



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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PLANNING COMMISSION
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Matthew J. Edmond, AICP
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Environmental and Energy Advisory Board
Government Services Center Room 351E/Zoom

June 24, 2026
Hybrid meeting

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Paul Spiegel, Chair, Matthew Edmond, Secretary, David Stauffer, George Martynick, Steve Krug

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Wyatt Williams, Kelsey Boyd, Chinaza Akobi, Ann Colby Cummings, Seung Ah Byun, Bill Messerschmidt, Jeff Byers, Mark Connolly, Sarah Sharp

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Carol Stauffer, Gene Huller, Ryan Mawhinney, Amy Zimmerman, Carrie Conwell, Nancy Shields

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Rachael Griffith, Dennis Ray, Dennis Rowan, Kirk Reinbold, Allen Prindle

CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board meeting, held in the Government Services Center in Room 351E and via Zoom video/audio on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, was called to order at 2:03 P.M. by Chair, Paul Spiegel.

Approval of April 22, 2026 Minutes:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 22, 2026 MEETING WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MS. AKOBI, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion: Climate Action Plan Update

Amy Zimmerman, CCPC intern, shared high-level results of the first of two surveys for the Climate Action Plan. Approximately 1,250 people took the survey. A summary of the results can be found [here](#).

Ryan Mawhinney, Sustainability Planner, shared progress on the resilience component of the Climate Action Plan, which will play a more prominent role in the updated Plan than in the previous plan. He shared vulnerability maps for heat and flooding in the county for the board's comment. Mr. Martynick suggested adding dwellings or other structures that are isolated from road access by bridges or other obstacles, and to also include bridges that are in poor condition due to scour and other structural deficiencies that are related to climate change. Ms. Byun noted WRA has field data related to this.

She also suggested adding critical infrastructure such as hospitals, to include in the vulnerability analysis.

Mr. Mawhinney then shared information on adaptive capacity for both flooding and extreme heat, and how this will be incorporated into the prioritization of actions. The Board discussed potential stakeholders to help further refine resiliency actions.

Ms. Griffith led a discussion on stakeholder engagement which will occur over the coming months. Key stakeholder groups include municipalities, K-12 schools, agriculture, emergency response organizations, power and energy providers, climate advocates, transportation sector, and others. Ms. Griffith will follow up with a spreadsheet where Board members can provide contacts for stakeholder groups.

Ms. Griffith then discussed a potential update to the Plan's greenhouse gas reduction target. She recommended changing the Plan's goal to align with the US Climate Alliance's goal, which the Commonwealth also adopted in its latest Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. Ms. Boyd suggested quantifying what level of action would be needed for this reduction to occur in a way people could better understand (number of trees planted, etc.). The Board supported using this goal in the Climate Action Plan Update.

Clean Energy Subcommittee Report

Mr. Connolly provided a brief presentation on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), which allows municipalities to aggregate residential and small commercial electric accounts and procure electricity supply on their behalf. This can result in cost savings and potentially more demand for renewable energy. CCA is not currently authorized in PA, but Mr. Connolly suggested it might be appropriate to include in the Climate Action Plan. Mr. Martynick discussed potentially having the Sustainable Energy Partnership of Southeast PA aggregate customers rather than an individual municipality, but it could be very staff intensive. The Board discussed the appropriateness of urging our county's state legislators in Harrisburg to support legislation authorizing CCA, but instead decided to incorporate CCA as a recommendation in the CAP, and potentially supplying a letter to the SEP board after obtaining more information about the feasibility of SEP becoming the community choice aggregator.

Public Comment was heard from Dennis Ray, Dennis Rowan, and Kirk Reinbold in support of CCA, and providing further explanation of how it works.

Planning Commission Update

Mr. Mawhinney noted that the Open Space Accelerator mini-grant program recently launched and is accepting applications for open space implementation plans. Mr. Edmond shared that CCPC and Chester County 2020 are bringing back the Citizen Planner Awards, which will provide awards for citizen planners, plans, and development/preservation projects in Chester County.

Updates from the Board

George Martynick noted that the Facilities Department opened bids for a +/- 200kW rooftop solar array on the county's administration building in West Chester.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE AT 4:15 P.M. BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MR. MARTYNICK, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew J. Edmond". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Matthew J. Edmond, Secretary

MJE/CS/RG