

PHIL MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA OLIVER
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Mail Code: 402
Office of Environmental Justice
401 East State Street, 7th Floor
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402
TEL # (609) 292-2908
FAX # (609) 984-3962

Catherine R. McCabe
Commissioner

Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2018
DEP Public Hearing Room
401 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

Council Members

Present: Zachary Lewis, Joann Held, Melissa Miles, Leilani Holgado, Meredith Taylor, Demetrius Marlowe, Kim Gaddy, Lloyd Abdul-Raheem, Andy Kricun, Zenobia Fields, Amy Tuininga, Colandus (Kelly) Francis, Monique Griffith

Absent: Ted Carrington, James Horne, Gantry Fox, Phyllis Reich

OEJ Staff: Riché Outlaw

DOH Representatives: Christa Fontecchio, Barbara Goun

Guests: Commissioner Catherine R. McCabe, Attorney General Gurbir Grewal

Call to Order

Chair, Zachary Lewis, opened the meeting at 10:06am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Andy Kricun moved that the minutes from the October 9, 2018 meeting be approved. Leilani Holgado seconded the motion. All present voted yes.

Council Meeting Dates for 2019

It was proposed that the Council meet 6 times in 2019 on the following dates: February 12, April 9, June 11, September 10, October 15 and December 10.

Ted Carrington moved that these meeting dates be accepted. Amy Tuininga seconded the motion. All present voted yes.

Workgroup Meeting Dates for 2019

The following regular workgroup meeting dates were confirmed:

Environmental Education and Communications: 3rd Thursday 1-2pm

Water: 1st Monday 1-2pm

Air: 1st Monday 11-Noon
Land: 1st Friday 10-11am

Volkswagen Settlement (Commissioner McCabe, Peg Hanna)

The website (state.nj.us/dep/VW) has been updated to include all comments. FAQs have also been updated.

The next step is to Finalize the Mitigation Plan in December and then it will be submitted to the Trustee.

RGGI (Commissioner McCabe)

The Department expects to hear from the RGGI organization soon. The earliest possible re-entry to the RGGI Auction will be January 2020.

Role of the Attorney General's Office in Environmental Justice (Attorney General Grewal)

The Office follows the principle that "Everyone has a right to a clean environment and everyone has a right to be heard."

On December 6, the AG's office will be announcing another round of Natural Resource Damages lawsuits and a series of lawsuits to address issues in urban areas. The announcement will be followed by listening sessions and briefings for enforcement personnel, including County Prosecutor Offices.

EJAC Members were asked to suggest issues that might be addressed by the AG's Office. Suggestions included:

- Illegal Dumping
- Abandoned Brownfield Sites
- River-related Pollution
- Pollution from State & Federal Highways
- Pollution from Train Lines
- Using Penalties from Lawsuits to make improvements in affected communities
- Timely enforcement Response to Odor Complaints
- Lead in Water,
- Rodent Issues Related to Construction
- Combined Sewers and Flooding

S-1700 (Commissioner McCabe and DEP Staff)

EJAC comments on the draft legislation are welcome. It was decided that the Air Work Group will take the lead.

Community Corner Website Demonstration (Ken Ratzmann, Brad Bollen)

The Community Corner Website is envisioned as a means to get some environmental data to the community easily. It will include maps showing both major facilities and minor sources. DEP would like to have EJAC members as Beta Testers.

Workgroup Updates

There was not enough time to present workgroup updates, so chairs were asked to email updates to Riche and she will share them with the Council.

Announcements

- EPA EJ Small Grant application period is open. It is coupled with Urban Waters Initiatives. Proposals are due in February. (Riché Outlaw)
- There will be a NJ Women's March in Trenton on January 19. (Kim Gaddy)
- The Urban Community Forestry Grant Program will issue a call for proposals in February. (Carrie Sargeant)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

Next Meeting

February 12, 2019 at 10am in the 7th Floor Conference Room.