

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

March 27, 2018

9:30 am-11:30 am

Baltimore, MD

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Duane Jonson, Camille Burke, John Papagni, J Cornick Moyer, John Quinn, Camille Burke, Dick Fairbanks, Subha Chandar, Deriece Pate Bennett
- **Participants:** Devon Dobson

Introductions

- Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.
- February meeting minutes were approved.

Legislative Update

Devon Dobson, Senior Advisor for Secretary Ben Grumbles gave a brief update on several bills that loosely involve environmental justice, House Bill 1126, House Bill 715, and House Bill 183.

HB 1126 seek to require the Public Service Commission to take final action on a certain application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), only after due consideration of the effect of a generating station and overhead transmission lines or qualified generator lead lines, on air quality and water pollution; rather than considering these effects only when applicable.

Mr. Dobson said H.B 1126 was passed by the House of Delegates and is on its way to the Senate. If it passes into law it will add Water and Quality Criteria (WQC) to the (CPCN) process. He said those who are supportive of environmental justice issues were hoping to use H.B 1126 to move forward on another environmental justice issue-public health and health impacts. But Mr. Dobson doesn't see that happening because in addition to WQC added by H.B. 1126, H.B. 715 led through this year's legislative session, would add public health and health impacts to the CPCN process.

Dick Fairbanks asked what a CPCN is. Mr. Dobson said it is "Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity" and gave an example: If anyone wants to build a Power Plant they have to meet a lot criteria to obtain approval. Currently the criteria do not include public impacts. H.B. 715 would have required public health impacts to be included in the criteria'.

This is something that Brandywine and other communities were seeking. Unfortunately, H.B 715 was killed by the House Economic Matters Committee. Dick asked what happened with H.B. 715. Mr. Dobson said he' is not at liberty to answer that, but explained the reason environmental justice bills

have such a hard time passing the General Assembly-is because developers who may be looking to build power plants or coal ash facilities come out in masses to protest those bills.

Finally, Mr. Dobson talked about H.B. 183, a Prince George's County specific bill designed to set up an environmental justice commission in PG County. H.B. 183 has passed the House and is on its way to the Senate with two weeks remaining in the session. Mr. Dobson said that normally, local courtesy is given to a jurisdiction for what they want to do in their jurisdiction.

Camille Burke suggested lending the CEJSC resources to the PG County EJ Commission if the bill passes.

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Old Business Updates

- Defining Equity was tabled until further notice.
- Camille Burke talked briefly about lead bills, especially H.B. 304 which sought to lower blood levels from 10 ppm to 5 ppm. She said hundreds of people in Baltimore City supported H.B. 304.
- Subha Chandar spoke about Senates Bills 1109 and 1603, which are based on collecting data on race and ethnicity.
- No additional updates on the Eastern Shore case study.

New Business Updates

- Camille asked if any of the Commissioners would consider being the MACo representative. Dick said he would be willing to serve on a bridge basis. Duane will provide Les Knapp's information to Dick.
- Camille wanted to know what MDE is doing in terms of EJ outreach. She also mentioned having a meeting with Prince George's County to get an update on what they are doing.
- Dick said in the past the Commissions have met with folks in Brandywine in PG County.
- Camille said she is soliciting a Commissioner to look into finding out what other jurisdictions are doing as it relates to EJ centered outreach. The goal is to be able to assist these jurisdictions better.
- John Quinn suggested visiting other jurisdiction and asking them what they need help with verses having them come to the Commission.
- Camille indicated that she is going talk to Crystal and Joseph to get an update on what they are working on as it relates to outreach.
- Camille mentioned the Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council's May meeting.
- Camille mentioned MDH, MDE and DHCD in conjunction with local health departments are embarking upon a brand new program using Medicare funds to do asthma and lead prevention at an early stage. Camille said she's going to ask Cliff Mitchell to do a presentation on this at the retreat.

No Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned