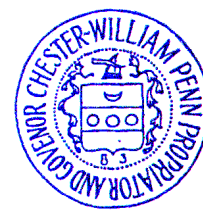




# THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



COMMISSIONERS  
Josh Maxwell  
Marian D. Moskowitz  
Eric M. Roe

Matthew J. Edmond, AICP  
Executive Director

PLANNING COMMISSION  
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Environmental and Energy Advisory Board  
Government Services Center Room 171/Zoom

April 23, 2025  
Hybrid meeting

## MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Paul Spiegel, Chair; Carol De Wolf, Vice-Chair; Matthew Edmond, Secretary; Kelsey Boyd; Seung Ah Byun; Liudmila Carter; Ann Colby-Cummings; Marcus Kohl; Steve Krug; Warren W. Messerschmidt; Richard Moseley; Britnee Sanseverino; Sarah Sharp; Dave Stauffer.

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Mark Connolly; Kevin Warren; Wyatt Williams.

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON: Rachael Griffith; Gene Huller; Carol J. Stauffer; Sally Warren.

OTHERS PRESENT VIA ZOOM: Jaxon Dierker; John McHugh; Jonathan Meyers; Jerome Donahue.

### CALL TO ORDER:

The Environmental and Energy Advisory Board meeting, held in the Government Services Center in Room 171 and via Zoom video/audio on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, was called to order at 2:38 P.M. by Chair, Paul Spiegel.

### ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Spiegel welcomed new members: Matthew Edmond, Executive Director of the Planning Commission and Secretary of this board; Liudmila (Mila) Carter, Westtown Township Manager – representing the Chester County Municipal Managers' Consortium; and Richard (Rick) Moseley of Power Green Capital Corp, as a Citizen Representative.

### Approval of January 22, 2025 Minutes:

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 22, 2025, MEETING WAS MADE BY MR. KRUG, SECONDED BY MS. COLBY-CUMMINGS, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED. THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS ABSTAINED.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

#### Subcommittee Reports

Environmental Subcommittee: Ms. Byun reported on the committee's work to engage with municipal Environmental Advisory Councils (EACs). Ms. Colby-Cummings reported on her conversations with EAC chairpeople and the proposed next steps, which include creating online resources for EACs and developing programs to provide education and advice to EACs.

#### Clean Energy Subcommittee:

Mr. Warren reported the committee has been looking at the Governor's proposed energy plan, the "Lighting Plan", and continues to work on plans for an Agrivoltaics conference next year. Mr. Krug

continued the discussion from the previous meeting about the County Energy Strategy the subcommittee would like to prepare to help the county to address capacity constraints, increased electricity demand, and climate change. Mr. Krug shared an outline of the plan and asked if this work should be continued.

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ALLOW THE CLEAN ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING THE COUNTY ENERGY STRATEGY AND PRESENT AN UPDATED VERSION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT BOARD MEETING, AND TO ALLOW OTHER BOARD MEMBERS TO COMMENT ON THE CURRENT VERSION BEFORE THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IN JULY. THE MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. DE WOLF, SECONDED BY MS. COLBY-CUMMINGS, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

#### Next Steps for Local Government Action Team

Ms. Griffith reported on the Local Government Climate Action Team, which consists of 15 municipalities that have adopted clean energy resolutions. There is ongoing brainstorming to determine which model of collaboration will best motivate this cohort to further clean energy goals.

Update on Sustainability Summit and Expo for 2025 - Ms. Griffith reported that the Summit and Expo on Saturday, May 17 at West Chester University has plenty of exhibitors, and now the push is to promote the event with the general public. She asked the board to please help spread the word.

#### UPDATES AND COMMENTS:

Department Updates Document – The board packet for this meeting included an update on environmental and energy actions being implemented across County departments represented on the Board.

Planning Commission Director's Report - Mr. Edmond stated SEPTA is facing a \$240 million operating deficit which is primarily due to reduced ridership post-pandemic. If the funding gap is not filled in January 2026 the county will lose several bus lines and the Paoli Thorndale line. He encouraged board members to reach out to the Governor's office to express support for public transportation.

Sustainability Director's Report - Ms. Griffith reported CCPC submitted a grant application to DCNR for a Countywide Tree and Forest Canopy Plan, and she is hoping this could fill a need for stewardship of our declining forests and urban trees.

Facilities Report – Ms. Griffith reported that Facilities is leading the creation of a new pollinator garden in front of the Justice Center with support from the West Chester Green Team.

#### Updates from the Board

Emergency Services – Mr. Messerschmidt reported that the Department of Emergency Services (DES) is updating its Five-Year Hazard Mitigation Plan. The update includes meeting with many municipalities and holding public open houses in April and May to gather feedback on local risks and hazards. DES plans adoption of the new plan in July 2026.

#### Public Comments

Jaxon Dierker noted the projected growth in Chester County which will increase energy needs and asked whether the concept of microgrids has been addressed by this board. Mr. Spiegel responded that microgrids are addressed in the County's Climate Action Plan. Ms. Sanseverino of PECO added that PECO is also looking at microgrids. Mr. Connolly added that standalone energy systems like microgrids are vital to our long-range energy planning. Mr. Warren added that at the April 22, 2025 meeting of the Pennsylvania Climate Change Advisory Committee, the PA DEP presented an overview of PA microgrids: [PA CCAC Safeguarding Pennsylvania Microgrids](#).

The next quarterly meeting will be on July 23, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, A MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS MADE AT 4:35 PM BY MR. KRUG AND SECONDED BY MS. SHARP, AND PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE BOARD.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew J. Edmond".

Matthew J. Edmond, AICP  
Secretary

MJE/RG/saw