



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

February 10, 2021

Via Microsoft Teams

Council Members

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

Absent: Ted Carrington, Gantry Fox, Jackie Park Albaum

OEJ Staff: Riche Outlaw, Nadia Akbar

DOH Representative: Barbara Goun, Christa Fontecchio

DEP Guests: Acting Commissioner Shawn LaTourette, Deputy Commissioner Olivia Glenn, Michael Gordon, Peg Hanna, Carrie Sargeant, Colleen Oropeza, Emily Nanneman, Jessica Steiger, Anthony Findley, Frank McLaughlin, Ashish Joshi, Ken Ratzman, Christine Schell, Kate Angarone, Jennifer Feltis, Mandy Futey, Elizabeth George-Cheniara, Davon McCurry, Brad Bollen, Brendon Shank, William Lindner, Jessica Sponaule,

EJIC Representatives and State Agency Guests: Charu Vaidya, Donna Rendeiro, Gary Karr, Adam Neary, Lisa Blauer, Chris Hillman, Holly Low, Crystal Pruitt, Juliet Herndon, Pragya Singh, Leotis Sander, Francine Wright, Michael Heinz, Frank Minch, Ashwini Sivaganesh, Julie Veffer

Princeton Partners: Jeff Chesebro, Kevin Kuchinski, Shakira Brown,

Other Guests: James Cheesman

Call to Order

Monique Griffith opened the meeting at 10:04 am. Resignation announcement of Zachary Lewis, acknowledged contributions made for years of dedication to the council.

Vaccine Awareness Campaign (Princeton Partners)

COVID continues to be of utmost concern to communities of color. Princeton Partners is developing a public awareness campaign regarding the COVID Vaccine. Representatives gave an overview of its goals and services. Provided statistics on vaccine supply, persons vaccinated as well as persons not wanting to be vaccinated. Town Hall meetings scheduled in the next month specific to Black and Latinx communities. Videos of event will be available on demand, YouTube and the Department of Health website. The DOH website also provides additional information regarding the vaccine, common side effects, who is eligible, how to schedule an

appointment and other frequently asked questions. EJAC members suggested developing a single page fact sheet. Members also requested a copy of the community outreach plan highlighting how the vaccines would be rolled out, how information and vaccines are disseminated (especially to the elderly) who have no access to the internet or transportation.

Acting Commissioner Shawn LaTourette

Joined as Chief of Staff in 2018. Proud to state that NJ's Environmental Justice law is one of the most empowering laws in the country and that we can continue to count on his commitment to making environmental justice a priority. Explained that environmental justice equity is institutionally imperative at DEP not just through its rulemaking effort. An analysis of the department is expected, looking into how DEP is structurally organized and where EJ fits in. Through the Environmental Justice Interagency Council, a deep systemic change can be instituted across all government and the hope is that such improvements will in turn help all our communities.

Overview of EJ Rulemaking Progress

Recordings and slides of previous stakeholder group meetings are available on DEP's website. Stakeholder meetings will continue in the coming months pertaining to Environmental Stressors and Compelling Public Need. Met with mayors and other representatives of municipalities that have EJ communities within their borders. DEP continues to work with EJ advocates on refining data for rulemaking and will keep all engaged. EJAC members expressed the need for additional explanation and background knowledge in order to be better prepared for the Stakeholder meetings and be able to engage in the discussion more fully. Even being in the profession and knowledgeable about the field, the flow of the meeting and technical information presented was difficult to follow. Looking to see if there was a possibility to bring it down to a more tangible lay person's level in order to reach more people who have valuable input to bring to the table. The creation of a possible ad hoc working group was discussed. It was suggested that this group meet in advance to provide training amongst EJAC and give all members the opportunity to formulate meaningful questions.

EJIC Update (Deputy Commissioner Olivia Glenn)

NJDEP has held one-on-one meetings with all but 3 agencies involved in EJIC in order to get a baseline assessment of their programs. Some agencies may begin sending members to EJAC Workgroup meetings.

Meeting Minutes Approved

Andy Kricun made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2020 EJAC meeting. The motion was seconded by Amy Tuininga. All in favor, no one abstained.

EEC Working Group

Meredith Taylor reported that an EJ Primer was being drafted which would include basic information and website resources to allow those that are interested to get more involved in EJ activities. A timeline of major accomplishments and enforcement initiatives would be outlined. Also envisioning a glossary of terms. A draft to the Council for approval is forthcoming.

Land Working Group



Riche Outlaw reported that the Workgroup plans to advance topics that were raised under the leadership of Zachary Lewis – increase of green spaces in urban areas, addressing contaminated lands and illegal dumping, food and waste composting. Looking to collaborate with CCI and gain input on how to best hone in on compliance and enforcement in EJ areas.

Water Working Group

Andy Kricun addressed the continuing issues surrounding long-term overflow control plans and the disproportionate burdens placed on some NJ cities. Working on plans to reduce burden on EJ community rate payors that could somehow be spread among all communities. Discussion of utility shut-off moratorium and low-income household affordability. NJ Waterworks leading the way on lead free awareness programs in NJ and the removal of lead service lines. Hope to develop into a statewide lead awareness assistance program.

Air Working Group

Kim Gaddy provided a quick highlight of air concerns through the state of NJ – Climate Initiatives and RGGI, Transportation and Impacts from Newark Airport, Cumulative Impacts from industry and truck traffic near ports in Camden and Elizabeth, Advocacy and Compliance and Enforcement.

Announcements

Kelly Francis announced that he and Ted Carrington were invited to make a presentation during a week-long seminar at Princeton University to undergraduates and graduate students on the environmental concerns within the City of Camden and across the state as well as environmental racism.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:07pm.

Next Meeting

April 21, 2021 at 10am virtually via Microsoft Teams

