**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gary Kribbs, Chairman

Bill Forrey, Member

Greg Goldman, Member

Bob Kirchner, Member

Walt Peechatka, Member

Richard Sayles, Member

David Trimpey, Member

Gretchen Leslie, CNRAC Adviser

Katie Woodbury, CNRAC Assistant

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Anna Ellis, DCNR

John Norbeck, DCNR

Matt Keefer, DCNR

Beth Kern, Chesapeake Energy

Patrick Henderson, Marcellus Shale Coalition

Ken Duren, DCNR

Curtis Scheffler, USGS

**WELCOME**

Chairman Kribbs opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**
**John Norbeck, Deputy Secretary**

Deputy Secretary John Norbeck gave an overview of the 2018/2019 final DCNR budget. Overall the funding is mostly cost-to-carry, with an incremental increase for infrastructure improvements. The Fiscal Code included language to reauthorize the Reemployment Fund, the source of funding for the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps. The Fiscal Code also included language instructing DCNR and PennDOT to develop a connector between the Whiskey Springs and Bloody Skillet ATV trail systems; DCNR is currently in talks with PennDOT to identify next steps. Eventually, this connector is to become a part of a trail system connecting to New York state.

DCNR's Climate Adaptation Plan, which CNRAC has heard about through several presentations, is now available on the department's website. Forestry will be working through a pilot adaptation project in Michaux State Forest.

Other ongoing priorities include finalizing the Lyme Timber easement, a conservation easement

that will be donated to DCNR as a result of a loan from PennVEST to the company.

Dave Trimpey asked if there is any improvement on filling open positions.

Deputy Secretary Norbeck said DCNR is looking at ways to minimize the effects of vacant positions on the public and staff. Senior Staff is looking at prioritizing certain areas to fill vacancies.

Bob Kirchner asked if the language related to the ATV connector in the Fiscal Code is typical.

Deputy Norbeck said the move is not unprecedented, but it is nevertheless uncommon. There is still much work to be done to determine the costs associated with implementation.

Rick Sayles asked if DCNR is planning to expand the Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps.

Mr. Norbeck responded by saying that any increase would have to be incremental.

Walt Peechatka asked about the potential ATV trail connection to New York as outlined in the Fiscal Code.

Mr. Norbeck said DCNR still needs to speak with New York, as this is part of the second phase of development.

## DCNR ADVISER REPORT
## Gretchen Leslie, CNRAC Adviser

Gretchen Leslie reminded Council of upcoming public meetings they are invited to attend: forest district resource management meetings, and public meetings related to Beltzville and overcrowding in the park. The Governor recently signed Act 45 of 2018, an act stating that no state agency of the Commonwealth shall condemn any land subject to a conservation easement for any purpose; this was a win for conservation.

## PRESENTATIONS

## Matt Keefer, Assistant State Forester
## Chesapeake Bay Update

Matt Keefer provided Council with an update of the ongoing work associated with the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Phase III. In partnership with DEP, DCNR is the lead agency in helping to meet Chesapeake Bay Program goals and TMBD obligations for tree canopy and riparian forest buffer implementation.

Mr. Keefer, as chair of the Forestry Workgroup for the WIP, holds regular workgroup meetings and attends all of the Steering Committee meetings to report on progress of the discussions. AS water quality is directly tied to land use, the Forestry Workgroup will look at forest conservation as a best management practice for mitigating land change; this is a new addition for the WIP.

The continued focus in efforts moving forward will be on local water quality and local

engagement, cross-sector dialogue and co-benefits of best management practice implementation, and innovative financing methods.

**Ken Duren, Forest Resource Inventory & Monitoring Section**
**DCNR Shae Gas Monitoring Report**

Ken Duren presented Council with data related to the recently released Shale Gas Monitoring Report. The monitoring team includes partners from several groups including DCNR, the US Forest Service, US Geologic Survey, DEP, SRBC, Penn State, Marshall University, and Morris Arboretum. The team looks for changes in categories such as water, invasives, infrastructure, forest health, timber products, air and energy. Most data for this report comes from 2008-2016.

Mr. Duren highlighted three categories in the report: forest fragmentation, water quality, and invasive species. The total change from pre-Marcellus to 2-16 is an increase of 9,913 acres of edge forest, and a decrease of 15,132 acres of Core Forest. So far the data shows no detected effects on water quality, though DCNR will continue to monitor this data point. Gas activity has had a significant impact on the spread of invasive species, so the DCNR Bureau of Forestry is working diligently on ways to have a rapid response and eradicate populations of the most common and noxious plants; so far 30 of 91 populations have been eradicated.

**WORKGROUP REPORTS**

Bob Kirchner said the motorized recreation workgroup needs to finalize its report to send to full Council. This will hopefully be accomplished by September.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Patrick Henderson, Marcellus Shale Coalition, gave Council an update on the impact fee in Pennsylvania. He highlighted the total revenues collected (both cumulative and this year), and where the dollars were distributed.

> Greg Goldman asked Mr. Henderson if he could provide a comparison of these revenues with money payed in other states.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

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

Notice of the July 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.