

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC)**

The Commissioner's Retreat, Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD

Earl Richardson Library

Retreat Goal: To update and prioritize the Commission's action oriented goals and objectives to conform to the CEJSC charge of advising the Governor and the Administration in a manner that is achievable.

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Calvin Ball, Dick Fairbanks, Andrew Fellows, Andrea Kidd Taylor, Elaine McCubbin, Lisa Nissley, John Quinn, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Arabia Davis, John Quinn, Scot Spencer, Chris Hill, Vernice Miller Travis, Karen Forbes
- Participants: Heather Barthel, Angelo Bianca, Samantha Zwerling, Michelle Romney, Dr. David Wilson, Dr. Mary Anne Akers, Dr. Willie Larkin, Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Beth Strommen

Introductions

Each member and guest introduced themselves and their relationship to the Commission. Morgan State University Staff, Dr. Mary Anne Akers, Dean and Professor and Dr. Willie Larkin, Chief of Staff to the President, welcomed the group to campus.

Greetings from Heather Barthel on behalf of the Governor

"We're six and a half years into the current administration. I have worked under a couple of Governors, and this administration has set aside politics and looked at what is best for Marylanders and the environment. The Governor's office came to MDE and wanted to know what we could do in the next 18 months. We have 18 months with an administration that's very supportive of your efforts. Think about what can be accomplished in the next 18 months. Don't focus on things that are grandiose, think about how achievable it is.

Updates from Lisa and Outline of the Day

Lisa told the group that there will be two brainstorming sessions throughout the day and that the second one is about broader issues. She told the group that post-its will be passed out and asked Commissioners to jot down ideas throughout the day and put them next to the right header. Lisa told the group that ideas have to fit within the following parameters: the idea should relate back to the Commission's charge; be feasible; and have an action item.

Lisa told the group that she had a conversation with Adam Ortiz of Prince George's County and that he is working towards an EJ effort in the county. Adam wants to talk to the Commission, but was unavailable for the retreat.

Lisa explained that Michelle will be covering the Commission while she is on maternity leave.

Lisa then went over the rules of engagement for the day, and reminded everyone to follow these rules since discussions can get heated.

Lisa then reminded the Commission that it has a statutory charge that is very broad. The first Executive Order establishing the Commission was in 1999. Vernice pointed out that the one thing missing from the charge is how to help communities that are having problems with environmental justice, and that's why she's been frustrated. Lisa reminded the group that Governor's Commissions are meant to guide the Governor. Lisa went on to explain that the charge is to be reactive, to a certain extent. The times the Commission has had the most success is when it has done things that are part of its charge; the Commission is limited and everyone needs to acknowledge that.

Calvin reiterated that this conversation is about the charge and that the charge will help the group develop action items. He reminded the group that it has 18 months left in the current administration and the group needs to figure out what they want to accomplish. As Chair, he is going to make sure to keep everyone accountable.

Baltimore City Guest

Lisa introduced Beth Strommen, Director of the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability. Calvin welcomed her and thanked her from coming.

Beth Strommen explained how her group approached the issue. Her commission first did a broad sustainability plan that outlined a plan for success. That plan was adopted in 2009 and they now have 80% of strategies underway and 30% are completed. Next year her commission is going to re-evaluate. Most of ones that they haven't started are transportation related. Beth Strommen is very proud of the progress they have made. They framed the document by going out to the community and asking people what sustainability means to them. The Commission decided not to address environmental justice in a single chapter. They thought that was a way to isolate it rather than have it in every aspect. They call it "social equity". The guiding principles are: translation- speak in the language they understand and inclusivity- whatever the people of Baltimore define as their issue is important to the Commission. The most important thing to people is to reduce energy bills. The other thing in terms of social equality, is framing things in terms of sustainability. To make things good for everyone, these things always need to be balanced: people, planet, and prosperity.

When they did the Baltimore Energy Challenge, Park Heights won. They reduced energy use by 12.3%. They really felt this was important in terms of saving money. They are a member of International Urban Sustainability Director's Network which allows them to share information, and they are the founding member of a working group on social equity. They have hired a consultant to look at communities across North America.

Calvin explained that one thing that makes the CEJSC unique is that they try to shed light on those communities that are disproportionately impacted by poor environmental practices. He asked Beth Strommen to list some best practices that she uses in communities where businesses are skirting regulations. Beth Strommen explained that they would approach it by not being adversarial, but educational. They would ask questions like: What are you doing? How are you doing that? How does it impact the community? She acknowledged that the CEJSC has previously commented on demolition protocols to tear down buildings while reducing exposure to lead. She said that she wants people to also talk about how to deconstruct buildings rather than smashing them, so materials don't get in water and air. Baltimore has a huge number of warehouses that sit unused. There may be a better way to approach it than waiting for the market to take it up. She said that she is going to find out where these buildings are.

Andrea asked how they prioritize which issues are more important. Beth Strommen said that the Commission decides. This year, because of the storm water fee, water quality has been a big one. They just did a climate action plan and they're looking at public health. They have formed a committee on it. Schools are also another big thing they're looking at. They have a grant program from Constellation Energy which gives schools \$1,000 to do a project. They have found that they outperform non-"green schools." Some of the things that have been funded are recycling, garden, rain barrels, etc. Since it's through Constellation, everyone gets trained in energy reduction.

Vernice said that right now there's a negative connotation when you say environmental justice. She said that she wants as many people working on this as possible, but she doesn't want to sublimate a thing that is hurting people. She asked how to create a conversation about sustainability that can work across middle class folks and low-income people of color.

Beth Strommen said that with social equity in general, Vernice is right, people run. People think they're going to get sued. That's a reason why the Baltimore Commission picked this frame; it allows people to see what they're doing when it's safe. They don't need to feel guilty. This is a large conversation. Baltimore is not afraid to call out things when they're wrong. The first thing is that there has to be a way of looking through a lens that's not confrontational. The other is not shying away from the truth. The Commission put the data out there, and by putting that data out there, Baltimore got money to fix it.

Vernice then asked how diverse is the Baltimore Commission is and the diversity of the conversation?

Beth Strommen explained that their Commission is very diverse. One has to apply to be on the Commission, so it's not political. And, they let people who are not from Baltimore to be on it. It's the only Commission like that. The Commission wanted experts, and it's diverse racially and in terms of skill sets.

Vernice mentioned that there are 2 states (VT and MD) in the country that use the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) to measure the wellbeing of the citizens of the state. She asked Beth Strommen how she really sees the state doing. Vernice explained that one looks at not only how much income vs. debt, but to look at other variables. The growing inequality and gives a better look at how people are doing. It can be used to look at progress at equality enhancing policies. We had the least amount of inequity in 1968.

Caroline said that she worked with the beginnings of GPI. It's interesting because it's an alternative to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It tries to look at how well a state is doing. When she was invited to work with them to develop that, the methodology was from the 1970s. They used an existing framework. When one looks at the issues, some aged well, and some didn't. It worked well because it was up and running very quickly. Race is not one of the factors.

Elaine brought up the fact that Beth Strommen said that priorities come from the Commission. And that the Commission framed efforts in terms of translation, inclusivity, etc. Does the Commission do outreach to the community?

Beth Strommen said that it's a little bit of everything. They are unique in that it's more of an active Commission that does things. Commissioners roll up their sleeves and do things.

Andy brought up the topic of zoning. He asked if the Commission has been able to look at this.

Beth Strommen said that they did, and in fact they just redid their entire zoning code.

Calvin thanked Beth Strommen for a great discussion, and Beth Strommen reminded everyone that they are able to come to any of the Baltimore Commission's meetings. One can find that at Baltimoresustainability.org.

A Look at the Effectiveness of the Commission

Lisa explained that a former Commissioner, Rebecca Rehr, did a paper that was published last year and presented her findings at last year's retreat. Her goal was to analyze the effectiveness of having a state Environmental Justice Commission. Since there are many new members, it seemed to be a good idea to revisit what Rebecca learned. She interviewed everyone and tailored questions to the people. She looked at the annual reports, which are due every October. She thought that the Commission has developed a new lens through which to analyze issues. She thought the Commission was moderately effective, but no one she interviewed thought it was as successful as it could

be. The interviewees highlighted reaching out to business and higher education communication as goals. Many want a better website and want to craft concrete goals. Rebecca then looked at the annual reports. The reports can be grouped into 3 phases:

- 2001-2004- When the Commission started and looked at community engagement
- 2004-2010- The Commission switched to a legislative focus, but did not take a stance on bills
- 2010-Present- The Commission is looking at feasible goals.

Lisa explained that according to Rebecca's research, no one was completely satisfied with CEJSC's business but everyone saw potential. She explained that there needs to be more follow-up between meetings. The Commission used to just inform itself, but now it does more. The group agreed that it needs to identify an environmental justice legislative champion and be more proactive in general. Further, the group talked about developing a majority vote system for deciding on things.

Calvin reminded the group that part of the charge is to advise the Governor. The group asked how they could better be advised of the Governor's position on bills/issues. Lisa pointed out the Governor's position is the Department's position as the Department works for the Governor.

Vernice brought up a concern that the Commission does not have enough interaction with the Governor himself. Lisa explained that the Commission is supposed to use the annual report and the state employees to communicate with him. Calvin said that he would look into having the chair meet with the Governor's staff every so often.

Other Commissions

Lisa asked her colleagues at MDE if they knew of similar commissions they found to be successful. They came up with the River Basin Commission. That commission has set very specific goals and worked to achieve them. They are very focused and that has allowed them to be more influential. Lisa pointed out that the Environmental Justice Commission often keeps moving to different topics.

Lisa's co-workers also mentioned the Lead Commission. They have strong leadership and they are successful when they are focused on a project. Andy said that he thinks Environmental Justice is a politically challenging issue. Environmental Justice is a loaded thing for different people. He said that the suggestion for having a legislative champion becomes more controversial. Speaking for Clean Water Action, Andy said that they will not wait for this Commission to go do stuff. He said that MDE took a more neutral position on pesticides and the Department of Agriculture took a more negative stance. Lisa pointed out that was because lead agencies are based on which article the bill is drafted in and other agencies must defer to the lead agency. Andy went on to say that the Commission should have a more direct voice to the Governor and that individual members are not always going to agree within the Commission. The advocacy community should take the lead and speak for communities. It will be hard for Commission to speak for communities. Andrea then asked if a one-pager could be

developed for communities groups, so they know that the Environmental Justice commission exists. Lisa said that was on the to-do list, but they had started with documents for other stakeholder groups.

Lisa then said that she thinks there might be a need for more education on how the Governor and MDE come to decisions. The Commissioners agreed and asked for a brief presentation at the next meeting.

Academic Outreach

Calvin then introduced Dr. Sacoby Wilson of University of Maryland. He said that recently the Commission has talked about academic outreach. The group has been thinking about big class projects, a big major project, or maybe even some thesis type work.

Dr. Wilson has been to some meetings before, and knows that the Commission has talked about having more connectivity to the universities. From a resource perspective, Dr. Wilson said that he teaches 3 classes. He said that he would like to have the Commission provide projects to these students. They can do them individually or as a group projects and as undergraduates and graduate students. He went on to say that this could possibly be integrated into the sustainability minor, or the capstone with the School of Public Health. Dr. Wilson's program is very small and that's why it's important to bridge gaps to the other schools. The biggest problem is that they have a limited amount of students, but the chair of Dr. Wilson's department is very supportive of this initiative.

Calvin went on to say that his passion is higher education and that he would like to look at the relationship between higher education success and environmental justice. Calvin questioned whether in neighborhoods where there are environmental justice concerns, is there a relationship between that and how successful students are in higher education. Researchers can just look at GPA or graduation rate. If the Commission connects with University of Maryland, College Park or Morgan State University, the Commission can look at zip codes, etc. Calvin said that he thinks higher education is a gateway to excellence, and that's what he's interested in.

Dr. Wilson agreed and said that there are some similar things to that already going on such as looking at lead exposure and school success, etc. Zip codes not the best indicators, but that's an instant project. On the other hand, Dr. Wilson said, using some type of STEM frame would be good. He suggested potentially looking at Morgan State University, Bowie State University, or other historically black colleges and universities. That way, those colleges can look at something and then do something about it.

Calvin said that the Commission needs to look at Plan MD through a critical eye and figure out where it is now, and pick a vision that really should be the environmental justice vision. In this vision, how can the Commission do a better job? Maybe the Commission should draft a letter to the Governor. Dr. Wilson said that he has his students doing op-eds and blogs, and that students could write to the Governor as an

assignment. Andrea pointed out that she and Dr. Wilson have met with the chairs in their departments to see if the Commission and the school can collaborate. She suggested seeing if the Commission can connect with the environmental science department at Morgan State University because there might be more students there. Dr. Wilson said that he thinks undergraduates need to be the target of this program. Further, Andrea said that the Commission needs to see how we can use these programs more to pipeline. Calvin pointed out that if there are sister institutions, students can continue the research after they move to different institutions. Dr. Wilson suggested it could be a 2 week assignment or a semester long project, depending on what the Commission is doing.

Lisa reminded the group that MDE did some mapping with Dr. Eskin. In 2009 the Department tried to look at every indicator it could think of. They found that one area didn't consistently pop out except East Baltimore, and other states do identification. Vernice pointed out that when you have a national conversation about where environmental justice issues are located; they are saying that environmental justice isn't a huge issue in Maryland, because Maryland exports its hazardous waste to other places. She went on to say that as a population of people, we're doing a good job, but there are still issues.

Dr Wilson said that they have been doing these burden maps. They have been trying to use some other approaches, like capture approaches. They are also doing some weights, looking at hazard mapping. There was nothing about equitable development in Plan Maryland. That could solve a lot of problems and Dr. Wilson was surprised that it was so basic. Calvin pointed out that the challenge is the tension between state and local zoning issues; localities do not want state getting too involved.

Dr. Wilson brought the conversation back to the topic of academic outreach. He said that he wants to have projects that move from class to class. Students could carry something forward for three semesters. Andrea said that the students would have to be in the program, looking for a project of interest. She then asked Dr. Wilson if he is looking for something for several students. Dr. Wilson said that they are going to do a class project on fracking issues. Andy said that with all the data that Dr. Wilson is gathering, and the MDE research, it seems like there's an opportunity to drill down on some areas. He said it seems like this will make a lot of projects. Andy also said that he likes the long term idea of the Anacostia. He gave the idea of an "Adopt the River" project where each school looks at a river that is close to the institution.

Dr. Wilson said that there is going to be Center RFP on river health disparities. He has talked to Fred and they talked about adding the Patuxent River. Dr. Wilson said that he already has connections with people from Bowie and Howard, but not Coppin. They are looking at the Anacostia, Patuxent, and the Inner Harbor. They are called Project Cesar and Rec Anacostia. The projects are looking at photos and the quality of the river so they can improve health. They also have a bio markets aspect, which looks at PCBs in blood and urine. Those are going to become the cores of the project. Andy followed up with saying that one of the strengths of the environmental justice commission is the different

agencies that are involved. He thinks getting planning and landscape management students would be a good idea.

Vernice believes that the Commission is the most affect is when it has a particular interest. She suggested that the commission thinks about where each commissioner lives or works, and maybe Commissioners could do a drill down and be the conduit back to the Commission.

Andrea suggested that for her meeting on Friday, they can figure out the Commission's needs. She said that the commission needs to bring in Dean Akers, and that they need a water quality project. Vernice then suggested a project about walkable watersheds. Caroline then suggested projects about indoor air quality and smoking policies. She said that it could be across academic careers.

Vernice then asked if these issues were related back to the Commission's charge. Calvin told the Commission that all of the issues suggested are related to environmental justice, and the Commission is gathering more data to better advise the Governor.

Dr. Wilson then asked if there is a way for to engage on issues like the Chesapeake Bay. He said that he thinks that there's a lot of infrastructure in place, but it's not focused on health. He has a project about 319 funds and the disparities for how they're distributed.

President Wilson of Morgan State University

Calvin introduced President Wilson to address the group.

President Wilson expressed his appreciation for selecting Morgan State to have the retreat. President Wilson then gave an update on what's happening on campus.

Morgan's history is very impressive. The University will be celebrating 150 years in 2017. He said that he knows that they cannot rest on their laurels, but they need to move forward. Morgan State took a year and thought about strategic planning, which resulted in a blue print that is based in growth. He would like to grow the size of the institution; Morgan currently has 8,100 students and they want 12,000 by the year 2021. They specifically want to grow the white, Latino, international, and online populations. Although they want to grow, they do not see themselves as a 20,000 student institution.

Dr. Wilson went on to say that he sees the institution growing as the premier urban research institution of this nation. Morgan State is located in a place where there are many opportunities, but they are not running away from the opportunities and problems of Baltimore; Morgan knows how to be transformative. As the university grows, they need to figure out how to not just be a stepping-stone for the faculty's resume, but instead apply research.

Morgan State wants to go from \$27 million to \$60 million in research grants. Dr. Wilson said that Morgan State has a bunch of pent up capital needs. There is about \$230 million

going into capital refurbishments of the campus, including a \$72 million new business school. The school is going to be green and they want to bring it on-line in summer of 2015. They are also building a new behavioral and social sciences building, which should start in fall of 2014. And a year and half later, they are planning to build a health and human services building.

Morgan has students from all around the world. Dr. Wilson stressed that domestic students are competing with global students, and domestic students need to understand other cultures. They are developing relationships with schools all around the world. Dr. Wilson just went to Australia to make connections.

Dr. Wilson continued and explained that Morgan State works a lot with the community. They wanted to make sure that they were in rhythm with the community. That resulted in the Morgan Community Model which is an effort to ensure Morgan State knows what is going on in terms of environmental issues, public health issues, housing issues, small businesses, etc. They're bringing that back to the faculty. So Morgan State wants to do research that helps the community.

They have formed a partnership with the Baltimore City police, and they take public safety very seriously. Dr. Wilson said that he wants places that people can sit on their porches feel great about their neighborhood. He went on to say that Morgan State has met with the Heron Run Association so they can incorporate that resource. They want to take more advantage of that academically, but they cannot do anything if the community feels like the University is progressing at the community's expense.

Calvin then opened it up for questions.

Vernice asked President Wilson when he thinks about the growth of the campus, is he thinking about the ecological infrastructure. She continued to ask if President Wilson is thinking about increasing the environmental conditions of the city. President Wilson said that they're talking to neighbors about urban farms, etc. They're thinking about this too. They were disappointed in a biking program. The university installed bike racks, but the city isn't working with the university to build bike lanes. President Wilson said it would be really helpful if they could get those things on the periphery of the campus.

Andy, who also serves as the Mayor of College Park, pointed out that College Park is working to get faculty and staff from UMD to live in the community. Andy asked President Wilson if Morgan State is also working on that. President Wilson answered that they're working on the "Live Where You Work" initiative. They've set aside a small amount of money, to give to the faculty and staff to live close to campus. There are certain areas where you get \$5,000, \$3,000, etc. Caroline then asked if President Wilson is working with the match program for the Housing Department. President Wilson said that he will take that idea back to his team. Dr. Wilson then asked if President Wilson was trying to expand that model to the rest of Baltimore. President Wilson said that he wants to be for the city and for the nation. His background is outreach and engagement and when he was at Rutgers, he dealt with how Rutgers Camden could help a very bad

community. President Wilson lead an effort to get the waterfront to be designated an Empowerment Zone and the university played a major role in that. He did the same thing in Auburn. At Morgan, they can look at those models. If other institutions want to look to Morgan State, that would be great. They want to focus their attention on the neighbors that are in Morgan State's backyard. President Wilson wants parents to feel good about dropping their kids off.

The commission then took a break for lunch

Follow-Up from Other Meetings Related to Business & State Agency Representatives

Lisa explained that she represents the Secretary of the Environment at these meetings, so she needs concrete things to bring back to him. Other designees need the same.

On business, John expressed a need for more broad communication. He wants to insert environmental justice frequently rather than compressively. And, he also wants to think about how to inject community participation in the permitting process. Sometimes at Constellation and Exelon there is a check box. It doesn't make people do it, but it makes people think about it. Angelo said that the better you communicate, the better it is on both ends. The company gains some long-term benefits in terms of PR.

Elaine said that she has tried to do articles on businesses that are doing things for the environment. They have a business blog. There are businesses that have a social conscious; they have a triple bottom line. In 2010 the legislature made a new type of corporation, the "Benefit Corporations". She said that she's going to work with Amy Kincaid with a company called "Change Matters," and that they're trying to prop up benefit corporations.

Lisa reminded the group that a couple of meetings ago the Commission said it would give materials for blogs that are already created. Vernice said that there is a website to consider called triplepundant.org

Brainstorming on Title VI

Vernice had the first idea, which was a roundtable on MDOT. She explained that the audience would be the state agencies. The federal DOT is so aggressive on Title VI compliance, but MDE gets no guidance from EPA. That needs to happen from the parent agencies. Vernice volunteered to take charge of this. She mentioned that Robin might be able to help her.

It was also mentioned that if members think MDE is out of compliance with Title VI, there needs to be specific examples that Lisa can take to senior staff. Robin is working on a memo with environmental justice concerns related to Title VI. Vernice said that EPA put out in May a document on how to be compliant with Title VI. Lisa pointed out that MDE has been very proactive on that.

Brainstorming on County Outreach

Andrea brought up the idea of how to disseminate the environmental justice one-pager to community groups and associations. Calvin said that he thought the Commission should send things to county officials, but now he's seeing they should be sent to the planning directors. They might understand what can happen, and then the commission can move to the elected officials. Lisa asked if this would happen through MACo, but Calvin thought the one-pager would go directly to them. Lisa explained that there's already a one-pager developed. Andrea suggested a cover letter from the Chair of the Commission about some feedback mechanism to come back to the Commission. Andy mentioned the idea of inclusion, so they can give information about their county. Calvin said that the one-pager should really be the start of a conversation. Then the Commission will call the counties and ask them how things are going. Calvin volunteered to be in charge of this.

The second idea was a conversation with Adam Ortiz on Prince George's County's efforts. Lisa will reach out to Adam to confirm the meeting and set details. Vernice and Andy will otherwise take the lead. Calvin then suggested having a meeting in Prince George's at some point. Lisa said that the December meeting is usually more in-depth, and this might be a good time to invite Adam.

Andy gave the idea of implementing inclusionary zoning. He doesn't know how many communities are doing it, but there's a lot of displacement. Andy said that there needs to be a way to make sure low income areas are being maintained. Inclusionary zoning is a good tool to do this, but it's very difficult and developers don't like it. Calvin said that Howard County has had inclusionary zoning plans for years and last month it was ramped up to a new scale. It got a lot of push back. Andy then suggested maybe doing best practices instead because gentrification is an issue. The group will reach out to the counties and ask for best practices. Then there will be a presentation to the Commission. Caroline then said that inclusionary zoning is a local government issue. The place where these kinds of issues, like fair housing, should be discussed is through the QAP. It's the Qualified Allocation Plan that the treasury department requires for the low-income house credit. The QAP gets updates every few years. It has to be subject to public hearings, etc. The resources are allocated based on what's in the QAP. That's going to be concluding in the next few months. There have been issues related to fair housing and zoning. Vernice asked Caroline if she has seen things that local jurisdictions are doing that others should look at. Caroline said that there are, and that when she first started working here, she sat in on a roundtable with different states. They were talking about how to make affordable housing in communities. Each state had a different approach for how to get the affordable housing fairly placed. Maryland's approach was that local governments need to agree. It's a voluntary thing and Maryland was more successful than other places. Caroline volunteered to look at a list of websites that people can go on. A local government presentation would probably be the best. Calvin suggested that maybe this was a research project for a student, and the group agreed. Vernice suggested an exploration of local government of where housing goes and the environmental conditions and to look at putting housing where it's zoned for a heavy industry.

The next idea was creating a quarterly message for the MACO blog. Everyone liked that idea. Lisa said that MACO has a blog, but the commission can't just give materials once; it needs to be consistent. Chris volunteered to take preliminary ownership and develop a plan for outreach.

Andy suggested an equitable waste management policy. Every county has to figure out what to do with its waste. Andy wondered how those places are cited, especially in an equitable way. The commission could potentially talk to the counties. Calvin and Andy volunteered to put together a one pager for DPW to send out.

Legislative Outreach

There was a suggestion to look at legislation that's going to Environmental Matters and things related to environmental justice. The Commission has highlighted environmental justice issues without taking a stance on them. Other commissions have commented to the CEJSC that they like this tactic. On other legislation, the Commission has written letters saying there's an environmental justice issue. Perhaps the group needs a presentation about how MDE is making decisions. Lisa volunteered to be in charge of that and invite counterparts.

Another suggestion included holding meeting with Legislative Black Caucus and the Green Caucus. This would be before session. Another idea was to find a champion for environmental justice issues. The group also wants to address pesticides, transportation, and planning in the legislature.

Calvin said that the group should start off with these panels, and then get champions from there. And then during session the commission hits everyone. Chris volunteered to take the lead on reaching out to the Legislative Black Caucus. Lisa mentioned that there are a lot of elected officials who don't understand how environmental justice issues affect their constituents.

Lisa said that the next step will probably be a phone call before the next meeting for the legislative stuff.

Andy asked if the Commission can find someone in MACo or a state person who works with county outreach. Calvin said that if people don't work in the county, then they are kind of seen as a usurper. Lisa volunteered to do the outreach to Adam. Calvin will do the letter to the planning directors. And Chris will do the MACo blog. Rebecca might have some good stuff for blog postings.

Andy mentioned that the Commission doesn't have someone from Agriculture. He suggested finding a person from MDA to discuss the effects of pesticides on farm workers. He volunteered to take that on with Andrea.

The group left to take a tour of Morgan's green initiatives.

Wrap Up

The group prioritized the ideas from earlier and agreed upon the following action items:

Title VI:

- Vernice to share NEJAC's comments on the Title VI Federal guidance to distribute to the group and appropriate people at MDE
- Vernice to send dates she is available to meet with Deputy Secretary Kathy Kinsey regarding Title VI concerns she has about MDE
- Project - Organize a roundtable with agency representatives from DNR, MDE, MDOT, and Housing to discuss Title VI. Vernice to talk to Robin and Chris to begin planning. Before the September meeting they will organize a date, time, and location and begin to formulate the agenda/ideas for the meeting

County Outreach:

- Create a cover letter for the County 101 to share with local planning and zoning directors – Calvin
- Map out four blog posts (not necessarily original material) to submit to MACo – Chris
- Meeting w/Adam Ortiz to advise and discuss efforts to address EJ in Prince George's County - use for our December "special topic" meeting; Lisa to help set up, Vernice & Andy are the lead on the "policy" side of the project

Business Outreach:

- John Quinn to meet before the September meeting with MDE about permitting material; ideas to incorporate EJ into the forms. Send dates to Lisa so she can set up.
- Elaine to map out a plan for quarterly blog posts; have something to share at September meeting

Legislative Outreach:

- Chris Hill to lead outreach to LBC and Green Caucus; before September meeting need a conference call to make a plan and begin to implement
- Lisa prepare a quick presentation to explain the agency process for developing legislative positions

The meeting adjourned at 3:38pm.