

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Date: 01/24/23

Time: 10am to 12pm

Commissioners in attendance: Secretary McIlwain, Camille Burke, Lori Cunningham, Paulette Hammond, Barbara Paca, Monica Brooks, John Papagni, Joseph Griffiths, Melissa Brown, Subha Chandar, Gerald Jackson, Voncia Molock, and Crystal Faison.

Interested parties in attendance: Ken Levenson, Marisa Sotolongo, Matthew Aubourg, Hallie Tadesse, Pam Kasemeyer, Charmaine Brown, Emma Gilligan, Ramon Palencia-Calvo, Rebecca Rehr, Veronika Carella, Dorothy Morrison, Greg Faison, Makayla Alicea, Noble Smith, Devon Dodson, Suzanne Dorsey, Caitlin Eversmier, Kim Pezza, and Lisa Nissley

Agenda Items

1. Introductions

Secretary McIlwain joined the meeting for the first time. She is very excited to be at MDE and this is a very important issue to her. She said EJ should and will be embedded in everything we do at MDE. She has done that at her past organizations including budget requests and internal policies and they were able to make progress. She believes our budget request needs to have an equity lens. She wants to bring excitement and accountability to MDE. She looks forward to being a partner with the Commission

2. Legislative Review

Lisa Nissley shared that there has been a slow start to the session with the number of transitions going on. Legislative pre-files were not released until the week session started. We are aware that Delegate Boyce will introduce the Climate, Labor, and Environmental Equity Act again. In the past the Department and the Commission have been generally supportive of what this bill is trying to do. There were some concerns about the scope of the bill when we reviewed it last year. We are hoping to see language for the bill soon.

This would build on last year's HB 1200 which requires a EJ Screen score for certain permit applications and notifies communities. We understand part of this year's bill will give the Department authority to deny a permit based on that review. Governor Moore has made it plain that business as usual is not what he is expecting. We are expected to be aggressive and use any new tools necessary to address the most vulnerable communities. MDE will have more opportunities to work on these bills now.

We were asked about CEJSC appointments. We expect to fill the last seat (academic institution) that is a Governor's appointment very soon. We will go directly to the presiding officers on their missing appointments.

Camille requested that we present about the MDE EJ Screen to the Lead Commission. Devon Dodson shared that it is on the calendar for next month.

From chat, are there other bills CEJSC is tracking: Answer: yes, there will be. We will share information as it is available.

3. Presentation: Debora Hoffman, Passive House Network

Ken Levenson of the Passive house Network, a national non-profit made a presentation that can be found here. (For draft purposes, link will be inserted)

4. Public Comment

Veronika Carella: Thank you for today's discussion of CEJSC's role in ensuring that Maryland is making progress in advancing the human right to safe, clean, affordable housing. Keeping in mind that accessible drinking water is also a priority, I have two action item requests;

PUBLIC INPUT 1 of 2: Please support with testimony SB 158 Pesticide Registration – PFAS Testing – Requirements [Hearing February 2, 2023] which prohibits pesticide registration unless the distributor of the pesticide submits to the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) test results showing that the product is PFAS free. This is consistent with CEJSC duties per ENVIRONMENTAL ARTICLE §1-701.(h) The Commission shall:

(7) Recommend options to the Secretary for ensuring that the Department is making progress in advancing the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water for consumption, cooking, sanitation, health, and recreation purposes.

As of 2004 when the MDA regulations were repealed, there are no longer regulatory parameters or guidance for choosing which pesticides are allowed to be registered for use in Maryland. The June 27, 1988 (15:13 Md. R. 1558) MDA regulations were quietly repealed effective August 2, 2004 (31:15 Md. R. 1186), so currently there are no regulations in Maryland to guide the Registration &

Labeling of the 14,000 Pesticides approved annually for use in Maryland by the MDA or any other Agency. The MDA State Chemist approves pesticides for use in Maryland at his own will and discretion without any oversight, guidance or consideration of public health and the impact to ground water (or the environment).

SB 158 would introduce some guidance on which pesticides should not be allowed for use in Maryland because they contain PFAS - a chemical which has been documented to compromise public health, our environment and our water - including groundwater used for drinking wells.

PUBLIC INPUT 2 of 2: Additionally, since CEJSC's does have a role in ensuring the "Human Right to Safe Drinking Water", please include the issue of "Protecting communities who are designated to obtain their drinking water from wells (i.e. groundwater)" in your action items for 2023 as this is necessary to ensure sustainable communities where the source of drinking water is ground water or wells.

This is a repeating request to please add the topics related to "Sustainable Communities Concerns" to the agenda for the upcoming CEJSC meetings. CEJSC is tasked with ensuring that communities remain sustainable throughout the state – even if they are not yet identified as an EJ community. CEJSC has an opportunity to act proactively to prevent harm from to public health and the environment. The goal is to prevent them from becoming an EJ community by protecting the air, water and soil – our natural resources - from known hazards.

Noble Smith with CEEJH, wanted to talk about the air quality work we do and make a quick request - using air quality monitor sensors, low cost and allows us to work with community groups, only capture a certain amount of pollution, asking to increase funding for more low cost air quality monitors for community groups and extend water quality testing options as well.

Devon shared there is a lot of Federal dollars coming and believes this will move forward (air) nto same level of convo on water, but believes it will happen and grow. Community level grant funding happening and government to government for partnerships. Meetings are on the schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

From the chat:

Veronika Carella - MD CEHC Leg Dir10:21 AM

Is Feb 2 the CEHPAC meeting date?

Rebecca Rehr10:21 AM

Are there other bills the CEJSC is tracking?

:)

Veronika Carella - MD CEHC Leg Dir10:23 AM

CEHPAC is Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council

Makayla Alicea 10:35 AM

will this presentation be available to us? sorry, i joined late

Devon Dodson -MDE- 10:36 AM

Yes, we will get it and post it on the CEJSC website.

Ken Levenson 11:03 AM

<https://rmi.org/insight/decarbonizing-homes/>

Veronika Carella - MD CEHC Leg Dir 11:06 AM

PUBLIC INPUT from MD CEHC: Thank you for today's discussion of CEJSC's role in ensuring that Maryland is making progress in advancing the human right to safe, clean, affordable housing – keeping in mind that accessible drinking water is also a priority. I have two action item requests;

It was a pleasure. Thank you for having me! here's my email ken@passivehousenetwork.org and I look forward to following up.

Dorothy Morrison 11:07 AM

I think that's a wonderful idea of growing environmental health professionals. 👍

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in today's CEJSC meeting and for introducing us to Serena McIlwain, Maryland's new Secretary of the Department of Environment. We appreciate that Secretary McIlwain attended today's meeting.

Please share this email with CEJSC members and guests as it constitutes MD CEHC Public Input which I tried to convey verbally and via "chat box" as my "public input" request during today's meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT – January 24, 2023 CEJSC Meeting

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END OF CEJSC January 24, 2023 Public Input