

Environmental Justice Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2009

In attendance: Ana Baptista, Theodore (Ted) Carrington, Joann Held, Zachary Lewis, Kevin Moore, Valorie Caffee, Chair; Sharon Kubiak (DHSS) and Maria Franco-Spera (DEP EJ Office)

Present by phone: Kim Gaddy

Absent: Kathy Abbott, Stewart Abrams, Colandus (Kelly) Francis, Juanita Joyner, Mujahid Majeed, Don McCloskey, Rafael Zabala

Guests: Jodie Kamara (Work Environment Council)

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Caffee at 10:10.

Agenda Review

Meeting with the New Commissioner was added under “New Business.”

Cumulative Impacts Report (Ana Baptista, Joann Held)

The document is still being edited, and the recommendations are being reorganized. Comments are requested from the Council by January 16.

Site Remediation Reform Legislation (Valorie)

The Licensed Site Professional provisions seem likely to be adopted in spite of the objections among Environmental Advocates. One concern is that clean ups will be market-driven instead of health-driven. Kim Gaddy & Ana Baptista have been involved in discussions with the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) and are still commenting on the Legislation. Some concerns are:

No health considerations in prioritizing sites

How to issue an NOFA

Extent of public involvement

EJ Executive Order (Valorie)

Valorie met with Jeanne Herb, Jay Watson and Maria Franco-Spera yesterday to discuss the extension of the EJEO. Jeanne is actively working with the Governor’s Office and has prepared a draft.

Deputy Commissioner Jay Watson is very interested in the work of EJAC. He would like to meet with us on a quarterly basis and has asked for a short-term (perhaps 10-month) wish list. He is especially interested in our help to identify “low-hanging fruit” and loose ends from the petitions. Council members should send suggestions to Valorie.

EJ Program Coordinator's Report

The position of EJ Coordinator has been posted internally. The deadline to apply is January 16. Jeanne Herb has committed to have Steve Anderson continue to work with us (perhaps 20-30% of his time). Maria will also continue to some extent during the transition.

It will soon be time to re-establish Council membership. We may want to use a call-in phone number for our meetings to increase participation.

Camden: The Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control has prepared a draft General Permit (GP) for Scrap Metal Facilities. We should expect to see a copy soon for public comment. Ana noted that the largest scrap metal facility in the world is operating in Newark (Metals Management Sims Corp). Maria offered to invite Barry Chalofsky (Chief of the Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution) to a future EJAC meeting to describe the draft GP.

Global Warming Response Act

The draft recommendations called for by the Act was released in December and stakeholder meetings are being held. The recommendations (there are 40 in all) focus on ways to meet the goals for 2020 in the Act.

New Business: Meeting with the Commissioner

We will invite the new DEP Acting Commissioner, Mark Mauriello, to attend our February Council meeting. We should also invite DHSS Commissioner, Heather Howard, to a future meeting (perhaps when we are ready to release the Cumulative Impacts report).

Announcements

- Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference in Washington, DC on Feb. 4-6
- World Trade Center Worker and Volunteer Medical Screening Program – Valorie distributed a brochure. EOHSI is providing the screening.
- Employee Free Choice Act – Valorie distributed a postcard that can be mailed to the President and Congress in support of this Act.
- Healthy Ports Coalition held a truck counting day on December 15 in Ironbound & South Ward portions of Newark. Ana reported on the project. They counted for one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening, and also did some air monitoring. They also counted idling trucks.

The meeting adjourned at 11:32am.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of EJAC will be held on February 4.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joann Held, Secretary