

**Minutes of the
June 3, 2015 Meeting of the
Coastal Zone Advisory Committee (CZAC)**

The regular meeting of CZAC was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Mr. Don Benczkowski on June 3, 2015, in the 10th Floor Conference Room of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg, PA.

The following committee representatives were present:

Jeff Allen	PA Department of Economic and Community Development (DCED)
Don Benczkowski	PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Interstate Waters Office (IWO)
Tom Ford	PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)
Shayne Hoachlander	PA Game Commission (PGC)
Mark Lombard	PA Department of Transportation (PennDOT)
Mark Shaffer	Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC)
John Van Zant	PA Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
Mike Kauffman (phone)	PA Fish and Boat Commission
Chris Linn	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
Julia Donahue (phone)	Erie County Department of Planning (ECDP)

The following DEP staff members were present:

Stacey Box	PA DEP, IWO
Ben Eppley	PA DEP, IWO
Kevin Hess	PA DEP, IWO
Dave Jostenski	PA DEP, IWO
Lori Mohr	PA DEP, IWO
Jim Peifer	PA DEP, IWO
Randall Brown	PA DEP, Southeast Regional Staff
Jacob Moore (phone)	PA DEP, Northwest Regional Staff
Hayley Jeffords	PA DEP, Policy Office

Also in attendance were the following:

Thomas Hughes	PA Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)
Shawn Beeler	PA Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
Jason Swartz	Intern for PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)

Mr. Benczkowski welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Mr. Benczkowski explained that this was a public meeting and this was sun shined properly in the Harrisburg Patriot News and also published in the PA Bulletin describing the meeting dates. Mr. Benczkowski notified the membership that the public comment portion of the meeting would be moved to the end of the meeting. Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper is planning to do a presentation on the County of Erie's nomination for National Marine Sanctuary. All other comments would be heard at that time.

Previous meeting minutes were discussed and unanimously approved with no changes.

Coastal Zone Grants Update by Stacey Box: The 2015 application for NOAA funding was submitted the beginning of May. She expects a response from NOAA between late July and mid-September with a press release to follow.

Ms. Box took the time to thank DCNR for covering the Program's match deficit for the 2015 application.

Ms. Box added CRM expects to open the FY 2016 grant round on August 17, 2015 through October 19, 2015. There is no definite platform for distribution yet and she stated the Coastal Zone website would have more details later.

Ms. Box also wanted to remind everyone that state agencies are eligible to apply.

Program Outreach Video by Dave Jostenski: Mr. Jostenski showed the group a short program outreach video regarding the Schuylkill River Trail. After he showed the video, he told the membership he planned to highlight other successful Coastal Zone projects in Lake Erie and the Delaware Estuary. Mr. Jostenski's priority is to communicate CRM's successes to partners and the public.

Section 309 Strategy Update by Kevin Hess: Mr. Hess provided a presentation on the state of CRM's Section 309 Strategy. Section 309 refers to a section of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act that offers funding for coastal states to enhance their programs in nine predetermined enhancement areas. A draft strategy document was sent to NOAA May 1st, and will be published in the PA Bulletin on Saturday June 6th. The 30 day public comment period will end on July 7th.

Two strategies were described. The first was a minor expansion to the Delaware Estuary Coastal zone with no new municipalities being added. As one example, Mr. Hess explained that this would help facilitate better access opportunities for Chester City within active industrial sites and result in better trail planning.

The second strategy is to explore internal capacity building on climate change adaptation and resiliency. PA Coastal Resources Management would like to bring local municipalities into this discussion. The CRM program is looking to define its role in this planning. Mr. Benczkowski then asked how other agencies have addressed climate change adaptation. PHMC stated this was done on a case by case basis with no unified plan in place. Fort Mifflin, although owned by the City of Philadelphia, has a concern for sea level rise. DGS has looked at state facilities that could be impacted. PennDOT has done some asset management and a risk assessment. This also includes looking at climate hazards and what can be done to protect these transportation assets especially Interstate 95.

Lori Mohr then mentioned the new FFO for the Regional Coastal Resilience Program and the Coastal Ecosystem Resilience Grant program and that NOAA recently recorded a webinar. Stacey will email out the FFO link to this to everyone.

Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) Update by Don Benczkowski for Matt Walderon: Part of the current 309 Strategy is Marine Spatial Planning in Lake Erie. Mr. Benczkowski stated that there is not much to update since the last CZAC MSP update in January 2015, because the field season for this year has not yet gotten off the ground. He stated we have taken care of some general safety and support issues during that field downtime such as replacing the safety throw bag, throw ring, compass, docking lines for the field boat and purchasing new sampling buckets and storage containers. Mr. Benczkowski stated they are in the process of replacing the utility winch and addressing the routine maintenance and warrantee repairs on the remotely operated vehicle (ROV).

Mr. Benczkowski stated they also developed, with help from Scudder Mackey from Ohio, a new method for deploying side scan sonar to facilitate a deeper and more stable flight path, and thus improved imagery. They were able to do some limited testing on the new method earlier this spring with good results.

Field data collection trips are scheduled for specified weeks in June through October.

Lake Erie Boundary Expansion Status by Don Benczkowski: The Lake Erie Coastal Zone Advisory Committee (LEZAC) has voted three times since 2009 to explore expansion of the Coastal Zone Boundary to the watershed. CRM has been exploring expansion of the Lake Erie Coastal Zone boundary in response to their request.

In 2011, LEZAC requested expansion to the watershed boundary. As a result, the CRM program conducted outreach and “listening sessions” in the summer of 2013. Those “listening sessions” revealed much opposition to boundary expansion. Several letters of support were sent to the CRM program encouraging boundary expansion to the watershed boundary. However, letters of nonsupport were also received, including one municipality (Springfield Township) that is within the current 306A boundary.

Mr. Benczkowski stated CRM is now taking the information back to the LEZAC on June 16th. Other expansion options will be presented to LEZAC on that date.

Delaware Estuary Coastal Zone Update by Chris Linn: Mr. Linn presented information regarding a variety of projects.

A Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) grant has been awarded to PennDOT, and DVRPC has been working with them on climate change/coastal hazard/resiliency/adaptation pilot projects. Mr. Linn stated that DVRPC has done this kind of work with New Jersey and has experience with FHWA grant process.

Mr. Linn stated they also partnered with Sea Grant to work with the City of Chester on a climate adaptation plan that was adopted by the city in June 2014. This plan looked at coastal hazards

and vulnerability and resulted in seven recommendations. Chester was awarded a \$290,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Service (NFWS) for green stormwater infrastructure projects, which was one of the seven recommendations of the plan.

DVRPC was awarded a \$30,000 FEMA (Region 3) grant for hosting a capacity building workshop to integrate hazard mitigation planning and climate change adaptation planning.

Mr. Linn described DVRPC's involvement in a variety of trail development projects and the financial assistance DVRPC receives from the William Penn Foundation for these projects. Some of these planning, design and construction trail projects are inside the Coastal Zone boundary.

Lastly, Mr. Linn shared information about the Circuit Coalition, which is an organization hoping to interconnect trails into a "circuit" around the city of Philadelphia. They have a website called, "Connect the Circuit" to promote this idea. Mr. Linn showed the group a video from the website. The four website videos focus on connectivity and access to the water, including the Delaware River, Schuylkill River, Pennypack Creek, Darby Creek and Neshaminy Creek.

Lake Erie Coastal Zone Update: Ms. Donahue provided an update on the status of 2012/2013/2014 Lake Erie Coastal Zone Grants:

2012 Projects:

- **Lampe Marina Courtesy and Fuel Dock Replacement:** The Erie Western Pennsylvania Port Authority will replace floating docks, courtesy dock and floating gas dock at Lampe Marina. The materials have been ordered and the project will begin construction after the 4th of July weekend,

2013 Projects:

- **Lakeside Trail Project:** Lawrence Park Township will construct an accessible asphalt trail from Lake Cliff Park to Lakeside Boat Launch. The consultant has been approved and project activity will begin this week.
- **City of Erie's Comprehensive Plan:** The second phase of the City of Erie's comprehensive plan will be completed. The consultant has been selected and the project is moving forward. They requested a second six-month extension.
- **McKean Area Comprehensive Plan:** McKean Township and McKean Borough will include large portions of the Elk Creek, Walnut Creek, and Lamson Run Watersheds. This planning project was recently completed and they are preparing the final report and invoices.

2014 Projects:

- **The Regional Science Consortium (RSC):** RSC has developed the PA Archaeological Shipwreck and Survey Team (PASST) to document three shipwrecks and promote the conservation/preservation of these historic landmarks. PASST has been meeting regularly and conducted a diving instructional course on how to inventory shipwrecks. The buoy has been launch and it is currently operational.

- Erie Time News in Education: This project has one more paper for this school year and project activity will be completed in September 2015.
- Master Site Plan for Shorewood Beach: Harborcreek Township will lay out a plan for the future of this park land to preserve the rare lakefront parcel of property. A consultant has been selected and the project planning has commenced.
- National Audubon Society: They are working with WJET-TV to capture weather radar data to identify the height profiles of nocturnal birds as they climb to their preferred migration altitude after dusk, and then descend at dawn. The bird banders have been hired to work on PISP beginning in May, and weekly waterfowl assessments took place for March and April. The data is currently being reviewed.

Ms. Donahue stated The Erie County Greenways program received 22 applications and they are awarding \$200,000 this week.

Ms. Donahue ended by mentioning the National Marine Sanctuary nomination project is moving forward and that the Erie County Executive and NOAA will be providing some additional information to CZAC later this morning.

Agency Updates:

Jeff Allen from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) presented information on the National Disaster Resiliency Competition for HUD assistance. DECD has submitted for Phase 1 and will find out at a later date if they are accepted into phase 2. The broad proposal may address riverine flooding and coastal flooding. The Commonwealth is the applicant and there are 50 counties eligible that were impacted by Superstorm Sandy of October 2013.

Thomas Hughes from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) updated the group on two funding opportunities within their Grants Management Program with an open grant round of 90 days. The PEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP) is a pre-disaster mitigation program. FMAP is funded annually; a federal disaster declaration is not required. FMAP funding comes from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Only NFIP-insured homes and businesses are eligible for mitigation in this program. Funding for the FMAP is very limited. Applications must come from local governments or other eligible organizations; individuals cannot apply directly for the program. At minimum, a FEMA-approved local flood mitigation plan is required before a project can be approved. Some funding is available for planning. They have received 10 applications for this program. The PEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) is an annually funded (\$30 million) nationwide competitive grant program; a federal disaster declaration is not required. As with the FMAP, the program is open to any local governments or eligible organizations; individuals cannot apply directly for the program. Some funding is available for planning. So far they have received 31 applications for this program. Mr. Hughes state they are hosting two webinars next week and he will distribute more information to the committee.

Mark Lombard from PennDOT briefly spoke about the previously mentioned climate adaptation and resilience study with DVRPC in the Delaware Estuary. The new Transportation Secretary

was recently confirmed. PennDOT is also working on a 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Multimodal Transportation Fund Award in Erie County for the Erie International Airport terminal building improvements. These projects are designed to improve freight and passenger mobility options, maximize the benefits of capital investment in all modes of transportation, promote safety on all modes of transportation for freight and passengers, use transportation improvements to spur economic development, and improve the effectiveness of the transportation network. Mr. Lombard said he would share more information with the committee as it becomes available.

Mark Shaffer from PHMC stated they recently received some money from the National Park Service for Superstorm Sandy damage to assist communities. This was around 1 million dollars. Mr. Shaffer mentioned that PHMC, along with PennDOT and DCNR, is co-sponsoring the annual PA Historic Preservation Conference. It is being held at the State Museum July 8th – 10 at a cost of \$75 a day or \$150 for three days. Additional details are available on the PHMC website. Mr. Shaffer will send more information to Stacey Box for distribution.

Shayne Hoachlander from the PA Game Commission (PGC) brought the group up to date on the USFWS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. PGC planted around 2,000 seedlings and did some invasive plant control work. PGC is working to increase and enhance shrub habitat to control the invasive plants at SGL314. Mr. Hoachlander also brought up the Lake Erie Weed Management Coop to control invasive plants and habitat management on private land. Shapefiles were given to Sea Grant to identify high priority areas. PGC wants to use the USFWS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative money in state game land 101 in Erie and Crawford Counties.

Tom Ford from PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) commented that another boundary line expansion possibility might be to the state game lands. Mr. Ford mentioned there is a climate adaptation/change effort in the Office of Conservation Sciences and he will keep the committee updated on this at the next meeting. DCNR is doing a lot of good work in the PA Coastal Zone. Their grant round closed in mid-April and now they reviewing the grant applications. They will have a list of recommended projects by late summer. Mr. Ford ended by thanking the Circuit Coalition and DVRPC for all the great work they are currently doing on the southeast region.

Mike Kauffman from the PA Fish and Boat Commission had no update.

John Van Zant from the PA Public Utilities Commission (PUC) stated there is no current interaction between PUC and Coastal Resources Management and there is nothing pending at this time. There is no new information on the proposed power line from Canada. Mr. Van Zant said he will no longer serve as the PUC representative on the committee (CZAC). Shawn Beeler will be the new representative. Mr. Van Zant went on to say there is some activity within the commission on climate readiness and if anyone on the committee has any question or issues to please call him or Mr. Beeler. Mr. Beeler will give the committee an update on climate readiness within the PUC at the next meeting.

Public Comments: National Marine Sanctuary by Kathy Dahlkemper and Ellen Brody

Erie County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper spoke about Erie County's nomination being prepared to include PA's portion of Lake Erie in the National Marine Sanctuary program. Ms. Dahlkemper showed the group a power point presentation on the many shipwrecks within the Lake Erie Quadrangle and explained the regional economic benefits, like tourism, it would bring if nominated. She stated Lake Erie has more shipwrecks than the Bermuda Triangle. However, Ms. Dahlkemper stressed that this nomination needs to be community driven to be successful.

Ms. Dahlkemper stated that acceptance of Erie County's nomination would be compared to an underwater national park, and that Erie County is the only place in Pennsylvania that is eligible. She would like to see the National Marine Sanctuary as the capstone to a wide variety of marine activities along the Lake Erie waterfront. This sanctuary would cover the Lake Erie waters in Pennsylvania from the Ohio state line to the New York state line and include all waters to the international border with Canada.

Ellen Brody from NOAA spoke about the nomination process and reiterated how it must be community driven. The nomination package is not to be more than 25 pages long and is to include letters of support. The nomination package must demonstrate 11 factors of national significance. If the nomination passes the initial review and the nomination is accepted, it will then go into an inventory of areas to be considered for potential designation. NOAA has 60 days to decide if they want to accept the nomination into their inventory. If accepted into the inventory, it could sit there for years.

Ms. Brody was asked about the regulations that go along with this designation and she said that the regulation will vary from state to state, and sanctuary to sanctuary. The federal regulations would depend on the area. In Thunder Bay, NOAA mirrored the state regulations because the state regulations were extensive.

She went on to say this is all public information and can be found on NOAA's website:

www.nominate.noaa.gov

Ms. Brody and Ms. Dahlkemper mentioned that fishing, boating, and diving organizations, as well as environmental and nonprofit groups, have been supportive of the idea. There is still some anti-government sentiment that needs to be addressed though.

There was a question about the surrounding states' interest in this National Marine Sanctuary. Ohio has not yet expressed any interest in this, but New York Oswego will submit a nomination. Mark Shaffer from PHMC suggested that the nomination would be enhanced by being included on the National Registry or any structures designated as a National Historic Landmarks. Mr. Shaffer offered PHMC assistance to the Erie County representatives.

Shayne Hoachlander from the PA Game Commission asked about mammals and habitat management as it relates to this designation. Ellen Brody responded that if the activity is not centered in the proximity of shipwrecks, then they are not concerned. For example, anchoring a boat near a shipwreck site would likely be prohibited. She also noted that this potential sanctuary is to the high water mark.

Ms. Brody did discuss that fishermen and divers tend to be the most concerned. She noted that in Michigan no shipwrecks are off limits but removing items or damaging the wreckage is prohibited.

Ms. Dahlkamper and Ms. Brody ended the presentation by saying there will be public meetings in the future and they will need to address writing the environmental impact statement, developing the proposed regulations, drafting the MOU between NOAA and Erie County and the management plan.

No other members of the public were in attendance at this meeting.

Other Business:

A motion was made to pursue a request to amend the 1980 Executive Order for the Coastal Zone Advisory Committee and to include PEMA and to update agency names. This motion was unanimously approved by the committee.

Mr. Benczkowski announced the 2016 meetings will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at 9:30 a.m., and June 8, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. in RCSOB, 10th floor conference room. The committee will be notified prior to the next meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.