

MINUTES
**CONSERVATION AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

March 28, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

Gary Kribbs, Chairman
Rocco Ali, Member
Cliff David, Member
Cindy Adams Dunn, DCNR Secretary
Bill Forrey, Member
Meredith Graham, Member
Joanne Kilgour, Member
Bob Kirchner, Member
Walt Peechatka, Member
David Trimpey, Member
Ephraim Zimmerman, Member

Gretchen Leslie, CNRAC Adviser
Katie Woodbury, CNRAC Assistant

GUESTS PRESENT

Jake Newton, DCNR
Greg Czarnecki, DCNR
Greg Podniesinski, DCNR
Ellen Schultzabarger, DCNR
Jen Quinn, Sierra Club of PA

WELCOME

Chairman Kribbs opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council unanimously approved the January 2018 minutes.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary

Secretary Dunn gave council an overview of recent legislative hearings. The hearing on special funds in front of the House Appropriations Committee mostly focused on expenditures out of the funds and ways the Department tracks its success. The DCNR budget hearings before the PA House and Senate Appropriations Committees also focused heavily on performance measures, and non-surface disturbance interest drew interest as some legislators look for ways to increase revenue to the state.

Secretary Dunn mentioned her testimony in front of a House Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee meeting to discuss the PennVEST loans totaling \$50 million to Lyme Timber; DCNR was a recipient of an easement donation as part of the deal. The Department supports the concept of easements in Pennsylvania because this method conserves land by keeping it in private hands and on the tax roll. The Governor's Green Ribbon Task Force recommended Pennsylvania develop a conservation easement program in its October 2016 report to Governor Wolf. There is still confusion surrounding the details of the deal, so Representative Causer had scheduled the hearing to clear the air.

The Bureau of Forestry held a successful Riparian Forest Buffer conference at the end of February, drawing more than 270 participants from various sectors. The enthusiasm surrounding riparian forest buffers will be important for achieving Pennsylvania's required nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment reductions for the Chesapeake Bay.

State Forester Dan Devlin is retiring at the end of March, and the search for the next state forester is underway. Future foresters will have significant challenges ahead, including those dealing with climate change.

Cliff David asked Secretary Dunn about the status of Growing Greener III.

Secretary Dunn said the missing ingredient is revenue.

Bill Forrey commended Secretary Dunn for her testimony at the budget hearings. He also asked if DCNR would be looking into the proposal from Cumberland Valley School District to build on easement lands.

Secretary Dunn said DCNR would look into the situation.

DCNR ADVISER REPORT

Gretchen Leslie, CNRAC Adviser

Gretchen Leslie updated Council on ongoing initiatives. Secretary Dunn will attend several celebrations associated with Earth Day and Arbor Day, including an event at the Governor's Residence to highlight green practices like rain barrels and riparian forest buffers. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation will officially launch its 10 million tree initiative on Arbor Day. DCNR staff is also working on planning for the 125th anniversary of the first state park; this event will take place at Washington Crossing State Park, the newest park to be added to the system. Ms. Leslie mentioned SB 799, Senator Alloway's bill creating a nutrient trading program in Pennsylvania.

Joanne Kilgour asked if DCNR has taken a position on SB 799.

Ms. Leslie replied that the Department is neutral.

PRESENTATIONS

Greg Czarnecki, Bureau of Forestry **DCNR Climate Adaptation Report**

Greg Czarnecki gave Council an overview of the process for developing the DCNR Climate

Change Adaptation Plan, which is still in draft form. Each bureau participated on the Climate Action Steering Team, and compiled recommendations to be included in the report. The Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science helped DCNR evaluate its carbon footprint, which gave the team baseline data for its report. The Plan identifies vulnerabilities, and bases recommendations on how to address these potential issues in the future. Mr. Czarnecki said a great example of a vulnerability is wildfire risk; Pennsylvania has a large percentage of its population living next to wildland urban interfaces. Because climate change will increase wildfire risk, steps must be taken to address the potential danger that many residents will face in the future.

Meredith Graham asked if DCNR is coordinating with the DEP Climate Change Advisory Committee.

Mr. Czarnecki said he attends meetings, and he will be presenting to the Committee in April.

Craig Chapman, Bureau of Forestry DCNR Pipeline Management

Craig Chapman gave Council an overview of how DCNR manages large projects on state lands. The Bureau of Forestry deals with both regulated (interstate, FERC-regulated, larger corridors) and nonregulated (intrastate, smaller diameter, smaller corridors) projects. There is an increasing demand for these types of infrastructure projects on state lands, so it is sometimes hard to push back against the pressure placed on DCNR.

The Bureau of Forestry developed a large project process and set parameters for what is compatible with the Bureau's mission. Project managers use a strategic approach for negotiations, and try to address challenges like co-location, ecological disruptions, long-term vegetation management, road infrastructure, stream crossings, and recreational management.

The rates charged by the Bureau for locating a project on state land vary based on the type of project and the impact it will have on the resource.

Bob Kirchner asked for clarification on how the Bureau accounts for recreational management.

Mr. Chapman said as an example, the Bureau sometimes sees opportunities to relocate trails on right of ways.

Rocco Ali asked who maintains the right of way.

Mr. Chapman said the company must maintain the right of way.

Cliff David asked if there has been an uptick in the number of lines.

Mr. Chapman said he would expect to continue to see an increase in transmission lines.

**Ellen Shultzabarger, Bureau of Forestry
Invasives and Biodiversity**

Ellen Shultzabarger explained DCNR's role in dealing with invasive species. Although the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has most of the authority related to invasives, DCNR maintains jurisdiction over native wild plants. The Bureau of Forestry monitors, surveys, and treats DCNR lands for about 20 pests and diseases that kill native plants and affect other species. Examples of invasive species include the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Emerald Ash Borer, Garlic Mustard, Japanese Barberry, and Chinese Privet.

Strategies to control invasive species will focus heavily on training and education. Although there is limited state and federal funding, states need to focus on preventative, early protection control measures to stop the spread of invasive populations before the issue is uncontrollable; a rapid response fund would help with this strategy. The Bureau of Forestry would also like to talk about private land, and how DCNR can work with private land owners to stop the spread of invasives.

Cliff David said the current funding does not seem sufficient to solve the problem.

Gary Kribbs suggested the state should coordinate more with the federal government.

WORKGROUP REPORTS

Bob Kirchner said the motorized recreation workgroup will convene at lunch and discuss recommendations for the report.

Bill Forrey presented Council with the workgroup's recommendations for the State Parks Strategic Plan. Council discussed the recommendations, and decided to vote on them with some modifications to recommendation five. Recommendation four and eleven were held for future consideration. The vote to move forward the recommendations passed unanimously.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Bill Forrey said he would like to step down as chair of the strategic planning workgroup.

MEETING ADJOURNED

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Notice of the March meeting was published in a newspaper of general circulation in Dauphin County and mailed to individuals and offices in compliance with the Sunshine Act (1986-84). These minutes constitute the official record of the Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council; no official transcript is provided.