



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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SHAWN M. LATOURETTE
Commissioner

Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2021
Via Microsoft Teams

Council Members

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

Absent: Meredith Taylor, Ted Carrington, Gantry Fox, Kelly Francis

OEJ Staff: Kandyce Perry, Nadia Akbar

DEP Guests: Ken Ratzman, Brad Bollen, Carrie Sargeant, Christine Schell, Anthony Findley, Frank McLaughlin, Peg Hanna, Brandon Carreno, Emily Wagner, Stacy McEwan, Joe Stefanoni, Emily Nanneman, Kerry Pflugh, Alexandra Skinner, Renee Wright, Laura Scatena

EJIC Representatives and State Agency Guests: Barbara Goun, Jessica Steiger, Christa Fontecchio, Juliet Herndon, Leotis Sanders, Joseph Forte, Julie Krauss, Kevin Risch, Kevin Nedza, Elizabeth Limbrick, Kimberly Holmes, Sarah Helble, Lauren Griffith, Chris Hillman, Gary Karr, Adam Neary, Terri Goldberg

Call to Order

The meeting opened at 10:05 am.

Kandyce Perry Introduction

Environmental Justice more than just rulemaking; collaboration of good partners. Need for more stewards and advocates, need to integrate EJ in all fields whether agency, industry or community.

June Minutes

Jackie Park Albaum moved to approve the June 9, 2021 minutes. Leilani Holgado seconded the motion. All present voted to approve.

Air Working Group (Melissa Miles)

Overview of Advanced Clean Truck Rule and NJDEP plans to adopt. Overview of RGGI status. Request to consolidate PACT comments to include black carbon as PM (particulate matter)^{2.5}; reduction/elimination of diesel emissions. Discussion of odor complaints and the process for investigation and verification by DEP or local municipalities. Reorganization of DEP Compliance & Enforcement and reporting structure. Joann Held also provided an update regarding recent amendments to air permitting requirements as it relates to fumigation by building owners or pesticide applicators.

Land Working Group (Jackie Park Albaum)

Urban Agriculture: Need to follow-up with NJ DOA on the urban agriculture white paper. EJAC has not formally heard back from the NJ Department of Agriculture, although there have been brief discussions on some issues.

Adaptive Reuse Brownfields: Exploring concept of a white paper to oversee and discuss inventory of Brownfields especially with regards to access and the use of urban green spaces as well as passive recreation and other community benefits.

Urban Forestry: Urban forestry could be key to answering city flooding issues providing immediate community relief.

Solar Energy Siting: Discussion surrounding biggest hurdle which is identifying space.

Water Working Group (Andy Kricun)

Affordability: The NJ water shut-off moratorium has been extended to end of December, but meter still continues to run. Hope is to have a safety net in place before the moratorium is removed, possibly urging for an extension of financial assistance to low income households.

Combined Sewer Overflow Control Plans: Discussion of clean waterways as well as government funding that concentrates on infrastructure within environmental justice communities.

Lead in Drinking Water: Discussion of government taking initiative to eliminate/replace all lead service lines within 10 years and alleviating cost burdens of low income communities. Jeff Perlman asked about lead abatement procedures and removal of pipes. Whether localized funds for municipal roads can be obtained at the DOT level.

Equity: Beneficial to have NJ EJ Coordinators at NJ Transit in areas where they have facilities that contribute for flooding problems.

EEC Working Group (Nadia Akbar)

Primer: Draft will be shared with the team for additional input. Looking to create a network of community lead EJ advocates using online pre-recorded modules; how to best engage the masses. Want to include topics that a new contingent may need to know, uplift voices, generate ideas and pull together collective expertise which can be shared with others. Resurrect a list created in 2019 of key EJ, environmental and community organizations, to include in the Primer.

Ad Hoc Rules Committee (Joann Held)

The committee is preparing some recommendations regarding concerns with the methodology of the rule and how stressors are weighed. The concept of the combined stressor totals is not clear to the committee. IT demo coming soon to explain overburdened communities map, the stressors within each community and accompanying methodology. Focus on compelling public interest, cumulative impacts, odors & impervious surfaces. Expectation that EJ rule will be proposed in the NJ Register this fall with a public comment period of 60 days and then adoption one year later.

EJAC Positions

Three-year term positions need to be filled. Applications will be posted on the website. Asking EJAC members to forward information/link to possible candidates and make recommendations. Review of application procedures.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04pm

Next Meeting

October 20, 2021 at 10am virtually via Microsoft Teams