

Pocono Township
Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)
Meeting Minutes
July 30, 2026

The meeting was called to order at about 6:15 p.m. due to some technical difficulties with the display monitors and microphones.

Roll call was taken and all members were present: Chair Jim Pellegrini, Vice Chair Josh Knapp, Ellen Gndt, Chris Grape-Garvey, Randy Peechatka, Kyle VanFleet and Timothy Wah.
Three members of the public were in the audience.

The minutes from the inaugural meeting on June 18 were approved, with one minor addition. Ms. Gndt recorded the minutes for the first meeting, and Ms. Grape-Garvey will be taking them moving forward. They will be posted on the township website

Old Business:

The topic of email for the EAC was again discussed, with everyone agreeing that it is a good idea. Discussion included whether there should be a group email or individual ones. Ms. Gndt said she would bring this matter up at the next commissioners meeting.

Regarding using Zoom for the meetings, everyone voted yes. Ms. Gndt did caution that if the technology fails, the meeting is cancelled. She will bring this up at the commissioners meeting on August 3.

Council Introductions:

For the benefit of the public, each EAC member again gave a brief statement about their qualifications/experience, background and how long they have lived in the township. They also shared their concern for the township and why they want to serve on the EAC.

Social Media & Website Activities:

During discussion, it was stated that Facebook posts have to go through Erica. Ideas for posts should be shared with everyone. Acting Township Managers Jim Wagner and Patrick Briegel have to be copied on

correspondence, since they are part of the chain of command. EAC agendas and minutes should automatically be put on the township website.

Outreach:

Mr. Wah updated fellow council members about his efforts to connect with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the county conservation district. He has not yet received a response.

Grant opportunities would be one benefit to working with DCNR, according to Mr. Wah. Discussion included the importance of outreach, networking and attending dinners of local conservation groups.

“Protect Pocono” Proposal

Chairman Pellegrini shared information provided by Township Commissioner Matthew Long, with objectives that the EAC can focus on and also get the community engaged. The following areas were identified and council members volunteered to take on assignments.

Protect Pocono Waters—Timothy Wah and Josh Knapp

Native Tree and Forest Stewardship Initiative—Josh Knapp and Chris Grape-Garvey

Open Space and Scenic Character Protection—Ellen Gnandt and Chris Grape-Garvey

Community Cleanup Campaign—Ellen Gnandt and Chris Grape-Garvey

Ideas included educational events, creating a community rain garden, and getting residents to adopt-a-highway/keep it litter-free.

Hazmat Initiative Plan

Discussion continued from the June meeting regarding how to protect the township in the event of a Hazmat emergency (possibly on I-80). Mr. Pellegrini will take the lead on this, with the help of Mr. Wah and Mr. Van Fleet. Our state representatives will have to get involved.

Adjournment:

The meeting ended around 8 p.m., with Mr. Pellegrini motioning to adjourn, and Mr. Peechatka seconding.