

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

January 23, 2018

9:30 am-11:30 am

Annapolis, MD

Meeting Minutes

InAttendance

- Commissioners: Duane Johnson, Camille Burke, Joseph Griffiths, Robert Hackman, John Quinn, Crystal Faison, Subha Chandar, Deriece Pate Bennett
- Participants: Angelo Bianca, Jeanne Maxwell, Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Richard Tabutean

Introduction

- Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.
- Camille indicated that Rebecca Rehr resigned from the Commission due to a job change.
- Camille said it is possible the February meeting might be referred back to MDE and then come back to Annapolis for the March meeting, Robert Hackman agreed to have the next meeting as MDE.
- Camille said she would send a poll out to the Commissioners to see what their preferences are for the next meeting place.

Eastern Shore Case Study Update

- Put on hold due to the absence of Steve Levitsky

Defining Equity Update

- Camille said she didn't get around to doing this task due to an increased work load. She asked the Commissioners for ideas about places to look.

Composing/Creating-EJ Areas of Concern-/interests or fact sheet for legislators Update

Camille said she wanted to be clear about what the goal is and what the Commission is doing with this topic. She asked if the goal is to inform legislators on a particular issue, or something in general the Commission is supporting. She said she wants to be clear about the reason we are doing the fact sheets.

- Subha Chandar said she felt as though this was brought up doing the retreat and how it relates to the Commission communicating more generally about a lot of bills instead of one particular bill. Subha said we are asking legislators to look at environmental issues through an equity lens.
- Robert Hackman asked are we asking legislators to do something they don't have a clue how to do? Subha said yes.

- John Quinn said that over the years they developed a one pager which served as a useful tool. He said that maybe the Commission needs to send it to the legislators more often to remind them that the Commission exists. That it provides a useful service and could use their support.
- Sending EJ 101 out right away and on regular basis was suggested.
- Camille suggested letting legislators know when the Commission's next meeting is, since the 2018 General Assembly is now in session.
- Subha suggested that the Commission should reach out to our partners who might approach legislators on behalf of the Commission to suggest that they should have the EJ 101 handy also.
- Angelo Bianca suggested looking at bills around equity and suggesting to legislators how it could be better or why it's terrible.

How best to handle recommendations pertaining to the case studies

- Robert Hackman asked how the Commission makes sure the recommendations don't fall by the wayside and said if you want to have an effective Commission, the Commission needs to insure some accountability such that when the recommendations are forwarded to the Governor's office something actually happens. Otherwise the Commission is just spinning wheels and they go nowhere.
- Joseph Griffiths said for any recommendations the Commission makes, he would need time to run it across his agency to see what their positions are or if they want to make any charges.
- It was decided to continue this discussion further.

How to evaluate the performance-measurement-put into the recommendations in the case studies

- Put on hold until further discussion

Review Legislative Agenda/Priorities

- Subha suggested having some sort of tracking mechanism in place to determine the Commission's reach and if it has to follow up on metrics.
- Robert suggested that having headings in the agenda such as "Old Business" and "New Business" would help with doing follow-up.
- Robert Hackman suggested having representatives from MML and MACo give the Commission an update on what they are doing.
- It was asked if the Commission has a solid contact with the Legislative Black Caucus-Camille suggested it might be Delegate Cheryl Glenn.
- Angelo Bianca suggested matching the CEJSC meeting with the Legislative Black Caucus meeting.
- Joseph suggested sending the EJ 101 to the Legislative Black Caucus in the event of a meeting and asking them if there is any assistance they could use from the Commission.
- Camille asked if anyone would like to take lead on helping with local outreach and developing the plan.
- Joseph said he was willing to help with the Eastern Shore but asked what the initial questions are that the Commission is asking. He said just asking EJ questions might not be sufficient.
- Angelo suggested to Joseph that he might reach out to Lisa Nissely of MDE who might be able to help him with the process.

- Joseph said it's important to know what information the Commission wants to get from the counties, such as; environmental justice a concern, is it something that you address? What are your strategies? What is environmental justice?
- Subha said one of the reasons they were doing the case studies was to have counties tell the Commission what they are doing and then to highlight and assist them.
- Camille said they are going to reach out to George and Lisa Nissley to see what kind of outreach they have done.

Camille said an email will go out to determine where the next meeting will be held.

No public comments

Meeting Adjourned