AGENDA

2:30 p.m.  1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome  
   Jess Cadorette, Chair

2:35 p.m.  2. ACTION ITEM

A. Adoption of April 26, 2023 Minutes  
   Jess Cadorette, Chair

2:45 p.m.  3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. EEAB Subcommittee Reports  
   1) Environmental Subcommittee  
   Jess Cadorette
   2) Clean Energy Subcommittee  
   Jim Wylie, Subcommittee Chair
   i. Update on Solar Adopters Conference

B. Environmental Justice in Chester County  
   Jess Cadorette

C. Solar Ordinance Inventory and outreach  
   Rachael Griffith

D. 2024 CCPC Work Program  
   Rachael Griffith

E. Sustainability Summit Program  
   Rachael Griffith

3:25 p.m.  4. UPDATES AND COMMENTS

A. Facilities Director’s Report  
   Jan Bowers

B. Planning Commission Director’s Report  
   Brian O’Leary

C. Sustainability Director’s Report  
   Rachael Griffith

D. Other Updates

E. Public Comment

4:00 p.m.  5. ADJOURNMENT

Next quarterly meeting – October 25, 2023

Attachments:
Draft April 26, 2023 Minutes
Environmental and Energy Advisory Board
Government Services Center Suite 351W/Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Jan Bowers; Seung Ah Byun; Jess Cadorette, Chair; Warren W. (Bill) Messerschmidt; Brian O’Leary, Secretary; Steve Krug; Paul Spiegel, Vice Chair; Wyatt Williams.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Mark Connolly; Joseph DiRocco; Ann Hutchinson; Sarah Sharp; Dave Stauffer; Kevin Warren; Jim Wylie.

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Richard Drake; Rachael Griffith; Gene Huller; Kate Hutelmyer; Nancy Shields; Carol Stauffer; Sally Warren.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: David Busch; Carol DeWolf; Karena DiLeo; Rachel Roberts; Christian Strohmaier.

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Marilyn Lieb; Kathy McDevitt; Kirk Reinbold; Leo Shanley; Richard Whiteford.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board meeting, held in the Government Services Center Suite 351W and via Zoom video/audio on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, was called to order at 2:30 P.M. by Chair Jess Cadorette.

Ms. Cadorette welcomed new ex-officio member Warren W. (Bill) Messerschmidt, the County’s Director of Emergency Services. Ms. Cadorette noted this board still has a vacancy for a Utility representative.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Steve Krug reported that The Nominating Committee discussed the appointment of the 2023 Secretary. A MOTION TO VOTE FOR MR. BRIAN O’LEARY AS SECRETARY FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM, STARTING ON 1/1/2023 AND ENDING ON 12/31/2023 WAS MADE BY MR. DI ROCCO, SECONDED BY MR. KRUG AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of January 25, 2023 Minutes:
A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 25, 2023 MEETING WAS MADE BY MR. DIROCCO, SECONDED BY MR. SPIEGEL, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.
DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Subcommittee Reports.

Environmental Subcommittee: Overview of Woodlands & Tree Protection Webpage

Ms. Stauffer recapped which Board members have participated in the Environmental Subcommittee, and provided input for the woodlands and tree protection webpage. Ms. Cadorette noted a new Environmental Justice order was recently enacted by the federal government, and the group agreed environmental justice is an important topic for the board to consider. Ms. Cadorette noted the Environmental Subcommittee is recruiting a subcommittee chair.

Ms. Stauffer presented an overview of the new webpage located under Planning Topics/Environment section, which focuses on woodlands and tree protection, tree planting and reforestation programs, planting and maintaining new trees, and replacement standards for municipal ordinances. This subject is supported by the Landscapes3 “Protect” goal and the Climate Action Plan.

Mr. Connolly noted that the Chester County Conservation District organizes the Tree Vitalize program for Chester County and also works to convene Tree Tender groups. He suggested that CCPC could help by recruiting more Tree Tenders.

Clean Energy Subcommittee:

Mr. Wylie recapped the subcommittee’s projects, including the January 2023 building codes training that was hosted by SEI. Due to positive feedback and demand, this training will be offered again later this year.

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) is seeking funding for a regional benchmarking initiative through the Pennsylvania DEP State Energy Program, and they are also working on a community engagement strategy with public meetings to start this summer.

Mr. Connolly commented that as part of the Phoenixville Green Team, he is working with the Phoenixville School District to introduce a program that engages STEM students in learning energy data benchmarking. He invites fellow board members who may want to help with setting up this program.

Ms. Griffith is organizing a “Local Government Climate Action Team”, with a kick-off hybrid meeting on May 4, 2023 at West Whiteland Township. The goal is to provide introductions and to listen to what municipalities need to implement the Climate Action Plan.

Mr. Wylie added that the subcommittee is reviewing CCPC’s Clean Energy webpage to make sure it is up-to-date with regard to incentives from the State and Federal level. A Solar Adopters Conference is being planned for large energy users with case studies and opportunities for financing. No date is planned at this time.

Update on PA Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC)

Mr. Krug reported that he is the Chair for the Pennsylvania Climate Change Advisory Committee, mandated under the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act (Act 70 of 2008). The CCAC produces a Greenhouse Gas inventory for the state which shows that the state has reduced greenhouse gas emissions, much of which is related to transitioning from coal to natural gas power plants, but now that rate of change is slowing. Big challenges are in the transportation and the power sectors. Every three years CCAC produces a Climate Action Report with the help of consultants. The next greenhouse gas assessment and climate action plan will be conducted over the next year.
Chester County Climate Action Plan and Plan Review Process

Ms. Stauffer reported that in concert with the County’s major responsibilities under Act 247 to review subdivisions, land developments, municipal ordinance amendments, and comprehensive plans, CCPC is working towards being more specific in how the department cites policies and recommendations listed in the Climate Action Plan. Areas that are most relevant include: solar standards, resource protection, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, land development opportunities for solar power on-site, in parking lots, or on rooftops, green stormwater infrastructure, trails and trail connections, smart growth, reducing traffic congestion, reducing urban heat islands, and adaptive reuse. Discussion ensued on how the Climate Action Plan will be more directly cited in Act 247 reviews and specific ways the Planning Commission could support its implementation.

Chester County Watersheds 2045 Plan

Ms. Kate Hutelmyer of the Chester County Water Resources Authority, gave an update on the development of the Watersheds 2045 plan, the County’s Act 167 plan, and the Rivers Conservation Plan, which relates to protection, stewardship, and enjoyment of water. Goals include: reach out to educate the public; expand water-based recreational opportunities; conserve, protect and restore natural resources; improve surface water and groundwater quality; reduce flooding; integrate water resources and natural resources management into planning at all levels; and work with utilities to ensure sustainable water supply and wastewater disposal. Public meetings will take place in the Fall of 2023 and after Commissioners’ approval, the goal is for implementation in 2024.

Discussion ensued on how the Water Resources Authority operates, as well as discussion on how flood control is also an Emergency Services issue and how the County’s departments coordinate the response on flooding.

UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

Facilities Director’s Report

Ms. Bowers gave an update on the federal grant to install EV charging stations that will kick off in the coming weeks, as well as an additional grant through DEP for additional charging stations. There is an Energy Efficiency (and Conservation Block) grant application that was submitted for a variety of projects: small solar array, partial funding for an energy manager position, and an energy management plan. The Southeast PA Regional Power Purchase Agreement group continues to meet to identify a way to share the purchase of electricity and how a procurement group might be structured. A work session was recently held with the county Commissioners on the challenges and opportunities involved in this regional effort.

Planning Commission Director’s Report

Mr. O’Leary shared the flyer outlining the Planning Commission’s Spring events, which can be found on the CCPC website under Meetings & Events.

Sustainability Director’s Report

Ms. Griffith discussed a recent promotional give-away for the Keep Chester County Beautiful program to spread the word about this group and to inspire volunteer efforts. She also reported that a municipal solar ordinance inventory project is almost complete. The plan is to create a chart to show the overall findings, and then to conduct municipal outreach.

The Sustainability Summit is being planned for a half-day event on or near September 26, 2023, although a venue is not secured yet. Included will be a keynote speaker with drawing power and four
concurrent sessions. There will be tabling and networking opportunities, and potentially tours and associated events throughout the week.

She reported that the county has convened an internal Climate Action Plan working group that meets quarterly to review best practices and to share their own initiatives.

Ms. Griffith developed a survey for municipalities to gather what sustainability actions they have undertaken or wish to embark on. The Chester County Association of Township Officials (CCATO) Spring Conference will feature municipal actions related to the Climate Action Plan.

**Board Updates**

Ms. Cadorette shared that two websites that explain tax credits in the IIJA and the IRA are: [www.rewiringamerica.org](http://www.rewiringamerica.org) and [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov).

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

The next quarterly meeting will be on July 26, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 4:00 PM. WAS MADE BY MR. O’LEARY, SECONDED BY MR. KRUG, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian N. O’Leary, AICP
Secretary

BNO/CJS/RG/saw