



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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SHAWN M. LATOURETTE

Acting Commissioner

Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2020

Via Microsoft Teams

Council Members

Present: Monique Griffith, Andy Kricun, Amy Tuininga, Meredith Taylor, Nancy Griffith, Jeffrey Perlman, Joann Held, Kim Gaddy, Zach Lewis, Shanique Biles, Leilani Holgado, Phyllis Reich

Absent: Ted Carrington, Gantry Fox, Jackie Park Albaum, Melissa Miles, Kelly Francis

OEJ Staff: Riché Outlaw, Nadia Akbar

DOH Representative: Barbara Goun

DEP Guests: Commissioner Catherine McCabe, Deputy Commissioner Olivia Glenn, Michael Gordon, Peg Hanna, Brad Bollen, Branden Carreno, Kerry Kirk Pflugh, Dom Stockton-Rossini, Carrie Sargeant, Arthur Zanfini, Colleen Oropeza, Emily Nanneman, Jessica Steiger, Elizabeth Dragon, Armando Alfonso, Anthony Findley, Vivi Gogo, Frank McLaughlin

EJIC and State Agency Representatives: Julie Krause, Elizabeth Limbrick, William Cranford, Charu Vaidya, Monique Purcell, Terri Goldberg, Elkins Green, Leotis Sanders, Donna Rendeiro, Joe De Forte, Gary Karr, Adam Neary, Lisa Blauer, Andrew Campi, Chris Hillman, Holly Low, Crystal Pruitt

NJTPA Guests: Lois Goldman, Ted Ritter

Call to Order

Monique Griffith opened the meeting at 10:04 am.

Commissioner Catherine McCabe

Retirement announcement effective January 15, 2021. Encouraged continued work on Executive Order 23 EJ guidance and principles. Overview of November 2, 2020 Environmental Justice Interagency Council (EJIC) meeting. Initial assessments will be conducted for each state agency to determine how EJ intersects and opportunities to improve. Workshops will be held and workgroup formed in an effort to culminate milestones to reduce health stressors and increase benefits. Extensive participation from many departments. Soliciting input on rulemaking process at ejrulemakin@dep.nj.us. Stakeholder meetings to be held January 20, 2021 and continue through April of 2021.

Elizabeth Dragon NJDEP Enforcement

Overview of illegal dumping program in low-income communities by instituting collaboration and deterrence projects. Municipalities have set up cameras to help deter illegal dumping and identify perpetrators. Collaboration training and full support of mayors in individual townships maximizes chances of success in prosecuting occurrences of hazardous and solid waste dumping.

EJAC working groups

AIR - Kim Gaddy

Established criteria for initiatives throughout the state of NJ to protect air quality in overburdened communities. Primary concern focused on near port pollution in Camden and Elizabeth. Also focused on cumulative emission impacts from industry and truck traffic, needing to take into account emissions equipment used as well as ships themselves moving in and out of port. Stressed importance of raising voices on RGGI and TCI issues as well as

black carbon which continues to plague the EJ communities. Will also focus on impacts from Newark International Airport.

WATER - Andy Kricun

Need to address utility shutoff moratoriums and when they will be lifted, how to address arrearages, and advocate for low income household assistance so people do not lose homes or children due to no running water in house. Lead service lines need to be removed permanently in older homes. Continue to review long-term control plans for compliance and equity issues. Stress the right to safe drinking water.

EEC - Meredith Taylor

Workgroup is focused on creating a basic EJ primer with an easy format for public use. Content to include simple explanations that will encourage engagement and conversation. The portal will allow communities and other stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback. It is envisioned to also include helpful links to easy-to-understand material.

LAND - Zach Lewis

Main concern and concentration on brownfield revitalization and access to open space. Emphasis on health and benefits of public parks. Collaborating financing and trust of public lands, working with urban mayors to help increase urban green spaces and create additional economic opportunities for more open spaces and trails. Looking for additional opportunities to collaborate with leaders of communities.

Calendars

Reviewed 2021 dates for full EJAC meetings and stressed collaboration with EJIC Working Groups. First Monday of every month the Air Working Group will hold its meetings at 10:30 am and Water Working Group will meet on same days from 1:00-2:00pm. Third Thursday of every month EEC will hold its meetings from 1:00-2:00 and the Land Working Group will meet from 3:00-4:00.

General Announcements

Suggestion for a collaborative meeting possibly with board chairs who can bring back information to each individual working group. Department of Health will disseminate its newsletter and DOH encourages all to share with constituencies. Addresses vaccination information and up to date facts.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kim Gaddy moved that the minutes from the October 14, 2020 meeting be revised to reflect a date change. Andy Kricun approved the motion with that modification.

By-Laws

Proposed changes to the Council By-Laws were discussed. Joann Held moved that the changes be accepted. Kim Gaddy seconded the motion. All present voted Yes.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28

Next Meeting

February 10, 2021 at 10am virtually via Microsoft Teams

