

EAC MINUTES

Dickinson Township Environmental Advisory Council

August 4, 2026, Dickinson Township Meeting Room

4:00 pm

Attendance

Council Members:

Chairman Jared Abell, Vice Chairperson Jennifer DeGaetano (phone), Mark Hockley

Staff:

Jill Lovett, Township Manager, Grace Hogue, Secretary/Treasurer, Glenn Kelso, Public Works Director, Matthew Boyer, Solicitor

Absent:

Ryan Hoover, Zoning/Codes Enforcement Officer

Visitors:

Sandie Brandner – 50 Monstera Road

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Abell called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Reminder that Dickinson Township is seeking volunteers for several open positions (Alternate on Zoning Hearing Board, Planning Commission and Environmental Advisory Council) on various Boards and Committees. If interested, please contact Jill Lovett at manager@dickinsontownship.org if you are interested.
- b. Dickinson Township is asking residents to sign up for its mass text alert system. This system is used to alert residents of things such as emergency situations, road closures, trash delays, etc. To sign up please go to the Township website and click on the image where it says Mass Text Alert Signup. Fill out the form online and hit submit.
- c. A reminder that more information about our community can be found on our website at www.dickinsontownship.org

AGENDA APPROVAL

A motion was made to approve the agenda for the August 4, 2026 meeting by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano. It was seconded by Mark Hockley and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes for the June 2, 2026 meeting by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano. It was seconded by Mark Hockley and passed unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairman Abell recognized the EAC's previously chairman, Nate Merkel, moving on from the EAC and also welcomed Mark Hockley as the newest member of the EAC. Chairman Abell expressed his appreciation to Nate Merkel and his work as the previous chairman of EAC.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT - None

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of Pennsylvania Act 21 of 2026 implementation & State Conservation Commission FPR rulemaking status

Chairman Abell acknowledged all the efforts to get the FPR bills through the Senate house, especially by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano and he announced that Pennsylvania has passed its first law to address FPRs. Chairman Abell added that the next step should be providing rule making standards to assist with pushing this further. Vice Chairperson DeGaetano reported there doesn't seem to be things moving quickly, but she continues to work and communicate with Senator Rothman's office. Mark Hockley asked if there was any experience of understanding state rulemaking. Solicitor Boyer mentioned he hasn't had too much experience in this way. Mark Hockley recommended looking into someone representing Dickinson Township on a State committee for rulemaking. Chairman Abell agreed having the township represented at the State committees would be beneficial. He added that communication with this committee and possibly joining could be helpful. Vice Chairperson DeGaetano stated she has had communication with someone from the state committee, and she stated her hopes of being a part of this committee. The committee is currently still being planned out, but things are moving forward. Chairman Abell confirmed how much the township being involved could be very beneficial. He also mentioned that communication with Senator Rothman will be helpful to push things forward. He reported there is certainly a lack of knowledge throughout the township in regard to FPRs. There is currently being an air quality testing done in the township and Chairman Abell is hoping for reach out to that professor leading the air study. This study is to assist locating any issues in air quality, especially with FPRs. Mark Hockley suggested advertising the air quality study and other environmental studies.

Chairman Abell provided a statement summarizing his thoughts on the FPR bill.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Continued Discussion regarding EAC matters
 - i. Review any responses from institutional partners/universities to engage in a comprehensive environmental study

Chairman Abell asked township staff what responses have been received from the institutions. Grace Hogue answered she received a response from a particular professor from Dickinson College. She provided the professor's information so the council can be in contact. Manager Lovett added there was a response from Penn

State extension stating they will be passing the letter along to the colleagues to spark some interest. Chairman Abell mentioned he is looking forward to communicating with the professor.

The environmental studies expressed how most residents aren't familiar with these studies; however, they are interested in participating. Mark Hockley commented that having professors assist with these studies will be very beneficial. Chairman Abell agreed and mentioned the importance of providing information to the rule making body for the process. These studies can inform residents who aren't familiar with FPRs and connecting them with resources to educate them on the substances in their well water. He explained different results received by these studies and the benefits behind them.

ii. Penn State Extension Township Well Water Testing Date

a. September 15, 2026, 1 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Manager Lovett announced the well water testing date, as she has been communicating with someone from Penn State extension. It was suggested to have 2 different timeframes. This will be done at the township building: September 15, 2026, 1-2:30pm and 5:30-7pm. Registration is required. There will be further instructions provided to assist the residents who are interested in participating. Chairman Abell encouraged everyone to keep sharing and getting the word out about this well water testing.

iii. EAC work plan / Priorities Discussion

Chairman Abell encouraged his council members to consider for the next meeting some ideas as to what else the EAC can do and how they will move forward. Vice Chairperson DeGaetano advised that the testing/studies coming up will also help the EAC. Chairman Abell added that there are so many items that could be beneficial for the environment in the township. A few items would be glass recycling, as well as severe weather and for the council to consider ways to assist the residents with these items.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Manager Lovett showed appreciation to Vice Chairperson DeGaetano for all her hard work with the FPRs, as well as, with the reporters on the FPR discussion.

Manager Lovett announced that Glenn Kelso has resigned and will be moving on to another position outside of Dickinson Township.

Chairman Abell shared there will be an Environmental Advisory Council Conference in October held by WeConserve PA that he will be attending. He will be speaking about FPRs at this event to advocate the concerns of the residents and educate to a broader audience.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mark Hockley and seconded by Vice Chairperson DeGaetano and passed unanimously to adjourn at 5:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Hogue

Secretary/Treasurer

DRAFT