

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD
Aeris Conference Room
April 25th 2017

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Duane Johnson, Robert Hackman (phone), Crystal Faison (phone) Delegate Clarence Lam (phone) Rebecca Rehr, Malachy Rice, Camille Burke, Steve Levitsky, Tanvi Gadia, Joe Griffiths

- Participants: Tad Aburn (phone), Liz Entwisle, Hope Hurley, Brian Hug

Introductions

Camille Burke asked everyone to introduce themselves.

March meeting minutes were approved.

July Retreat Updates

Camille mentioned that Reggie Harris, EJ Coordinator from EPA Region 3, tentatively agreed to participate at the July retreat.

Camille said that several venues are under consideration for the retreat and they appear to be a little pricey. For example, Volmer Center at Cylburn fee is \$225 per hour and the Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center is between \$200-\$300 per day. The Robinson Nature Center in Howard County is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Tuesday is the day the Commission meets on.

Crystal Faison indicated that she will be looking into a facility in PG County that the Commission may be able to use at no cost for the retreat.

Case Studies Updates

- Baltimore City: Rebecca Rehr said Baltimore City had their big Sustainability release the prior week. Rebecca said she will get back to Baltimore to get an update on how the release went and report back to the Commission.

- Eastern Shore: Steve Levitsky said he spent a lot of time over the last week looking into the case study as it relates to climate change, sea level rise and its impacts to impoverish and minority communities on the Eastern Shore.

Steve thinks the primary focus for the Commission should be to focus on those affected communities and to make recommendations to the Governor. Steve indicated that Talbot, Dorchester and Somerset Counties should be the main focus.

Steve said some of his next steps will be to meet with Eastern Shore Land Conservancy to see where they are with their work and he still wants to get Christine Miller to come in and talk about her PH.D study she did. Steve said he contacted the Chesapeake Conservancy to see if there is any GIS mapping that can be quickly mapped to show sea level rise model expectations, minority and poverty census overlaid to focus efforts on.

Steve said the CEO is interested in working with the Commission on nailing down where sea level rise will hit in these counties. Rebecca indicated that another resource that Steve could use could be the Department of Natural Resources which has some really good mapping sources.

Camille asked has if anyone has done any targeted outreach to the communities. Steve said Christine Miller did some for her thesis research and for the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy as well in Talbot County but none in Dorchester or Somerset Counties.

Steve gave a brief introduction on how the case studies came about. Rebecca said Baltimore City case study focused on what government is doing. Eastern Shore is a mix of academics, government and non-profit sectors. Brandywine was community base driven. The idea is to highlight work that's already being done and then make recommendations to the Governor and legislators.

Brandywine's case study will be revisited in-terms of how to move forward with it.

Liz Entwisle from MDE gave a brief presentation on the Maryland Clean Air 2017 Progress Report. She said Maryland is doing a lot to bring down air pollution from sources in the state. She says Maryland can't tackle this pollution unless we can get cooperation from other states that have power plants that are blowing their pollution down to Maryland.

Liz talked about electric vehicles. She said the state is really pushing for more electric charging stations throughout the state. Liz said in terms of people using the charging stations, trends are going upwards. Robert Hackman suggested that the Commission could make a recommendation to the Governor that all state agencies increase their use of electric vehicles.

Potential tax credits and who are eligible to receive these credits for purchasing electric vehicles was discussed. Rebecca said this is something the Commission could wney in on by submitting recommendations to the Governor.

Besides the other things already mentioned, Camille asked Liz if there is anything the Commission can do to help the Maryland Climate Change Commission. Liz said she will take that back to Tad to answer.

Legislative Updates

- Food Desert Bill passed – designed to increase financial incentives to provide more money to food deserts throughout the state.
- Lead Bill passed - designed to provide notification of lead levels to health department and families.
- RPS Bill passed - Rebecca will send the link out to this bill to the Commissioners.
- Maryland Black Caucus had a successful luncheon with CEJSC.

Camille reminded Commissioners to turn in their Financial Closure Form if they haven't already done so.

Public Comments

- None

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting May 23rd 1800 Washington Blvd