



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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CATHERINE R. McCABE
Commissioner

Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2020

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

** Note: Attendance listed below may be incomplete and may need to be edited **

Council Members

Present: Monique Griffith, Colandus (Kelly) Francis, Leilani Holgado, Meredith Taylor, Ted Carrington, Joann Held (last half hour only)

On the Phone: Zachary Lewis, Phyllis Reich, Melissa Miles

Absent: Kim Gaddy, Gantry Fox, Andy Kricun, Amy Tuininga

OEJ Staff: Riche Outlaw, Nadia Akbar, Heather Knizhnik

DOH Representative: Barbara Goun, Christa Fontecchio

DEP Guests: Debbie Mans, Michael Gordon, Peg Hanna, Christine Schell, Rohini Gandhi, Marvin Ross

Call to Order

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes from the December 2019 meeting were reviewed. Kelly Francis moved that the minutes be approved. Leilani Holgado seconded the motion. All present voted yes.

New Administrative Order and EJAC Nomination Process/ Amendment of Bylaws

(Monique Griffith/Riche' Outlaw) The Administrative Order (AO) that establishes the guiding principles of the EJAC Council membership and the nomination process is effective February 23, 2020. The bylaws will also be revised accordingly to adhere to the AO. EJAC membership and the application process were discussed as were suggestions to use the list serve and social media platforms in efforts to obtain a good pool of candidates. Working group participation requirements were also discussed.

Air Working Group (Melissa Miles) - Last few meetings were canceled but would like to resume with usual topics related to air emissions in state including TCI, RGGI. A discussion was had regarding enforcement concerning a pink purple plume emanating from the Covanta facility and DEP's involvement in investigating and remediating the matter.

Water Working Group (Riche Outlaw) - Andy Kricun is no longer with the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority. Notable projects for the workgroup include the Peer to Peer Initiative, Statewide Lead in Drinking Water Campaign and an Affordability/Financing Program to get low interest loans for facility operations.

Land Working Group (Meredith Taylor) – Meredith provided an update on the Urban Ag paper and a proposed project involving Rutgers University and the Department of Agriculture. Other topics of interest include illegal dumping and contaminated sites. General discussion surrounding the need for increased council capacity and engagement.

Education and Communication Group (Meredith Taylor/Riche' Outlaw) – Update regarding website, the EJAC application and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Section.

DEP PROGRAM UPDATES

NJPACT – Protecting Against Climate Threats (Sean Moriarty) - Sean Moriarty serves as Chief Advisor for Regulatory Affairs to Commissioner McCabe. Sean leads and manages the DEP's internal legal team and serves as its general counsel on all matters of regulatory compliance and rule-making. Sean reviewed a plethora of information contained in the NJPACT website at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/njpact/> and underscored the importance of a statewide climate change resiliency strategy. Key points stressed involved the Energy Master Plan, coastal resiliency and sustainability, clean energy innovation, and among other things a GHG reporting rule to monitor progress toward reduction and other CO2 reduction strategies. A stakeholder process is underway which would provide and encourage communities an opportunity to voice concerns. EJAC members expressed issues with holding those stakeholder meetings during appropriate times that would not interfere with working day schedules. It was also suggested that a 2-page document/fact sheet, similar to what was done with RGGI, be created to explain general high level information and to make it relevant and palatable. Thinking of those that are unable to attend meetings due to transportation issues or otherwise, a suggestion was also made to create a webinar that would allow live commentary. Possibly using DEP Facebook Live and other social media to allow mobility and capture the attention of youth.

NJDEP Office of Diversity, Equal Opportunity and Public Contract Assistance (Marvin Ross/Rohini Ghandi) – Marvin Ross, Chief Diversity Officer, and Director Rohini Ghandi, discussed the importance of diversity in the workplace and developing an action plan with key areas of focus on members of our environmental justice communities as well as minority groups on college campuses. The goal is to develop a recruitment/hiring process by giving notice vacancies to key communities with diverse minority candidates, develop a list of community contacts, professional organizations and institutions and create a database with those relationships. A flyer was distributed regarding career opportunities at DEP. Postings would also be made on the DEP website for civil service jobs. It was

suggested that he reach out to women organizations, environmental and other professional associations as well as student chapters.

Announcements

An EJ listening session is planned for March 4th 6-7:30 pm in Paterson, NJ. This session is partnered with the Paterson Housing Authority.

Adjournment

Ted Carrington motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kelly Francis seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Next Meeting

April 15, 2020 at 10am