



## State of New Jersey

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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SHAWN M. LATOURETTE  
*Commissioner*

### Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2022

Via Microsoft Teams

#### Council Members

**Present:** William Casey, Kim Gaddy, Tyrese Gould Jacinto, Nancy Griffeth, Joann Held, Denalerie Johnson-Faniel, Melissa Miles, Michael Morgan, Jackie Park Albaum, Jeffrey Perlman, Phyllis Reich, Yvette Viasus

**Absent:** Andy Kricun, Robert Laumbach, Katherine Miguel, Meredith Taylor, Amy Tuininga

**OEJ Staff:** Kandyce Perry, AnnaMaria Penaherrera

**DEP Guests:** Steven Domber, Christine Schell

**Water Supply Plan Assistance Team:** Dan Van Abs, Debbie Mans, Helen Henderson, Chomba Koech, Jillian Drabik, Stacy McCormack

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Kim Gaddy at 10:04 am.

#### June 2022 Minutes

Jeffrey Perlman moved that the June Meeting Minutes be accepted. Nancy Griffeth seconded the motion. All present approved.

#### Water Supply Plan Presentation & Discussion (Steven Domber & Dan Van Abs)

NJDEP is in the process of updating the state Water Supply Plan with assistance from investigators at Rutgers University and several organizations including: TwentyTwenty Public Affairs, Mosaic Strategies and TTPA. Van Abs reviewed the Main Issues, Planning Principles and Potential EJ Issues to be addressed in the updated plan and then invited Council member to share their thoughts on EJ issues.

Council members recommended that the following areas be addressed: basic water issues education (in multiple languages, for both youth & adults), better communication tools for drought education, water conservation strategies, green infrastructure (including rain gardens, native plants & grasses, rain barrels & removing ordinances that disallow rain barrels), how to leverage other infrastructure funding (for projects such as lead service line replacement), proximity of reservoirs to contaminated sites, dirty storm water discharge, water affordability, and climate issues.

Domber described next steps and welcomed additional input from EJAC members at any time. A website with more details will be available soon at: [dep.nj.gov/watersupplyplan](http://dep.nj.gov/watersupplyplan) He offered to return to the Council for a follow-up discussion as well.

### **Healthy Communities Planning NJ (Christine Schell)**

The Healthy Communities Planning NJ hub launched in June 2022 ([nj.gov/health/hcpnj](http://nj.gov/health/hcpnj)) The hub includes over 30 indicators, providing NJ communities with critical municipal health and environmental data to help them plan and promote a safe and healthy environment. It is a collaboration between NJDEP and NJDOH. Indicators include: demographic, environmental, built environment and public health (SHAD) data. For each municipality there is a Full Report, a Map Book, and a Summary Report. Schell is available to meet with municipalities and help them to understand their information as contained on the site.

### **Healthy NJ 2030 (Christine Schell)**

Healthy NJ 2030 is the next stage in a large-scale planning exercise which NJDOH undertakes every 10 years ([nj.gov/health/healthynj/2030/](http://nj.gov/health/healthynj/2030/)). Broad topics include access to Health Care, Healthy Communities, Healthy Families, and Healthy Living. Schell is coordinating the Environmental Health Workgroup to identify strategies and recommendations in 5 overarching areas: Clean Air, Clean Water, Flooding, Excessive Heat, and Zoonotic Diseases. She will be sending a spreadsheet with the Environmental Health Workgroup strategies to the DOH Advisory Council at the end of the month, and asked if Council members could review the draft spreadsheet and provide feedback about topics/actions that are not adequately addressed from an EJ perspective. Kandyce Perry will circulate the spreadsheet to EJAC members and reserve time at each of the next Council working group meetings to discuss their portion.

### **Planning for 2023 EJAC Work Plan**

Each Working Group reviewed the projects included in the draft EJAC Work Plan that they propose to focus on during 2023. Perry noted that the work plan is a living document with room to fit EJAC's capacity. She also encouraged members to review the document through the lens of capacity and for new members to continue to share input in their working groups.

### **Air Working Group (Kim Gaddy)**

The draft Work Plan includes the following topics:

- Emergency Communications and Response Protocols
- Fugitive Dust
- Warehouses
- Air Quality Training

Gaddy noted that there is Warehouse Guidance now available from the NJ State Planning Commission. It can be accessed here: <https://nj.gov/state/planning/assets/pdf/warehouse-guidance.pdf>

### **Water Working Group (Kandyce Perry for Andy Kricun)**

The draft Work Plan includes the following topics:

- Infrastructure Funding Technical Assistance
- Green Infrastructure

Council members also recommend that lead and legionnaires disease be addressed.

### **Land Working Group (AnnaMaria Penaherrera for Jackie Park Albaum)**

The draft Work Plan includes the following topics:

- Brownfield Revitalization

- Increasing Urban Agriculture
- Land Resource Protection
- Solid Waste Management
- Urban and Community Forestry

Council members also recommend that aerial spraying of pesticides, over-plowing of farmland, and pesticide/herbicide runoff into waterways be addressed. Note that these topics overlap other working groups.

### **Environmental Education & Communication Working Group (Kandyce Perry for Meredith Taylor)**

The draft Work Plan includes the following topics:

- EJ Primer
- EJ Educational Program
- EJ Law Notifications

### **Council Officers (Anna Maria Pennaherra)**

Pennaherra will create a survey for EJAC members to submit nominations for vice chair and additional vacancies throughout working groups, which will be listed. Members will be able to vote at the October EJAC meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04pm

### **Next Meeting**

October 26, 2022 at 10am