



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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SHAWN M. LATOURETTE
Commissioner

Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2023

Via Microsoft Teams

Council Members

Present: Amy Tuininga, Chole Desir, Kim Gaddy, Krishna Garlic, Tyrese Gould-Jacinto, Jeffery Pearlman, Terrance Bankston, Melissa Miles, Robert Laumbach, Micheal Morgan

Absent: Bill Casey, Jackie Park Albaum, Katharina Miguel, Denalerie Johnson-Faniel, Andy Kricun, Galia Shokry, Vincent Mann

OEJ Staff: Muskan Shrivastava, Nadia Akbar, Myla Ramirez, Anna Maria Penaherrera, Kandyce Perry, Rehanna Azimi

DEP Guests: Helaine Barr, Peg Hanna

Call to Order

Kim thanks everyone for coming and for their commitment to the state and their communities. This is important work that is difficult, but it is important that people are given a seat. She emphasized the importance of environmental justice as the environment is everywhere. Chair and vice chair will be doing check-ins with EJAC members and offer support to those who need it.

Approval of Minutes – June 7, 2023

Motion to accept the minutes from Ty. Seconded by Chole. All in favor, no opposed.

Appointment of Vice Chair

Kim solidifies Melissa Miles as Vice Chair of EJAC as approved in the e-board meeting 9/6/23.

Melissa says she sees this role as supporting the EJAC members requests members contact her with anything they need.

Fiscal Year 2024 Work Plan Discussion and Brainstorm

Kandyce asks EJAC workgroup members to share current work projects and areas where the scope of work could be expanded. This meeting's purpose is to brainstorm a few ideas per workgroup for this upcoming work plan for the fiscal year. These ideas will then be refined based on what is practicality.

Work Group Updates

Air WG (Updates given by Jeff)

- This year's project has mainly focused on developing guidance for communities for community air monitoring projects and citizen science.
 - Working to understand the purpose and the use of a state-wide community air project
 - Looking into different kinds of air monitors from purple air monitors to the more expensive ones that measure a broader range of pollutants
 - Determining what pollutants to measure and what they tell us
 - An outline has been prepared as of August, which will be advancing through the fall, and will probably continue that work into the next year
 - Figuring out who will be able to do this work
- Jeff has been able to add this to the work plans of the Transportation Management Association (TMA)
 - Maybe EJAC should meet with TMA leaders
- Robert and Rutgers are meeting with DEP about piloting a mobile monitoring network
 - Initiative came out of Clean Air Council
 - Black carbon and ultra fines are better indicators of traffic which are not captured by purple air monitors
 - Rutgers interested in getting funding
 - Kim asked for an update after the meeting and emphasized importance of monitoring at ports
- Update on moving Camden air monitoring station (Clean Air Act)
 - NJDEP will need to move from current location by mid-2024 and has two potential sites confirmed by site owners that meet EPA requirements
 - EPA wants new site to be as close as possible to current site
 - Amy reminded council that she has connections with PSEG (owner of current monitor site) to check whether monitor can remain at current site.

Water WG (Updates given by Kim)

- Green infrastructure
 - Addressing flooding by using green infrastructure to combat flooding
 - Find out ways to get funding
 - Andy is knowledgeable about what funding and technical assistance is available to communities
- Lead
 - Replacing lead service lines
- Watershed Management
 - Determining ways to involve communities in watershed management
 - \$1 million
 - Two ideas to be workshopped: Litter Sweeping and reducing soil erosion

- Ty's team is working with The Nature Conservancy for dam removals to help offset some erosion
- Clarification: This money will be funneled to EJ communities
 - Finding ways the money can be stretched in the long-term for community engagement and for communities that need it most
- AnnaMaria emphasizes the importance of education on how these watershed management systems work because many people are unaware (ex. Difference between CSO and stormwater management)

EEC WG (Updates Given by Melissa)

- EJ Seminars
 - Help guide advocates through DEP processes and laws
 - Three sessions: Newark, Trenton, Camden with hybrid options
 - Possibly Odors 101
 - Trainings will be recorded and posted
- Request for fact sheets and one-pages along with these seminars that serve as a one-stop shop
 - Request for fact sheets and one pagers with these seminars
- Fact sheets, one pagers, and “one stop shop” for information that residents may need, could be connected with the workshops
- Suggestion to bring attention to what is already on the OEJ website and better uplift the tools that are already there
 - Kandyce said that we can certainly reshape the website to make it easier to find items

Land (Updates Given By Ty)

- Land has finalized the document regarding brownfields and will be uploaded to system
 - Ways to access some of the clean-up money
 - Almost ready for publication

Other Updates

- Yvette is on fellowship in New Mexico and will no longer be on EJAC because her sector has changed
- Kandyce has asked help from EJAC members to spread the word about community engagement sessions

Brainstorm for the 2024 Workplan

- Terrance in the chat: “My add-on to the last two suggestions pertaining to community engagement - is considering a mobile app for NJDEP - EJAC, to accompany a potential upgrade to the website. The app could be a resource to map active projects and share requests for proposals or information - also the engagement app could be a resource that is helpful to constituents and stakeholders as it relates to EJ workforce opportunities and direct alerts pertaining to EJ actions and engagements supported by NJDEP & EJAC. *Mobile apps that provide engagement tools - not only can provide a virtual forum for the EJ community, but help to engage more constituents, while providing more modern alternatives to direct website use.”
 - Kandyce mentions that EJMAP will soon be able to show you the status of different projects through the EJ law
- Ty: Determine ways to disseminate information that isn't only through the DEP website, finding ways of communication that are beyond electronic

- Jeff: Clean Air Council 2023 public hearing recommendations
 - Air working group may look into advancing those recommendations
- Mike
 - What are long terms things that we can work on that are systemic?
 - Presumptive approach
 - Some issues occur frequently, there could be better ways to address it rather than rely on complaints, e.g. odors
 - Evaluate citizen complaints outside of working hours (expand the working hours)
- Ty: The face of DEP does not come across as a friendly face to the community
 - In Bridgeton, everyone was afraid about DEP coming into our community
 - DEP is there to protect our communities, not just to issue fines
 - The good that DEP does not match the community presence of the department
 - Kandyce: It's easier when you show people that you're just normal people. Not sure of the solution yet.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: Office of Climate, Energy and Radiation Protection

- Climate pollution reduction grant
- To meet 80x50 reduction goals
- Priority Clean Action Plan
 - Focused list of near-term high priority, implementation ready measures to reduce GHG pollution informed by extensive stakeholder coordination
 - Due March 1, 2024
 - Will focus on transportation, electric generation, buildings, food wastes, natural working lands
- Competitive Grant Application
 - \$5 Billion for implementation
 - Achieves direct reductions
 - Benefits are realized by low-income and disadvantaged communities
 - Will be announced sometime this September, maybe next week. Grant application due around the same time as the action plan
- Engagement strategy
 - Sector specific stakeholder workshop
 - Local government workshops
- Things for EJAC to think about
 - Be thought leaders, send ideas on projects that are important, partner on projects are important
- Six priority areas: electric generation, buildings, transportation, highly warming gases, food waste and carbon sequestration (natural working lands)
- Example Project: Address food waste priority through connecting with community-based organizations engaged in food rescue on electric refrigeration trucks composting, etc.

Other

- Kandyce asks for members to be engaged, present, and focused during the EJAC meetings and to turn cameras on to create connectedness during virtual meetings.
- We can continue holding these meetings virtually if that works best for EJAC.
- Possible EJAC retreat: Potentially in October. More information to come.