



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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CATHERINE R. McCABE
Commissioner

Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2019

DEP Emergency Operations Center
401 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

Council Members

Present: Monique Griffith, Joann Held, Colandus (Kelly) Francis,

On the Phone: Ted Carrington, Meredith Taylor, Amy Tuininga, Melissa Miles, Kim Gaddy, Andy Kricun, Phyllis Reich

Absent: Gantry Fox, Demetrius Marlowe, Zachary Lewis, Leilani Holgado, Yvonne Blake, Lloyd Abdul-Raheem

OEJ Staff: Riche Outlaw, Nadia Akbar, Heather Knizhnik

DOH Representative: Barbara Goun, Christa Fontecchio

DEP Guests: Debbie Mans, Brad Bollen, Mike Gordon, Allison McLeod, Peg Hanna, Laura Scatena, Frank McLaughlin, Chelsea Brook, Olivia Haller, Jennifer Feltis

Call to Order

Chair, Monique Griffith, opened the meeting at 10:15am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kelly Francis moved that the minutes from the April 9, 2019 meeting be approved. Ted Carrington seconded the motion. All present voted yes.

Old Business

Status of Current Vacancies

At the April meeting, the Council approved the nomination of Jeff Perlman to fill the non-governmental sector vacancy. His nomination is in the Commissioner's Office awaiting final approval.

There is still a vacancy in the community sector. There are no candidates currently under consideration. Council members are urged to be on the lookout for possible candidates.

OEJ is drafting a guidance document that the Council can follow in filling future vacancies. They are also looking into establishing term limits in the Council By-laws.

Working Group Updates

Environmental Education and Outreach Workgroup (Meredith Taylor)

Gov Delivery: Although it is still in draft form, we can begin to use this system to collect contact information from those who would like to be informed about events and issues in their community. The committee is reviewing feedback received on the Sector designations. Council members will be sent a link to GovDelivery so that they can subscribe. Comments are welcome. Council members may also share the link with their constituents so that they can also subscribe.

Website Redesign: Review of the current EJAC website has begun.

Air Workgroup (Kim Gaddy)

Anti-Idling Campaign: DEP has completed an Anti-Idling sweep in the Ironbound Neighborhood of Newark.

Community Corner (aka "What's in my Neighborhood?"): Brad Bollen announced that the Community Corner is now publicly available and ready to share. It can be accessed from the Air Quality Permitting homepage: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/aqpp/>

Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI): Debbie Mans provided an update on the TCI. The program is in the design phase this year. On May 15 the Georgetown Climate Center hosted a workshop in Newark to explore equity issues related to TCI. DEP is now putting together a list of next steps.

Water Workgroup (Andy Kricun)

Lead in Drinking Water: A lead awareness campaign is being developed to follow up on the Irvington pilot project.

Land Workgroup (Riche Outlaw for Lloyd Abdul-Raheem)

Urban Agriculture White Paper: The document is being finalized and will then be given to Commissioner McCabe who will forward it to the Commissioner of Agriculture.

Executive Order 23

OEJ Staff has finished reviewing the comments received on the draft Guidance document and has shared them with the Commissioner. Revisions will be made based on the comments. Once the Guidance is finalized, Agency Action Plans will be prepared. In addition, the Administrative Order establishing EJAC will be updated for consistency with the Guidance.

Attorney General Environmental Justice Initiatives

Listening sessions are being planned in Newark during the month of July.

DEP Program Updates Bulletin

OEJ Staff has prepared the first Program Updates Bulletin. It was distributed at this meeting. The purpose is to convey information to EJAC regarding the broad spectrum of DEP projects related to Environmental Justice. A new issue will be prepared prior to every Council Meeting. This first issue is 8 pages with reports from the following programs: Air Quality, Energy, and Sustainability; Site Remediation and Waste Management; Water Resources Management; Compliance & Enforcement; Natural and Historic Resources; and Science and Policy.

New Business

Council Engagement (Monique Griffith): Council members are asked to consider their Workgroup assignments. Any members interested in changing to another committee should contact OEJ and also the Chair of their current Workgroup. Please communicate interest in making a change by June 18.

Announcements

- National NAACP Convention will be held in Detroit July 18-24. The Camden Branch is taking a number of students to participate in the Academic Competition. (Kelly Francis)
- Congressional Convening on Environmental Justice in Washington, DC on July 26. The event will be hosted by the House Natural Resources Committee. (Kim Gaddy)
- Amendments to the Site Remediation Reform Act (SRRA) would make more information about site clean ups available to the public and earlier in the process. (Joann Held)
- NJ Site Health Assessment Data (NJSHAD) system allows for queries down to the municipal level for all sizes of municipalities in the latest release. (Barbara Goun)
- National EJ Office Webinar on June 18. Frank McLoughlin and Riche Outlaw will be presenting on Comprehensive Area-wide Planning. (Frank McLoughlin)
- Community Collaborative initiatives will soon be expanded to more cities. (Fran McLoughlin)
- USEPA has awarded Brownfield Grants to Newark and to Jersey City. (Frank McLoughlin)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51am.

Next Meeting

September 10, 2019 at 10am