southeast PA.

Clean Energy Subcommittee:

Mr. Warren reported they are still working on a Agrivoltaics Event in the Spring of 2026. Members of the subcommittee are also participating with staff in the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) - Energy to Communities peer learning cohort on "Navigating Electricity Load Growth and Associated Utility Grid Impacts".

Mr. Krug asked Mr. Connolly to summarize progress on the draft County Energy Strategy Plan. Mr. Connolly cited five overarching principles and provided an overview of the proposed structure of the document. Discussion ensued on whether the plan would be a stand-alone document or incorporated into another county plan (Climate Action Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, etc.) The group discussed the need to identify and engage stakeholders to solicit their comments on the plan.

UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

Planning Commission Director's Report - Mr. Edmond reiterated his praise for the successful Sustainability Summit & Expo held in May 2025 at West Chester University with over 200 attendees and 40 vendors. The Open Space Accelerator pilot is underway as a stewardship project for Coventry Woods Preserve in North Coventry Township. The Commissioner's have approved the purchase of the Philadelphia and Thorndale rail corridor from PennDOT for the development of the Chester Valley Trail. Mr. Edmond mentioned the partnering with the Chesco Economic Development Council (CCEDC) in the NREL Peer Learning Cohort (detailed above).

Work is underway to complete a county application for \$2 million in carbon reduction transportation funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Sustainability Director's Report - Ms. Griffith said a pilot program is underway that would invite municipalities, school districts, public universities, and municipal authorities, to join the Sustainable Energy Partnership of Southeast PA (Chester, Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery counties), that purchases electricity as a group from renewable sources. Ms. Griffith mentioned the development of a new planning commission e-Tool for municipalities that provides examples for ways municipalities can use open space funds.

Facilities Report – Mr. Martynick noted that recently there were four days straight of peak energy demand forecasted, and his team is determining how to reduce electricity use on those peak days. He added a plan to accelerate the EV charger installations at county facilities, particularly in areas underserved by EV charging in the county. The new pollinator garden at the Justice Center in West Chester has been well received and he hopes to continue on this trajectory with other gardens at county facilities in the future.

Updates from the Board

There were no further updates from the board.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

The next quarterly meeting will be on October 22, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE AT 4:35 PM. BY MR. KRUG AND SECONDED BY MR. MARTYNICK, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew J. Edmond, AICP
Secretary

MJE/RG/saw

DRAFT

Chester County Environmental and Energy Advisory Board
Update on County Department Activities
10.22.2025

Conservation District

- Planning and implementation of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) to reach water quality goals, with a focus on countywide ACAP projects and Chesapeake Bay watershed specific CAP projects.
 - 13 ACAP projects have been completed; 29 additional projects are currently being constructed and designed. 146 BMPs have been installed to date.



Figures 1&2: Southern Chester County beef cattle operation, before & after new roofed stack pad and heavy use area protection installation- Aug. 2025



- Welcomed Ray Fenstermacher to fill the new position Octoraro Watershed Restoration Coordinator to help meet these goals in the Octoraro Watershed across three counties (Chester, Cecil, and Lancaster)

Parks + Preservation

- Working to fabricate acknowledgment signage for close out of a DCNR Community & Watershed Forestry Grant which included native riparian tree planting projects at various County Regional Park Sites and two lawn to meadow conversion projects (3.5 acres total).

- Park Rangers received second Ford F150 Lightning. County Facilities is working to provide second charger at Warwick County Park to accommodate additional EV fleet vehicles anticipated for delivery in 2026.
- Submitted comments to FERC on New England Hydropower Company Preliminary Permit application for a proposed hydroelectric generation project at the Black Rock Dam at the County's Black Rock Sanctuary.

Planning

- Partnering with WeConservePA to host the annual Fall Gathering of EACs for Southeast PA. The event will be held on 11/15 at Penn State Great Valley and is expected to draw 80-100 EAC members from across SE PA.
- Hosting an educational event for the general public on "How Open Space Happens in Chester County." The event will be held in hybrid format (in-person at the Government Services Center) on 11/13 from 5:30-8:30 pm.
- Working with Penn State's LCAP program on the Climate Action Plan update.
- The Planning Commission won an APA PA Chapter 'Award for a Plan' for the 'Chester County Trail Planning Series' that includes the *CVT Extension to Downingtown FS/MP*, *CVT West FS/MP*, *Southern Chester County Circuit Trail FS*, and the *Chester County Trails Master Plan*. Also, former Executive Director Brian O'Leary won the APA PA Chapter 'Award for a Leader – Distinguished Service'. Both awards were presented at the APA PA Chapter Conference held in Harrisburg October 12-14.
- Construction continues on the Chester Valley Trail (CVT) Phase 4a one mile extension to the Oaklands Corporate Center, which will include a new trail bridge crossing over Whitford Road. Construction is anticipated to be complete in 2026.
- Design is underway for the CVT Enola Low Grade Trail one mile extension into the Borough of Atglen. The project has seen some delays due to required coordination with both SEPTA and Amtrak. Construction is expected to start in 2026.
- Consultant selection for Phase One of the P&T Corridor is underway with a team expected to be under contract in early 2026.

Facilities

- Public EV charging stations at 12 county facilities set to be advertised on 11/6.
- DVRPC allocated \$2M to Chester County to construct charging stations at 5 additional county facilities- design/engineering to be completed by Fall 2026.
- Undertaking a lighting retrofit project within Emergency Services Dept. (downstairs of GSC)

Emergency Services

- Highly Volatile Liquids (HVL) Pipeline Planning Project – Over the last three years, DES has been working with a contractor to develop response plans for HVL pipeline emergencies. This project also includes a series of trainings, exercises, and public information materials. Earlier this month, DES in conjunction with pipeline operators and municipalities, held three public pipeline preparedness sessions, where staff provided an overview of the county’s pipeline plan, and allowed residents to ask questions about personal preparedness. The final portion of this project will be the release of public preparedness videos on social media, and a full-scale exercise, where police, fire, and EMS will practice their response to a pipeline emergency.
 - o Additionally, DES continues to monitor the potential for pipelines in Chester County to be used to transport hydrogen, and the public safety considerations that accompany it.
- On November 18th, DES will participate in the biennial exercise for Limerick Generating Station. These exercises are designed to test all aspects of the state, county, and local response to an emergency at LGS.
- Next year, DES will receive two of the county’s new electric vehicles (Ford F-150s). These vehicles will be part of the Department’s response fleet and will be a beta test for a larger expansion of EVs in DES.

Water Resources

- As a structural recommendation in the Brandywine Flood Study, CCWRA has begun to explore funding options for rehabilitation of Barneston Dam along the East Branch Brandywine Creek in Wallace Township.
- CCWRA and the County Department of Emergency Services are discussing options for updating flood alerts and warnings in the County.
- CCWRA has been working with White Clay Wild & Scenic and other partners on the White Clay Flood Study.
- We are in the municipal data collection process to help inform potential mechanisms to fund water infrastructure projects in the County.
- CCWRA worked with the Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership to host a Smart Salting workshop for public works staff.

- CCWRA are in the process of developing requirements for landscape design contractor who can facilitate residential site visits for the Countywide expansion of the Catch the Rain program.
- CCWRA presented *Watersheds 2045* as a case study of integrated water resources planning to the Delaware River Regional Committee of the PA State Water Plan update.