



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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CATHERINE R. McCABE
Commissioner

Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020
Via Microsoft Teams

Council Members

Present: Monique Griffith, Leilani Holgado, Andy Kricun, Amy Tuininga, Meredith Taylor, Nancy Griffeth, Jeffrey Perlman, Joann Held, Kim Gaddy, Melissa Miles, Jackie Park Albaum

Absent: Ted Carrington, Gantry Fox, Shanique Biles, Kelly Francis, Phyllis Reich, Zach Lewis

OEJ Staff: Riché Outlaw, Nadia Akbar

DOH Representative: Barbara Goun

DEP Guests: Deputy Commissioner Olivia Glenn, Michael Gordon, Peg Hanna, Allison McLeod, Christine Schell, Ken Ratzman, Brad Bollen, Branden Carreno, Elizabeth George-Cheniara, Frank McLaughlin, Kerry Pflugh, Jennifer Feltis, Davon McCurry, Dom Stockton-Rossini, William Lindner, Sean Moriarty, Carrie Sargeant

Call to Order

Monique Griffith opened the meeting at 10:10 am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Draft minutes from the June 10, 2020 meeting were approved with correction to change Griffin to Griffith.

Deputy Commission Remarks

Commissioner McCabe was on vacation and unable to join this meeting. Deputy Commissioner, Olivia Glenn, provided a brief overview of her background and praised those involved in the recent approval of the EJ Bill. Plans are underway for Governor Murphy to sign the EJ Executive Order on September 18, 2020 at 10:00am, place still yet to be determined.

Adoption and Implementation of EJ Rules

Discussion with Sean Moriarty regarding substance and content of rules beginning with stakeholder meeting(s) on thru adoption. First Stakeholder meeting scheduled for October 15, 2020. Want robust feedback from communities as well as multitude of industry groups.

Expressed need to strike an appropriate balance with existing standards while addressing localized impacts to improve conditions in overburdened communities. Direct participation with affected communities should be mandatory. Aiming for 14 months to adoption of rules which is an aggressive schedule. Need to keep moving forward even during possible second wave of pandemic. Suggestion to have a two-page document (“cheat sheet”) to hand out to the community to explain the process as the rules are created through to implementation. Discussion on how to disseminate information whether via social media, website links, etc. Possibility of creating an ad hoc EJAC workgroup just for rulemaking. Briefly discussed possibility of a challenge in the appellate division consisting of a stay to the implementation of the rules.

Environmental Justice Guidance Document

Review of comments received including timeline for implementation, framework for training, identifying pilot project and successful best practices conducted by other departments. Riche’ will be looking into translating the EJ documents in 11 languages as was done by EDA. Hope to finalize while Governor Murphy is still in office. Discussion regarding engagement outreach tools, EJ checklists and state agency state action plans. Request to have photos more representative of EJ communities. Request to have legend for map clearer to show which municipalities are deemed minority, low income and/or have low English proficiency. Request for feedback by end of week.

EJAC Bylaws

Need to align Council Bylaws to language in the EO-23 Guidance Document. Revise the minimum number of people needed per working group and defining what engagement means and what it represents. Discussion of adding language relating to the community collaborative initiative and how it coincides with EJAC’s mission and purpose. Add language relating to climate change. Request comments by next Friday 9/18.

NJDEP Updates

Peg Hanna provided update on NJPACT (Stakeholder meetings Sept 10 and Sept 16). Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) stakeholder meetings will be held on Sept 16 and Sept 29. Links to registration and recordings will be forwarded along with slides of presentation. Rutgers is sponsoring a workshop Sept 15 from 1:00-3:30 - NJ Leading the Way on Climate Change Solutions. Nicky Sheats and Ana Baptista will be on panel. Christine Schell provided an update on RGGI. NJ took in \$25 million at last quarterly auction, clearing price continues to rise. Brief discussion on need to allocate RGGI funds and continue to invest in clean energy and green jobs. Funds can possibly be used in Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) as long as it aligns with SEP criteria.

Updates from Working Groups

Air – Expressed need to continue pushing against parkway and turnpike extension plans. Brief update on issues at Port and RGGI fund allocations. Discussion of Covanta plume and company turning the corner now supporting the EJ Bill. Concerns regarding crematoriums and second wave of pandemic in fall and winter.

Water – Appreciated Governor’s moratorium on water shut offs and late fees but there are concerns as to payment when emergency is over. Payment for past services has been suspended, not canceled. Communities with Combined Sewer Overflows are required to submit long term control plans by October 31 that are not only compliant but also equitable. Peer to peer initiative

needed to network underserved communities and help with free advice/assistance. Lead service lines continue to be a point of discussion regarding long term solutions and extensive outreach.

Land – Awaiting response on Urban Ag white paper presented to Department of Agriculture Commissioner. Brownfield reuse, illegal dumping and composting continue to be discussed.

EEC – Working on providing an extensive toolkit/engagement resources for community. Efforts include implicit bias data and equity inclusion tools to incorporate into website. Community Benefits Agreements may be of use as projects move forward, gathering information and examples that may be beneficial to the impacted community.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08

Next Meeting

October 14, 2020 at 10am