

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 8, 2026 7pm

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tara Christman called the EAC meeting to order at 7pm, in the township meeting room

ROLL CALL

EAC members present: Tara Christman, Barbra Dunn, Bill Peirsol, Julia Smith and Katrina Faust
Others present: Board of Supervisors Romnie Long

TAPING OF MEETING

Secretary Barb Dunn. Tara c and Bill Peirsol EAC Committee member taped the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion is needed for approval of the meeting minutes from March 11, 2026- change made to add Tara recording the March meeting. Tara motioned, Barb 2nd.

NEW BUSINESS

- EAC Formal Datacenter Recommendation
 - Members spoke of changes needed at BOS and Planning meetings. Agriculture zone was added by mistake- will be removed.
 - Barb is still uncomfortable with closed loop system as new technology is out there to address cooling. Hopefully wording in updated ordinance will open the door for new alternatives.
 - Bill – The state may introduce new technology as well.
 - Tara - York township has a model ordinance. Has stricter guidelines than what we currently have. Example: sound barriers. A lot of pushback from various townships.
 - Katrina – asked if datacenters are required to get their own power. Yes, some may have solar power.
 - Tara asked if EAC should submit an Official letter? We don't have an updated draft to go by plus there will be a chance for public comment.
 - No final draft received as of yet.
 - Moratorium in PA for 3 years is possible.
- Visit from Natural Lands to Planning and EAC – Tara - They have grant money available. They are heavily involved in Limerick datacenter discussions. Will ask them to visit us in the fall. Make request in 3 months.
- Recycling Newsletter due by Mid-May. Bill to provide.

SUBDIVISION AND OPEN SPACE REVIEW

OLD BUSINESS

Review of Recycling Center activities, costs, fees, grants and how best to move forward.

- Bill - 9 volunteers on Saturday before Easter. Turnout was good.
- Tara provided a contact for scrap metal recycling; he will take it for free.
- Bill got a referral for refrigerators, etc. He needs another month before making recommendations.
- Big clean up is first Saturday in August.
- Currently have 2 bales of cardboard. Discussions will continue on how best to handle this. Still have room for 2 or 3 bales. Need a loader – Bill to talk with Brian.
- Romnie - Cougles charges us each month regardless of pickup or not.
- Tara reached out to Missy and Jamie on expenses, Cogle charges, etc.

Recycling Center Financials

- Julia created a detailed financial evaluation report from 2010 to current. Total Net loss 2470.16 2010 to current.
- We had huge expenses (5216.86 for 2nd baler in 2012, 2023 Cougles expense of 4424.46 which steps were taken to reduce this.
- Tara – additional grants available however we would need an ordinance for all residents to have trash and recycling services and no burning of those recyclables in order to obtain a grant.
- Romnie – At the start of recycling we made money on everything however believes recently we are operating at a loss due to Cougles charging for rentals of tractor trailer, for pickup, for dumpsters, etc. Tara – yes true but was reduced in 2024
- Tara - Tonnage – other townships are getting much more money based on tonnage. We should have this ordinance to get a bigger grant. It would be cheaper for residents to recycle at the township. Per Romnie = Whitetail doesn't recycle. Diamond does pickup recycling for an extra charge. Tara - Cost of appraisal of barn for \$250 should not have been charged to EAC as an expense. Approved by supervisors. Bottom line, recycling center is not operating at a loss. Traceable to contractor overcharges and policy decision to divert cardboard elsewhere. \$2 per ton? 4-5 trash haulers are required to submit a tonnage report – from which state grants are determined. Who is filling out the paperwork for the grants – is all the tonnage being report? Even recycled cans are not reported. Filed RTK for copies of grants submitted and all trash hauler reports. 2 companies on tonnage report amount is more than what we've had in a long time. Perhaps some things are being missed or not reported. Last year 2 companies \$369.64 ea. Spring Valley recycles – we are losing that. Romnie stated 1 bale is \$1, 3 bales is \$3. Tara = The township gets credit for all tonnage within the township. Tara to secure tonnage reports with grants. Douglas – Montgomery is getting our cardboard for free. Bill – find new place for cans. Does it make sense to give everything to Cougles, it gets weighed but how is it weighed. Someone needs to verify the tonnage with the grants. Mascaro is Spring Valley trash hauler – Barb to ask for the tonnage report. Baling wires went from 2016 \$156 then 2023 \$815 – there are ways to cut costs.
- Bill - We need to bring awareness to the residents on how to save money, recycle at the township. Suggests at farmers market, have a stand, pass out pamphlets.

Newsletter

- Information required for Newsletter due Mid-May. Goes to Mark. Bill to put something together.
- Katrina saw the Washington Township Facebook page – per Romnie it was created last week– being worked on. EAC could post related info.
- Bill – barn lighting still not on.

ACTION ITEMS

- Tara to make a recommendation to Planning / REC that EAC would like Natural Lands to speak to them and EAC in the fall.
- Recycling Newsletter due by Mid-May. Bill to provide.
- Provide recommendation to BOS on next steps for recycling center. Request to be added to the next BOS agenda.
- Request latest Datacenter Ordinance

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next Park & Rec committee meeting is 4/14/26 7pm

Barto Community Park Master Plan Kickoff Meeting is 4/21/26 7pm

The next regular BOS meeting is 4/23/26 7pm.

The next workshop planning commission meeting is 5/7/26 7pm (No meeting in April)

Berks County Commissioners Town Hall Meeting is 5/12/26 6:30 pm

NEXT MEETING

May 13, 2026 7pm

ADJOURNMENT

Julia made a motion, Tara 2nd.