CHESTER COUNTY Planning COMMISSION

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Matthew J. Edmond, AICP
Executive Director

Environmental and Energy Advisory Board
Government Services Center Room 351E/Zoom

August 26, 2026
Hybrid meeting

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Paul Spiegel, Chair, Carol De Wolf, Vice Chair, Steve Krug, Kelsey Boyd, George Martynick, Richard Moseley, Seung Ah Byun, Dave Stauffer

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Chinaza Akobi, Jeff Byers, Mark Connolly, Matthew Edmond, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Nancy Shields, Carrie Conwell, Carol Stauffer, Kate Hutelmyer, Lydia Franks, Ryan Mawhinney, Jeanne Franklin, Richard Drake, Rachael Griffith

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Pam Gural-Bear, Estelle Wynn Dolan, Dennis Rowan

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, August 26, 2026, was called to order at 2:05 P.M. by Chair, Paul Speigel. Mr. Spiegel noted there is a vacancy on the board for a utility representative, and board members should reach out if they have ideas for candidates.

Approval of June 24, 2026 Minutes:

A quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting, so approval of the minutes was postponed to later in the meeting. The board revisited this action item at 2:54 when a quorum was present. A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 24, 2026 MEETING WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MS. BOYD, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MS. DE WOLF ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion: Climate Action Plan Update

Ms. Griffith discussed changes to the Climate Action Plan schedule, and that the Board would receive a draft of the plan several weeks in advance of their December 2026 meeting. She also shared the results from the second public survey.

Ms. Griffith shared input received from the municipalities who attended the Local Government Climate Action Team meeting that was held in August and requested input on how to obtain input on municipal implementation actions. Ms. De Wolf offered to share the information with CCATO. Mr. Krug noted the EACs would have the most information and be the most responsive.

Ms. Griffith led a discussion on a list of actions that could be included in the Climate Action Plan that was sent to the Board in advance of the meeting. The categories into which the actions are organized align with those from the previous CAP, with a new category added for Climate Resilience. The Board was supportive of reducing the number of actions by combining similar actions while including sufficient actions such that the CAP could be used for substantiating grant applications from community implementers. Mr. Moseley offered to take the lead on simplifying the list of actions and reducing jargon. The Board generally agreed that the Plan's objectives can be more visionary and not something the county can directly implement, but the actions related to each objective should be implementable by the county and partners.

Clean Energy Subcommittee Report

Mr. Krug presented information on the Governor's recent executive order on data centers. Mr. Connolly discussed Community Choice Aggregation and provided an update on the Subcommittee's plans for an agrivoltaics webinar, including a discussion of the county's current policy on land use types where solar is appropriate, and how promoting agrivoltaics could require a change. Mr. Mosely provided an update on the Subcommittee's plan for the upcoming CAP Power Stakeholder meeting.

Planning Commission Update

Ms. Griffith shared that the municipal lawn to meadow cohort is moving forward with their projects. Mr. Edmond shared that Amtrak is providing technical support to complete the required Service Development Plan for the proposed Reading to Philadelphia intercity rail route through a recent MOU with the Schuylkill River Passenger Rail Authority. Design will soon begin on the Chester Valley Trail extension to Downingtown Phase 1, and the Struble Trail connection to Marsh Creek State Park is going out to bid in the coming months.

Updates from the Board

George Martynick noted that the Facilities Department gave a notice to proceed for a solar array on 313 W. Market Street roof. Installation of public EV charging under the Phase 1 project is underway. A shared energy manager provided by DVRPC will be facilitating an Energy Charette for internal county stakeholders.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE AT 4:18 P.M. BY MR. MARTYNICK, SECONDED BY MS. BOYD, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew J. Edmond, Secretary

MJE/CS/RG