



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2018

7th Floor Conference Room
401 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

Council Members

Present: Lloyd Abdul-Raheem, Zenobia Fields, Colandus (Kelly) Francis, Joann Held, Zachary Lewis, Andy Kricun, Yvonne Blake

On the Phone: Olivia Glenn, Monique Griffith, Ted Carrington

Absent: Kim Gaddy, James Horne

OEJ Staff: Riche Outlaw, Kristen Palma

DOH Representatives: Christa Fontecchio

Other DEP Staff: Jennifer Fletis Cortese, Mike Gordon, Peg Hanna, Kerry Kirk Pflugh, Frank McLaughlin, Lily Hurley, Carrie Sargeant

Guests: Samuel DeJesus

Call to Order

Chair, Zachary Lewis, opened the meeting at 10:12am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Zenobia Fields moved that the minutes from the January 12, 2018 meeting be approved.

Monique Griffith seconded the motion. All present voted yes.

Council Vacancies

There are now seven vacancies on the Council.

Steve Chranowski has moved to Texas, leaving a Business & Industry opening.

Molly Greenberg, Estrella Sainburg and Fatimah Raymond, are stepping down, but will be replaced by other members of their organizations.

Miriam Medina's grassroots position is still vacant.

Ndidi Amutah's academic position is still vacant.

And, beginning on May 14, Olivia Glenn will be joining DEP as Director of Parks and Forestry, leaving a vacancy for a member of an environmental group.

EJAC Members wish Olivia all the best in her new position and look forward to working with her in her new capacity.

Resumes have already been received for three candidates. They are:

Phyllis Reich, City of Elizabeth (to replace Fatimah Raymond)

Melissa Miles, ICC (to replace Molly Greenberg)

Leilani Holgado, PSEG (for the Business & Industry opening)

Potential candidates who are interested in serving should be advised to send their resume to Riche Outlaw by close of business May 22. All resumes will be submitted as a single packaged to Acting Commissioner McCabe.

Possible Change to 2018 EJAC Meeting Schedule

Because we missed our March meeting and the Governor's Executive Order 23 has given us a fairly short time to accomplish a large task, it was recommended that EJAC add a meeting to their schedule.

Joann Held moved that the Council meet on June 5 at 10am. Zenobia Fields seconded the motion. All present voted Yes.

Governor Murphy's Executive Order #23

The Executive Order (EO 23) directs DEP to take the lead on "developing guidance for all Executive branch departments and agencies for the consideration of Environmental Justice in implementing their statutory and regulatory responsibilities." A draft document is to be completed by October 20, 2018 (i.e. within 6 months of the signing of EO 23). A Steering Committee will oversee the work. Members of the Steering Committee include: Zachary Lewis, Kim Gaddy, Riche Outlaw, Ana Baptista, Nicky Sheats, Joseph Della Fave, and two members of the Governor's Office.

The Steering Committee is scheduled to have their first conference call on Thursday, May 10. An EJAC Executive Board call will be held the following Monday, May 14, to brief EJAC Leadership on the outcome of the first Steering Committee call.

EAB Update and Urban Forestry Grants

Carrie Sargeant reported that Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has been found in 13 NJ counties. The state Urban Forestry Grants can help municipalities to address the problems posed by EAB. No grant applications were received from EJ communities this year. Carrie solicited ideas for how to make it more likely that EJ communities will apply next year. Questions for future discussion are: What are the impediments or deterrents that keep EJ communities from applying? How do low-income homeowners deal with diseased as on their properties?

Working Group Updates and Meeting Schedules

Environmental Education & Communication (Monique Griffith): The Workgroup is focusing on the Community Contacts Database for Tier 1 municipalities. They will be seeking assistance from EJAC members to populate the database. They have also drafted a letter announcing the database to send out to community leaders. The Workgroup is also discussing development of the Air Quality Community Corner with DEP staff. The next meeting will be May 17 at 1pm (3rd Thursday of the month)

Air (Zenobia Fields): The Workgroup has received updates from Peg Hanna regarding applications for the VW Settlement funds. They are tabling the idea of hosting a community round table in order to focus on the work associated with EO 23. Meetings are generally planned for the 4th Monday of the month but there are many scheduling conflicts. They will try 4th Thursday of the Month at 11am beginning on May 24.

Land (Olivia Glenn & Lloyd Abdul-Raheem): Lloyd has been Vice-Chair but will step up to be Chair now that Olivia is leaving. Meetings are scheduled for the 4th Friday of the month but there have been scheduling problems. They will try the 1st Friday of the month at 10am, beginning on June 1.

Water (Andy Kricun): This workgroup is focused on lead awareness. They plan a follow-up to the Irvington Door-hanger pilot in Camden. A Public Service announcement is being developed for the Camden pilot that can be used in other communities. The Workgroup is also looking at financing for lead service lines, and identifying CSO flooding areas that can be alleviated by sewer cleaning. Meetings are on the 4th Thursday of the month at 10am. The next meeting will be on May 24.

Announcements

- The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) is soliciting proposals for its “Planning for Emerging Centers Program.” The program provides technical assistance to municipalities in electric vehicle readiness planning, and other activities. Applications are due May 25. (Zenobia Fields)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned 12:10pm.