



**Maryland State  
Commission on Environmental Justice  
and Sustainable Communities**

**Annual Report**

October 2015-September 2016

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## 1. Background

### CEJSC Background

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) was first established by Executive Order on January 1, 2001 and signed into law on May 22, 2003. The Commission is a fifteen-member body that includes the following representatives: two State legislators, three cabinet secretaries, and ten Governor appointees representing six interests groups— environmental advocacy, public health, local government, regulated business, impacted community, and the general public with expertise and/or interest in environmental Justice.

The CEJSC is tasked with examining environmental justice and sustainable communities issues that may be associated with creating healthy, safe, economically vibrant, environmentally sound communities for all Marylanders in a manner that allows for democratic processes and community involvement. Maryland's approach to Environmental Justice (EJ) is consistent with the approach advocated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA calls for States to address Environmental Justice issues as appropriate and for improvements in efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes. EPA defines EJ as,

*"The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Fair treatment means that no group of people including a racial, ethnic, or socio-economic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.*

Additionally, Maryland's definition, which builds on EPA's definition, specifically notes that all citizens of the State should expect (1) to be protected from public health hazards and (2) to have access to the socio-economic resources necessary to address concerns about their livelihood and health.

## **2. Commissioners Serving October 2015 - September 2016**

Vacancy, Commission Chair (\*Local Government)

Senator Victor Ramirez, State Senate (\*State Legislature)

Delegate Clarence Lam House of Delegates (\*State Legislature)

Secretary Ben Grumbles, Maryland Department of the Environment (\*State Agency)

Secretary Van Mitchell, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (\*State Agency)

Secretary David Craig, Maryland Department of Planning (\*State Agency)

Secretary Pete Rahn, Maryland Department of Transportation (\*State Agency)

Mr. Richard Fairbanks (\*Impacted Community)

Mr. Stephan Levitsky (\*Impacted Community)

Mr. Andrew Fellows, Commission Vice Chair, Mayor of College Park (\*Environmental Organization)

Vacancy(\* Local Government)

Mr. Benoy Thomas, Licensed Social Worker (\*Public Interest)

Ms. Vernice Miller-Travis, Commission Vice Chair, Miller-Travis & Associates, environmental (\*Public Interest)

Mr. John Quinn, Constellation Energy (\*Regulated

Business) Vacancy(\*Environmental Organization)

Rev. Meredith Moise, Groundswell Energy (\*Public Interest)

Rebecca Rehr, Maryland Environmental Health Network (\*Health Expert)

### **3. Commission Activities October 1, 2015- September 30, 2016 Membership.**

Of the twelve members appointed by the Governor to the Commission, one member must be a representative of a business organization, a representative of an environmental organization, a health expert, a local government representative, and a person of the general public with interest or expertise in environmental justice. At least two of the Governor's Appointees should be representatives of an affected community.

There is an effort to balance the representation and generally there is an average of two members for each category, even if unofficially. For example, a local government person may have a business background; an advocate may specialize in public health issues.

Vacancies frequently occur in the Commission when members make the decision to either step down from their position or to leave the Commission entirely. Currently there are several vacancies and many remaining members are subject to reappointment. MDE staff is working with the Governor's Appointments Office to fill these vacancies.

The CEJSC shared several letters of information that can be found in Appendix **B**. This included a Letter of Information, HB 820- Reducing Environmental Degradation for the Underserved Through Community Engagement and a letter to EPA for comments on their EPA's Draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda.

#### **Joint CEHPAC Meeting**

The Commission held a joint meeting with the Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council on May 24, 2016 per its statutory charge. The organizations shared information on recent progress and issues of mutual interest. Full details are outlined in the meeting minutes in Appendix C.

#### **4. Plan Commission Objectives for 2016-2017**

1. Identified 3 case studies including Brandywine, Eastern Shore and Baltimore.
2. Continue on-going work with the Maryland Climate Change.
3. Continue engagement with Maryland Municipal League and Maryland Association of Counties.
4. Identified two communities for the Climate Change public meetngs.
5. Continue to track Sherriff Road activities.
6. Continue to engage with Baltimore City Department of Planning on Equity.

#### **5. Appendix A-July 2016 Retreat Summary**

The Commission met for its Annual Retreat on July 29, 2016 at Salisbury State University on the Eastern Shore. The Commission was greeted by Steve Levitsky of Perdue Farms. The Commission discussed duties of the Commission, reviewed the Commission charge and evaluated its effectiveness. There were discussions about land use, the development process in Maryland and what are the opportunities for input from the Commission.

The remainder of the day was spent defining CEJSC priorities and action items for the 20162017 year. There was discussion about continue engagement with local government and working with the Maryland Climate Change Commission. Full minutes can be found in Appendix C.

## 6. Appendix B- Letters and Comments Shared by the Commission

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

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Re: Letter of Information, HB 820 Environment— Reducing Environmental Degradation for the Underserved Through Community Engagement (The REDUCE Act)**

Dear Chairman Barve and Members of the Committee:

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) was established by executive order in 2001 and codified into law in 2003. Legislation in 2010 expanded the CEJSC so it now has 20 members, including the heads of six state departments, leaders in the business community, clergy, community advocates, and researchers in academia. The strength of the Commission is our diversity, our ability to address environmental justice issues from multiple stakeholder viewpoints.

Part of our statutory charge is to:

- Advise State government agencies on environmental justice
- Recommend options for addressing environmental justice issues to the Governor and the General Assembly; include prioritized areas of the State that need immediate attention.

In accordance, we are submitting this letter of information to recognize the environmental justice components of the Reduce Act (SB 398/HB 820) before your Committee. The State Agencies that serve as members of the Commission do not have a position on this legislation.

The seminal study on environmental justice, "Toxic Wastes and Race" was published in 1987, finding that race was the most significant variable tested in association with the location of commercial hazardous waste facilities nationally. In communities with two or more facilities or one of the nation's five largest landfills, the average minority percentage of the population was more than three times that of communities without facilities. When the study was revised in 2007, authors found that host neighborhoods of commercial hazardous waste facilities are 56% people of color whereas non host areas are 30% people of color. There have been numerous studies in between and since that document differential environmental burdens in communities of color and low income communities. The advent of mapping technology, specifically Geographic Information Systems, has accelerated progress in identifying overburdened communities and allocating already limited resources to areas that need it most.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice as "fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across this Nation. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys

the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work." The Maryland Department of the Environment explains the concept behind environmental justice as, "all people — regardless of their race, color, national origin or income — are able to enjoy equally high levels of environmental protection."

The Reduce Act uses the principles in the definition of environmental justice in its data sharing requirements between permit applicants, community members, and government. Other states that include environmental justice in statewide or city-specific permitting and/or outreach are Connecticut, California, and Minnesota.

Thank you for your service to the State, and the work you do to advance environmental justice in Maryland.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities





## Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

**Vernice Miller-Travis, Vice Chair**  
Skeo Solutions

**Delegate Clarence Lam** House of Delegates

**Senator Victor Ramirez** Senate

**Secretary Kenneth Holt,** MD Department of Housing and Community Development

**Secretary David R. Craig MD** Department of Planning

**Secretary Peter K. Rahn** MD Department of Transportation

**Secretary Michael Gill** MD Department of Commerce

**Secretary Van T. Mitchell** MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

**Secretary Ben Grumbles,** MD Department of the Environment

**Richard Fairbanks**  
Baltimore City Resident

**Stephan Levitsky,**  
Eastern Shore Resident

**John Quim,**  
BGE

**Dr. Lesliam Quiros Alcala,**  
UMD School of Public Health

**Rebecca Rehr,**  
MD Environmental Health Network

**Benoy Thomas,**  
Federal Government

Charles Lee  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Environmental Justice

July 28, 2016

Dear Mr. Lee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on EPA's Draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda. The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) analyzes and reviews the potential impact State laws, regulations, and policy have on the equitable treatment and protection of communities threatened by development or environmental pollution and determines what areas in the State need immediate attention. Moreover, the Commission assesses the adequacy of laws to ensure environmental justice and sustainability. We commend the EPA for your efforts towards achieving environmental justice (EJ) and the EJ 2020 Action Agenda represents one more step in this process. We have the following comments for you to consider as you move forward:

Items we commend:

- We appreciate the distinction between cumulative risk assessment and cumulative impact assessment, as this is a difficult concept to communicate. The language you provide will be helpful in explaining this work to State-level permit writers, planners, health professionals, and elected officials.
- The explanation of psychosocial and nonchemical stressors is very important. It has been difficult to translate these concepts to elected officials and the general public, but the way this document lays out these concepts will make it clearer to decision makers why they are so important.

Items about which we are concerned or need more information:

- The September 2020 deadlines for cumulative risk and impact assessments and the climate work seem distant to those of us on the ground at the state level, and periodic guidance between now and then would be helpful. Will you be providing updates along the way? We are in the process *right now* of consulting with the Maryland Commission on Climate Change to identify communities particularly vulnerable to climate change. Maryland, and we believe other states as well, are in need of such guidance in the near term, as states are trying to move forward on the EJ front at this time to address a variety of issues that need attention now
- Throughout the document, there are several references to the 100 "most overburdened" communities. How do you plan to define and identify "most overburdened"?
- Terminology about disparities in blood lead levels (BLLs) should be reevaluated. Currently, the phrasing you use is "eliminate disparities in childhood BLLs," but we want to *eliminate all* elevated BLLs. Towards the end

of the document, you begin to describe the existing disparities in children's BLLs, but this should be introduced earlier to explain why BLLs are an EJ priority. Our concern is that the goal of eliminating disparities could be interpreted to mean that all children are equally poisoned. Rather, the goal is to eliminate all BLLs, with a focus on those populations that currently experience differential burdens.

- We appreciate acknowledgement throughout the document that much of the permitting happens on the local and state level. It would be helpful to provide examples of states and/or municipalities that have successfully incorporated environmental justice principles into their permitting processes.
- While the document mentions community engagement several times, details are sparse. What does meaningful engagement look like? How can you it be reasonably demonstrated that meaningful engagement took place. We have run into issues recently where the official "community association" in a neighborhood doesn't always represent the needs of the whole community. So what can state agencies do to encourage community engagement and know when they are doing it effectively? One way could be to complete Health Impact Assessments, or promote elements of HIAs, which emphasize community engagement throughout decision-making processes. The Action Agenda mentioned HIAs once early on, but doesn't give examples.
- In the measures discussed in Chapter 3: Permitting, how do you intend to measure whether environmental justice concerns were considered? We agree that they should be, but the metric you suggest for evaluation seems abstract.
- Examples of communities where this work is happening would be helpful. How do you plan to recognize communities that are models for engagement and equity?
- Consider including racial bias training for EPA permit writers and other employees as part of the Action Agenda. Everyone exhibits different biases, based on the sum of their life experiences. There are now a variety of workplace trainings that are offered to help people recognize their biases and attempt to remove them in the application of their work.

In conclusion, we appreciate the tremendous amount of work that has been done to produce the Action Agenda, and to create a plan to achieve environmental justice. We look forward to working with Agency representatives from Headquarters and from Region 3 in our work. Thank you.

Sincerely

The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities.





**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities**

**Vernice Miller-Travis, Vice Chair**  
**Skeo Solutions**

**Delegate Clarence**  
**Lam House of**  
**Delegates**

**Senator Victor Ramire**

**Secretary Kenneth Holt,**  
**MD Department of Housing and**  
**Community Development**

**Secretary David R. Craig MD**  
**Department of Planning**

**Secretary Peter K. Rahn**  
**MD Department of Transportation**

**Secretary Michael Gill MD**  
**Department Commerce**

**Secretary Van T. Mitchell, MD**  
**Department of Health and**  
**Mental Hy nem**

**Secretary Ben Grumbles,**  
**MD Departme A of the Lnvironment**

**Richard Fairbanks**  
**Baltimore City Resident**

**Stephan Levitsky, La-**  
**tern Shore Resident**

**John Quinn,**  
**BG**

**Dr. Lesliam Quiros Alcala,**  
**UMD School of Publ c Health**

**Rebecca Rehr,**  
**MD t,nvironmental Health Network**

**Benoy Thomas, ederal**  
**Government**

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

November 9, 2016

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the invitation to make recommendations as you consider equity in pursuing the goals of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA). We value inclusion in your charge to "address any disproportionate impacts of climate change on low-income and vulnerable communities" as it aligns with our work. We look forward to collaborating with you as we work towards achieving equity through climate policy. After several discussions with the Mitigation Working Group and responses to an initial list of recommendations we sent in April, we understand you are specifically asking for areas of the state where you can focus enhanced outreach with support from the Education, Communications, and Outreach Working Group.

At our annual retreat in July, we agreed on two areas of the state where the MCCC could focus outreach: Brandywine in southern Prince George's County and the Eastern Shore, exact location TBD. Each area is facing an overburden of pollution, and is especially vulnerable to adverse and disruptive climate change impacts. We recommend that the fall be spent identifying the precise target areas and community-based leaders who can help the MCCC prioritize issues and resources that will be most useful to the community, and then 2017 be spent hosting the meetings. We would be happy to partner with you as you undertake these outreach and public engagement efforts.

We look forward to continuing to serve in an advisory capacity as you implement these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Vernice Miller-Travis  
Acting Chair,  
On behalf of The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable  
Communities

## 7. **Appendix C- 2015-2016 Meeting Agendas/ Minutes**

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

**November 17, 2015**

**Aeris Conference Room  
1800 Washington Blvd, MD  
AGENDA**

Introductions

#### **Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps for Priorities & Goals**

- CEPHAC Collaboration
  - PG County Tracking Data Update
  - Green Cleaning
- Local Government Outreach
  - Les Knapp of MACo update
  - Updates on the City Master Plan
  - Westport Development Plan status
  - Commission engaging with the City Planner
- Cumulative Impact
  - MDE mapping update
  - Discussion concerning Enhance Public participation
  - Honeywell Corporation engagement

#### **Other News & Announcements**

- MD Climate Change Commission Collaboration
- Equitable Development Seminar updates

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

**Next Meeting: CEJSC Meeting are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the next meeting will take place on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am-11:30 am, Montgomery Park 1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD**

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

**Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD**

**Aeris Conference Room**

**February 23, 2016, 9:30 am-11:30 am**

**Agenda**

**Introductions**

**CEHPAC UPDATES**

- Follow up from CEHPAC and CEJSC joint meeting on Dec. 8
- **DHMH lead regulations**
- Would we like to move forward on green cleaner issue?
- **Local Government Outreach**

Update from Dick-Commission engaging with City Planner  
Les Knapp of MACo update

**Cumulative Impact**

- Cumulative Impact WorkGroup Update
- Update on Cumulative Impact Environmental Legislation 2016
- **Others News**
- **Synthetic Turf field information bill for legislation review.**
- Follow Up on Legislative Open House

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Next Meeting: CEJSC Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, the next meeting will take place on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:30am-11:30 am , Montgomery Park, 1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD**

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

**Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD  
Aeris Conference Room  
March 22, 2016, 9:30 am-11:30 am**

**AGENDA**

**Introductions**

**CEHPAC UPDATES**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OUTREACH**

- Update from Dick-Commission engaging with City Planner
- Les Knapp of MACo update

**Cumulative Impact**

- Cumulative Impact Work Group Updates

**Other News**

- Climate Equity Report Discussion Meeting

**Meeting Adjourned**

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

Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD

Aeris Conference Room

April 26, 2016 9:30 am-11:30 am

**AGENDA**

**CEHPAC UPDATES**

- Joint meeting with CEJSC on May 24th

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OUTREACH**

- Les Knapp of MACo Update

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

- Fate of the Environmental Justice Bill Delegate Lam proposed

**Maryland Climate Change Commission Meeting Update on April 25<sup>th</sup>**

- What next steps are recommended to continue to engage with the Climate Commission around issues of climate and Environmental Justice?

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Next meeting schedule for May 24, 2016**



**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)  
&  
Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC)**

**May 24, 2016  
1800 Washington, Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21230**

**AGENDA**

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Business CEHPAC**

- Minutes Approval
- Wi Fi Classrooms Update
- Marcellus Shale

**Business CEJSC**

- Minute Approval
- June Meeting Updates
- July Retreat

**Membership, Leadership and Staffing**

**Maryland Environmental Public Health Tracking Portal**

**Lead in Drinking Water-MDE**

**Climate Change**

**Health Impact Assessments**

**2016 Legislative Session and Beyond**

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Next CEJSC meeting June 28, 2016**

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable  
Communities (CEJSC)** Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD  
Aeris Conference Room  
June 28, 2016 9:30 am-11:30 am  
AGENDA

**Local Outreach Vision Statement:**

The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities emphasizes improvements in quality of life, economic development, and environmental protection for distressed areas through capacity building, civic engagement, offering a variety of housing choices, heritage preservation, stewardship, sustainable wealth creation and transportation choices. Given this emphasis, we seek collaborative opportunities with local governments, including with the following:

- Host listening sessions/regional meetings;
- Identify where potential EJ impacts exist on projects/plans and policies throughout the State;
- Develop a pilot study.

Utilizing local government expertise and working with County partners is essential to transformative outcomes.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

**BUSINESS:**

- Minutes Approval for April and May

**OVERVIEW OF CEJSC**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISCUSSION**

- Les Knapp- Maryland Association of Counties (MACo)
- Stuart Sirota- Baltimore Core Project
- Brent Flinkinger-Baltimore City Department of Planning

**CUMULATIVE IMPACT WORKGROUP UPDATE**

**Maryland Municipal League (MML) Discussion:** Future Meeting

**Meeting Adjourned**

Next Schedule meeting July 26, 2016

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)  
Salisbury University, 1101 Camden Avenue, Salisbury, Maryland  
Friday, July 29, 2016  
9:30 am- 5:00 pm**

**2016 CEJSC Annual Retreat Agenda**

- 9:30 am Greetings & Introductions
- 10:00 am Overview of Open Meetings Law and Procedures
- 10.45 am Duties of the Commission:  
Review Commission charge and evaluate CEJSC effectiveness in the following areas:
- Advise State agencies on EJ and Sustainable Communities issues,
  - Review and analyze impact of state policies, laws and regulations on EJ and sustainable communities issues in Maryland,
  - Assess the adequacy of state and local laws and regulations to address EJ and Sustainable Community issues,
  - Coordinate with the CEHPAC on recommendations related to EJ and Sustainable Community concerns,
  - Develop criteria to assess whether communities within Maryland maybe experiencing environmental justice concerns,
  - Recommend options to the Governor to address EJ issues and concerns that we believe (through a review process) that target areas of the state which should be prioritized for immediate and redress of problems.
- Approve meeting minutes
- 11:45 am Public Comment
- 12.00 noon **Mayor of Salisbury, MD Jacob R. Day/Lunch**
- 1:00 pm Continuation of discussion about local government outreach and land use and development process in Maryland and where are the opportunities for input and impact upon this process for our Commission? (MACo, MML, Baltimore City Dept. of Planning equitable development work)
- 2:00 pm Update on our interaction with the Maryland Commission on Climate Change
- They want to have 2 meetings in communities before the end of the year
  - Potential to connect this to the Local Gov't Outreach work — highlight 2-3 communities where the CEJSC focuses engagement over the next year
- 3:00 pm Public Comment
- 3:30 pm Identifying priorities for 2016-17
- 4:30 pm Closing Remarks

**There will be no CEJSC meeting in August next meeting will be September 27<sup>th</sup> at Montgomery Park,  
1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD**

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities  
(CEJSC)  
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD  
Aeris Conference Room  
September 27, 2016 9:30 am- 11:30 am**

**AGENDA**

**Introductions**

Anne Draddy- Sustainability Coordinator for Baltimore City Department of Planning

**CEHPAC UPDATES**

**CEJSC July Retreat Updates**

**Local Government Outreach Updates**

- Maryland Municipal League
- MACo

**Cumulative Impact Group**

**Maryland Climate Change Commission Updates**

**Public Comments**

**Other News**

- October Meeting Schedule

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Next Meeting schedule for October 25<sup>th</sup> 1800 Montgomery Park 1800 Washington Blvd**

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

**9:30 am-11:30 am**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2015**

**Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD**

**Aeris Conference Room**

**1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230**

**In Attendance**

- Commissioners: Lisa Nissley, Dick Fairbanks, Rebecca Rehr, Vernice Miller-Travis, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Andy Fellows, Arabia Davis
- Participants: Duane Johnson, Angelo Bianca, Delegate, Clarence Lam, Jeaneen Logan, Dan Laird

**Introductions**

Lisa Nissley started the meeting by welcoming everyone and inviting everyone to introduce themselves. All persons in attendance introduced themselves along with their positions.

**CEHPAC FOLLOW UP**

Lisa indicated that the commission will meet with CEHPAC December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and that MDE gave their input to them and they were talking about what they wanted to add and once that's done the commission would get the list out to commission soon as possible. Duane and Lisa will reach out to Dr. Cliff Mitchell, Rachel and Dr. Jed Miller about that. Rebecca Rehr asked did we want to add Green Cleaning to be on the list Lisa said yes it was on the list that was forwarded to CEHPAC. Vernice Miller ask about Lead regulation from DHMH and could the commission get an update on them, Lisa indicated that it's on the list also.

**Local Government Outreach Update**

Arabia Davis indicated that she doesn't have any additional updates. Andy Fellows said that he reached out to Les Knapp from MACo and thanks to a draft that is being

drafted by Rebecca and the committee, Mr. Knapp responded positively and is willing to meet with the commission and bring a planner or two to a meeting. Hopefully a time could be set up within the next two weeks. The draft was simply an outreach piece.

In terms of the City Master Plan Dick Fairbanks indicated that he really didn't have any additional updates. He said that Brent Flickinger of Southern Gateway Master Plan was going to meet with the commission but he felt as though he didn't know enough about the plans involving Kevin Plank and his 43 acres he bought. As a result of Dick interaction with Mr. Flickinger they felt it was best to hold off until later part of spring to meet with the commission.

### **Cumulative Impact Follow up**

Lisa Nissley indicated that the work group has a meeting Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> and will be looking at maps, the GSI person will be on hand to show us his twelve pre-set maps that are based on what the work group has ask them to put together. Another thing the work group will be looking at is Public Participation and they hope to put something together before the end of year. Andy Fellows wanted to know why Honeywell Corporation was being considered for discussion, Lisa indicated they had some engagement with the community and we wanted to know what works and don't work and exactly what they are doing. It appears they have great interactions with the community.

In terms of community engagement it was suggested that the workgroup try to reach out to more businesses who are engaging the community in the process like the Curtis Bay, Sheriff Road and Covanta Energy Corp. Lisa indicated that for the January meeting she's waiting to see what room the meeting will be held in. It was suggested that maybe we need to talk off line about planning for that meeting. Vernice and Rebecca said they would work on planning the January meeting. Andy ask about new legislation being introduce, Rebecca said it will be environmental legislation this year introduce by Delegate Lam. It was suggested that maybe a conference call be set up before session begins to talk about the bill. Lisa mentioned that the group had already met with the advocates and to lend some technical support to the bill. At this point MDE hasn't taken a position on the bill but it's an ongoing process.

### **Equitable Development Seminars Update**

Rebecca Rehr indicated that she didn't go to the seminars but it's a flyer available and she would submit a link to be included in the notes.

### **Others News & Announcements**

Rebecca said that there's an opportunity to do some relationship building with the Western Maryland community.

Vernice Travis gave an update on the Climate Change commission said a study is coming involving Green House Gas Reduction Act and all the ways to address those issues. It's going to be a stakeholders meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> 10 am-4 pm to share the draft report and get input from stakeholders. Vernice indicated that as of yet it's no representative from MDE schedule to be at that meeting and ask Lisa could she attend, no commitment was decided.

Andy Fellows said they thinking about having Les Knapp of MACo come out to speak to a small group late November or early December.

Vernice said EPA is looking for nominations for local government commission (FACA) application are being accepted until December 14<sup>th</sup> 2015, its 8-10 positions available.

Andy Fellows said he working on two projects including PG County sustainable actions including Environmental Justice policy and sustainable communities charge.

Delegate Lam briefly talked about his Bill he's introducing.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)**  
**9:30 am-11:30 am**  
**Tuesday, February 23, 2016**  
**Maryland Department of the Environment**  
**1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230**

**In Attendance**

- Commissioners: Rebecca Rehr, Subha Chandar (by phone), Janet Moya Cornick
- Participates: Duane Johnson, Richard Allen, Bill Paul, Jeaneen Logan, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Angelo Bianca, Laura Rogers

**Introductions**

Duane Johnson started the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and their departments.

**CEHPAC UPDATES**

- Subha Chandar gave an update on DHMH lead regulations- Subha indicated at this time they are moving forward with their outreach, started communicating with Pediatricians and other Physicians and that things are coming together and have gotten some good feedback. In terms of the lead regulations Subha said they are going through the process, they are just waiting for the final lead regulations. The comment period has ended and they are waiting for them to be published.
- Rebecca ask Subha have DHMH look at all of the Health Enterprise Zones? Subha said yes and what is the relationship between the lead program and Health Enterprise Zone? Subha said the zones are used for outreach more than anything.
- Rebecca wanted to know the update on Sub County Data on the EPHT. Subha said they just had a meeting a week ago with local health officers and that they usually have round table discussions with them on the EPHT portal. She said the health officers are on board with the Sub County Data



,they have to do a quality check on their data before releasing it to the public with a preliminary release around April 2016.

- It was some discussion about the use of Green Cleaners in schools and did the commission wanted to move forward on that issue. Subha said she wasn't sure what the outcome was of that. Rebecca said we might want to see what CEHPAC is doing because Delegate Angel has introduce green cleaning legislation in the house and that CEPHAC was holding a February meeting to see what particular legislation they were supporting but wasn't sure if that meeting took place or if they decided to support delegate Angel legislation.

### **Local Government Outreach**

- It was suggested to reach out to Andrew Fellows concerning Les Knapp update and his position on the commission.

### **Cumulative Impact**

Rebecca said the last time the work group met was in December 2015 and that it had come to a consensus on the four permits that MDE recommended and the two other steps in the process which was how to identify over burden communities and what indicators to use? The most talk about indicators used are race and income but the work group couldn't agree on which indicators to use. The conversation ended around how do the communities want to define outreach?

### **Other News**

Rebecca spoke briefly on the topic of Synthetic Turf field legislation indicating that she didn't see an EJ connection but rather a health issue and maybe EJ should just keep an eye on it in case any EJ issues surface.

Mr. Richard Allen informed the commission that the 2016 National Environmental Justice Conference will be held on March 9-12, 2016 in Washington, DC.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities  
(CEJSC) Meeting  
9:30 am-11:30 am  
Tuesday, March 22, 2016  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230**

**In Attendance**

- Commissioners: Rebecca Rehr, Vernice Miller-Travis, Arabia Davis, John Quinn, Dick Fairbanks, Lisa Nissley, Leslie Alcala (on phone), Steve Levitsky (on Phone), Subha Chandar (on phone).
  
- Participates: Duane Johnson, Lynn Heller, Kristen Mitchell, Andrew Fellows, Angela Bianca, George Aburn, Arjun Makhijani, Stuart Clarke, Chris Hoagland, Luke Wisniewski, Stephanie Cobb Williams, and Laura Rogers.

**Introductions**

Duane Johnson started the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting. Everyone in attendance introduce themselves and their departments.

**CLIMATE AND ENERGY EQUITY REPORT DISCUSSION**

Vernice Miller-Travis Vice Chair of the commission gave an overview of the Executive Summary of the report Ms. Miller introduced all of the stakeholders involved in the report. The question was asked, why is this report coming to the CEJSC commission? Ms. Miller said because the Maryland Climate Change Commission has ask for council and advise from CEJSC on recommendations to the Mitigating Work Group (MWG) for the Maryland Climate Change Commission (MCCC) on how to integrate environmental justice and equity into their consideration and especially into the work plan that the Carter Commission and Private Insurance Commission is developing so that they can go forward for the next five years for work that they do to implement Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA). Ms. Miller said she wanted to make sure CEJSC was informed on those recommendations. Dick Fairbank said the report was too long and lengthy, Rebecca Rehr said the Maryland Environmental Health Network is working on a

two pager to come out with and that it's a time line and that it's a mitigating working group meeting on April 25, 2016 so it was important that we discuss this report at this meeting because the mitigating work group ask for our input prior to the April meeting and we are hoping that today is the beginning of that discussion and that folks in the room can represent CEJSC at that meeting. Ms. Rehr said this is the beginning of that discussion delving into the report and picking out the things CEJSC want to represent to the mitigating work group on April 25 and then regroup about it on April 26 at the CEJSC meeting.

Ms. Miller continued with her briefing talking about reduction in carbon emissions, substantial social inequities in Maryland as it relates to climate change and policies used to address climate change, gaps and opportunities in the GGRA Plan, requiring a cumulative impacts analysis for greenhouse gas reduction programs and policies, supporting meaningful and engagement and outreach to empower communities, addressing disparities in access to greenhouse gas reduction and climate adaptation benefits, addressing disparities in burdens created by greenhouse gas reduction and climate adaptation and policies and finally improving support for vulnerable communities through Maryland's greenhouse gas reduction and climate adaptation programs and policies. All of these items are better explain in the report.

Ms. Miller mentioned the appendices programs that already exist for example Multi Pollutant framework, Mid Agencies and Maryland Department of the Environment. Ms. Miller believes that this is where we going to see real innovation and policies are at the Multi Pollutant framework. Ms. Miller believes that all the communities that come, all the visits that the commission makes to talk about all the burdens that they are baring, the way this is going to be address systemically is through the Multi Pollutant Framework which is a cross product activity which MDE is going to be leading to implement the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act here in Maryland. For example, how could they be address? Include black carbon particulate matter and soot as part of the framework and implement and enforce cumulative policies that would target communities with high social and environmental climate burden. So these are the recommendations that MCCC is recommending that MDE is already going to be involved in and is the lead agency to look at the Multi Pollutant Framework.

It was suggested by Ms. Miller that the strategies in the GGRA could create about 37,000 jobs by 2020. Dick Fairbank disagreed. The fact of the matter is jobs will be created but how do we get them to the folks that are systemically underemployed and the people who are transitioning from extracted industries get other jobs. Ms. Miller says we have to make sure that we aren't displacing people but we are really creating opportunities in this new green economy and it's only going to happen if we are thoughtful and sit down with our stakeholders and think about how that could happen. There were some discussions about outreach and how we need to begin training people about the green economy and energy efficiencies at the elementary level all the way through college and post graduate level. Not to mention the folks who aren't in the education pipeline and that everyone needs to know that we have these opportunities and by accessing these opportunities we can bring down the burden of cost. Ms. Miller feels this is so important and really set up the underlining theme of this report which is that poor people pay disproportionately much more higher cost for energy and a much higher percentage of their income for energy than does middle class and upper middle class folks. So that outreach, bringing diverse groups of people who aren't the usual people who come out to these meetings and hearing and who are part of this conversation the outreach is going to have to be different and ramped up and really tailored to getting this conversation to the people who we really need to be in the room with.

Empowered Maryland is a program that helps Marylanders pay their utilities bills as of 2015 360,000 people are eligible for this program. Currently it is 3,600 people enrolled. At this pace it will take 100 years to get all of the eligible people enrolled, Ms. Miller said we got to do better and we need to put these benefits out there to the people that really need them. It was some discussion about Maryland Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards and Fuel Switching. Finally, this is how deeply we looked at the opportunities facing these communities. We have tremendous opportunities that we already created and we are going to create new opportunities under implementation of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act that the Maryland Climate Change Commission is working on, they are developing their work plan for how the GGRC will be implemented. Ms. Miller said what they are suggesting is that they take a deeper look at these opportunities to address environmental justice and inequity in the implementation of the plan. This is just a highlight; you all have a copy of the report.

Rebecca Rehr pointed out that the roll of CEJSC in statutory charge is to analysis the effectiveness of state and local government to address issue of environmental and sustainable communities, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act is again a tremendous effort on the state level but now it's up to the commission on how to advise and to prioritize the communities that need the most outreach and communities sources. Another charge of the commission is to develop criteria's to assess what communities in Maryland maybe experiencing EJ issues and recommend options for addressing EJ in those priority areas of the state. Ms. Rehr said that it's important that the commission ways in on the existing policies, existing work going forward and making sure that no one state agency is held accountable for prioritizing vulnerable communities and environmental justice outreach and implementation. Ms. Rehr said she do want to emphasize that we as a body aren't recommending a new policy or laws were recommending how the state is prioritizing existing resources and programs to make the biggest differences in the communities that need it most and that's really where the commission voice is most valuable, for setting the tone so that the conversation and opening up for discussion and prioritization on what we talk about.

Dick Fairbank mentioned that the Fuel Fund of Maryland is a program that everyone can utilize. Dick said mandating renewable energy is creating a bigger problem in the since because the differences between the lower cost of natural gas, solar and wind, energy companies are hurting, like N. Dakota. Dick said the greater the disparity between prices of natural gas and renewable energy the greater burden it would be to support those people who can't take advantage of renewable energy. Ms. Miller said that's exactly what we want to see the Climate Change Commission due is to really address those inequities and there are some built in inequities and if you don't figure out how to address those inequities in a systemic way at a policy level than you just keep repeating the problem over and over again and you just keep leaving folks out or you just keep supporting this inequity and cost and access to cost. Ms. Miller said that's why we want Climate Change Commission look deeply and that's why we gave them a road map of places they can look. This report is fairly comprehensive a review of existing clean energy programs, energy efficiencies, food systems and farming. Ms. Miller said we just to took a exhausted look at what we have now and if we can just do some of this, we could start a robust market here in Maryland and we want to create jobs but we want people to be able to access the resources and tools that people are putting on the energy efficiency market place. So we can do two things, we can

create a more stable market and create an avenue for everybody to be able to access what people are putting into that market for sale.

Subha Chandar on the phone asked a question: Is this part of your role plan in presenting presentations like this and are you going do other communities contacts? Ms. Miller said yes, we are starting more of a role out the Maryland Environmental Health Network is going to be part of that role out. On February 20 Ms. Miller gave a briefing for EEFI on the report just in Maryland as an example. Subha ask what are some of the takeaway or feedback of the briefing. Ms. Miller said they love it and gotten so much positive feedback and almost everyone in the room and on the phone line has requested a copy of the report. On April 25 Climate Change Commission will be meeting at MDE between 12 -2 pm in the Aeris room.

George Aburn of MDE ARMA program said that Maryland is obtaining all federal air quality standards first time ever and he mentioned other accomplishments his program has obtained. He said he thought the Climate and Energy Equity report is a great report but thought that it could use some improvement and he thought the Climate Change Commission should have been involved in helping to draft the report. Mr. Aburn was invited to come to CEJSC meetings whenever his calendar allows him and to join in on these conversations.

Rebecca made a request that the commissioners that in the next week or so you really dig into the report because CEJSC will be presenting to the Climate Change Commission mitigating group on behalf of the commission so dig into report and send recommendations that you think need to be prioritize and area of the state that should be prioritize? What mapping tools we should be using to identify in those area? There are several as DHMH roles out the sub county level health data is that something we should be talking about in the content of climate change? There are some real questions that the commission could be important in answering and bringing to the climate commission and this is an ideal moment to begin the engagement between CEJSC and the MCCC. We should really take the advantage of the engagement with MCCC and come forth on the April 25<sup>th</sup> with some concrete recommendations. It was mention that we get an updated emailing list for CEJSC commissioners to keep this conversation circulating among commissioners. Rebecca said that on April 25 the commission has an opportunity for EJ to weigh in on what's mitigating work group is doing and that our expertise

and knowledge on these issues are going to be really important in fulfilling our charge and improving living conditions for all Marylanders.

Ms. Miller said that when she and Ms. Rehr present these recommendations to the Climate Commission Work Group they are the recommendations of the folks who been working as part of this process not recommendations of CEJSC. Ms. Miller said if you seen things or know of things that are really important and are consistent with conversation CEJSC has had around the table please do share them with Rebecca. Ms. Miller said she wanted make sure that people understood that they aren't going to put the recommendation on the table as though they are coming from CEJSC. Rebecca said she do think we should be developing recommendations from the CEJSC.

### **CEHPAC UPDATE**

May 24<sup>th</sup> is the Joint meeting with CEJSC.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OUTREACH**

Andrew Fellow said beginning last year they created a sub-committee to talk about outreach to local government counties and municipalities. Mr. Fellow said they had a great meeting with Les Knapp director of Maryland Counties Association and Counties (MACo) in December. Mr. Knapp had a wiliness to go forward and ask the sub-committee to come up with a resolution or statement on how this fits into CEJSC mission.

Arabia Davis said they spoke with Les Knapp and MACo one of things they want to do is try to engage other MACo representatives, county staffs and other jurisdictions to discuss environmental justice throughout Maryland. Arabia said they were asked to come up with a couple of action items and one of those items was a Mission Statement. Arabia asked the commission to look over the mission statement and give your thoughts so that they can give them to Les and he can present to his representatives. It was decided to invite Les Knapp to the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Arabia decided to take the lead on inviting Les Knapp to the meeting.

### **CUMULATIVE IMPACT UPDATE**

Lisa Nissley said the cumulative impact work group been on hold because of the legislative session. She said that the cumulative impact bill didn't pass this session. Rebecca said the ongoing cumulative work group process was a major road block in passing the bill. Once the work group saw the bill wasn't moving as written they amended the bill to become a reporting requirement for MDE by December of 2016. There is currently no date by which the cumulative impact work group will present recommendations or whether MDE will on behalf of the workers. It was suggested to extend an invitation to CEJSC commissioners to attend the cumulative impact meetings.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**



## **Commission on Environmental & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)**

Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD

Aeris Conference Room

April 26th, 2016 9:30 am-11:30am

### **MINUTES**

#### **In Attendance**

- Commissioners: Subha Chandar, Rebecca Rehr, Arabia Davis, Dick Fairbanks, Vernice Miller-Travis, Lisa Nissley, Clarence Lam, Steve Levitsky, Charles Glass
- Participants: Duane Johnson, Chloe Ahmann, Andrew Fellows, Crystal Lemieux, Dorothy Morrison

#### **Introduction**

Vernice Miller started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Vernice Miller announced that Merrick Moise had resigned from the Commission and encouraged Commissioners who have not filed their Financial Disclosure Statements to do so.

Meeting minutes for February and March 2016 were approved. **CEHPAC**

#### **DISCUSSION**

Vernice mentioned the joint meeting between CEJSC and CEHPAC will be on May 24th in the Aeris room.

Subha said that DHMH Lead regulations passed this legislation session.

Vernice asked for a status report from MDE/DHMH on drinking water in Maryland for the joint meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>. It was suggested that Benoy Thomas be the lead contact on this endeavor.

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT OUTREACH**

Arabia Davis confirmed that Les Knapp of MACo will be present for the June 28th meeting.

The Mission Statement to be shared with Les Knapp and MACo was voted upon and agreed to move forward.

Arabia asked the Commission the plan of engagement with Les Knapp upon his arrival to the meeting. Vernice mentioned having an individual present some framing remarks regarding why interaction with the county and local government is important regarding advancing in Maryland and what does Les Knapp want from the Commission? It was suggested that Andy Fellows take the lead on this when Les Knapp arrives.

Arabia suggested that since we are engaging MACo, we should invite the executive director of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) into the discussion.

Dick Fairbanks shared his concerns about the development of Port Covington and its impact on the Westport and Cherry Hill communities. He stated that it's a lot of Environmental Justice issues surrounding the Port Covington development to be addressed. It was suggested to invite Brent Flickinger, Southern District Planner- Comprehensive Planning for Baltimore City Dept. of Planning to the June 28th meeting and talk about how the city of Baltimore identifies and integrates environmental justice considerations into their land use, planning process and zoning. It was proposed that if Mr. Flickinger could not attend the June 28" meeting, to invite him to the July 26th retreat instead.

It was asked how will the 700 million dollars budgeted by the Governor be spent in Baltimore City? Arabia will look into having an individual come and speak on the redevelopment plan if possible.

An invite was extended to Mr. Charles Glass Deputy Secretary of Transportation to come speak about transportation issues at the July retreat.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Delegate Lam gave a brief explanation of the Environmental Justice Bill (The Reduce Act), that he introduced and addressed why it did not come out of the full committee. Delegate Lam mentioned his thoughts regarding concerns from committee leadership. Rebecca expressed her hard work on the bill and heard that the bill was too big, not to mention the opposition incurred from construction unions. There was a discussion regarding what the Commission can do to assist moving the bill forward. Delegate Lam mentioned he will reintroduce the bill in the next legislation session with hopes of moving forward. Vernice mentioned how the approval of the "Reduce Act Bill" in the next legislative session would greatly impact the lives of the people. She stated there are masses of people in this state that could use the guidance that this bill could offer.

## **MARYLAND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION MEETING ON APRIL 25TH**

CEJSC was invited to speak to the Mitigating Working Group as they consider equity in pursuing the goals of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA). A list of recommendations was discussed by Rebecca in hopes of continuing collaboration between both commissions throughout the year, and beyond. Rebecca mentioned that the list is not in order of priority, but seeks to give MCCC the opportunity to decide what action items both commissions could work on collaboratively. One major point made was the influx in the creation of jobs and the plan to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions while not negatively impacting job security. The assumption is that jobs lost in the fossil fuel industry are those held by people of color; Vernice countered that by saying that isn't the case.

It was suggested to have another meeting where the four panelists could be invited again as listeners and of a technical aspect the second time around. The Commissioner could address some of the ideas generated and answer questions that were not addressed at this meeting. Vernice believed it was evident that most people in the room did not have any perspective about the environmental justice and equity dimension of the conversation. It was suggested to brief the MCCC on the Planning for Climate Energy Equity in Maryland Report. Also, it was discussed to encourage regular engagements with the office Air and Radiation of MDE and to continue relations with Mr. Aburn at the July retreat.

**Annual Joint Meeting**  
**Commission on Environmental & Sustainable Communities**  
**Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council**  
**Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD**  
**Aeris Conference Room**  
**May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 9:30 am- 11:30 am**

**In Attendance**

- Commissioners: Subha Chandar, Rebecca Rehr, Arabia Davis, Richard Fairbanks, Vernice Miller-Travis, Lisa Nissley, Delegate Clarence Lam, Steve Levitsky, Benoy Thomas, Janet Moye Cornick
  
- Participants: Duane Johnson, Angelo Bianca, Laura Rogers, Tad Abum, Jeaneen Maxwell, Diana Abney, Megan Latshaw, Julian Levy, Arjum Makhijawi, David Costello, Nancy Reilman, Veronica Carella, Brandi Stockdale, Tad Abum

**Introduction**

Vernice Miller-Travis started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Cliff Mitchell, chair of CEHPAC, gave an overview of why this meeting is taken place, saying that statute requires a joint meeting between both commissions annually.

**CEHPAC BUSINESS**

- Wi-Fi in the Classroom: Dr. Megan Latshaw chair of the Wi-Fi working group gave an overview on radio frequency radiation in the classroom that was brought up by the public. Dr. Latshaw said they had a student who made this part of her Masters project to do a literature review related to Wi-Fi exposure. The working group also drafted their own outline for what the working group would like to do base on the student report. Megan indicated that this report basically says that more research is needed but in the meantime, parents are looking for guidance. Megan ask would anybody be willing to help flush out the recommendations that will be put through CEHPAC. Finally, CEHPAC members felt as though some sort of fact sheet should be provided for parents and schools explaining the Wi-Fi radiation in schools.
  
- Marcellus Shale motion: Veronica Carella indicated that she has a motion that she would like the CEHPAC commission to consider, which is to send a letter to the University of

Maryland, Institute for Applied Environmental Health. She suggested requesting an update of the health hazard rankings and recommendations that were developed for the report issue June 2014. By reviewing major findings published since then and assessing the relevance for answering questions at whether public health can be protected in Maryland in the newly proposed regulations. After some brief discussion about the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

## **CEJSC BUSINESS**

- **July 2016 Retreat:** After some discussion about where to have the July 2016 retreat it was unanimously decided to have it at the Perdue headquarters in Salisbury, MD.
  
- **Overview 2016 Clean Air Update:**
  - Tad Aburn gave an overview on the 2016 Clean Air in Maryland indicating that for the first time in 30 years; Maryland is meeting all federal health base air quality standards. However, there is still work to be done to meet our air quality goals and to obtain and maintain the new ground level ozone standards. Tad said out of the 18 ozone monitors, 15 are already below the new ozone standards of 70 parts per billion (ppb). He said it's going to be a lot of new inexpensive monitoring over the years and indicated that he would be interested in working with the commissions on community based efforts in this area.
  - It has been a dramatic reduction of Ozone and Fine Particulate levels over the last 10 years.
  - New Ozone standards starting in 2017
  - New fuel program for 2017: All new cars will be burning lower sulfur fuel which will allow the catalytic convertor to work better causing a reduction in NO<sub>2</sub>.
  - Maryland is one of eight states who are pushing hard for a California program called Zero Omission, which tries to encourage manufacturers to continue to make progress on their cars.
  - Sulfur Dioxide Standards: EPA will be looking to see if Maryland is within these standards over the next six months.
  - Vernice ask Tad "do we know if asthma is going down?" Tad mentioned nationally, asthma rates have stabilized in terms of severity and new onsite cases. Tad also stated, in Maryland it isn't enough data to

determine whether asthma is declining and to keep in mind indoor air quality is different from outdoor quality.

- Vernice mention the idea of having conversation between MDE/Brandywine evolving around asthma and the influx of power plants in the area. Tad expressed this would be a worthwhile conversation.
- Tad suggested partnering together to get some of the federal dollars to support diesel retrofit and replacement programs. It was suggested asking Any Fellows and Environment Finance Center to help identify where some of the resources are.
- **Climate Change:**
  - Dr. Cliff Mitchell (CEHPAC) said the Climate Change commission has several working groups, one being Mitigation and the other being Adaptation. Adaptation working group is working on climate changes happening now and how do we adapt as a state to do that? Phase 1 from a state level is examining sea level rise and adaptation to sea level rise. This initiative is a genesis of Coast Smart; a plan in place to help the state adapt to coastal sea level rise by changing the elevation of structures among requirements. Phase 2 involves addressing how do the state responds to public health changes regarding climate change? This would include things such as; change in infection disease, injury rates, motor vehicle accidents, temperature related injury, respiratory diseases and asthma. Dr. Mitchell says CDC now has a grant opportunity for the commission to do a 5 year plan looking at adaptation specifically related to identifying vulnerable population and making sure adaptation strategies include not just the state as a whole but particularly vulnerable population. Dr. Mitchell stated DHMH is in the process of writing that grant and ask for support letters from CEJSC and CEHPAC. The second thing is there are tasks that need to be done such as; how to identify vulnerable populations and working with the DHMH and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities to identify those vulnerable populations. Also, consider where they are geographically and the type and the type of people at risk in order to design and craft specific outreach efforts for them in light of what we anticipate for climate change health impact.

Dr. Mitchell said part of their Environmental Health Public Tracking project is going to be working with the Department of Planning. He believes that now with the environmental health tracking project in a position to give zip code level data to health departments, local planning authorities and others can assist with determining baseline health status of the population and to help identify from that vulnerable population that will be vulnerable as climate change take place. Tracking portal should be release around June 30, 2016.

Vernice ask Dr. Mitchell how do you see how CEJSC can identify vulnerable populations. She asked Lisa "don't you think there is some overlap with the cumulative impact working group?" Lisa said she didn't have a great answer to the question but said the type of meetings Tad spoke of, the group would really need help from the commission in setting them up and to help identify the best area to have those meetings. Cliff task Veronica with heading the meetings over the next year. He said in the past when he was oh CEJSC, he proposed the idea of going out to each county and meeting with their planning authority to talk about health vulnerability and planning using climate change as the framework. Cliff suggested having CEJSC meet with those authorities to talk about health planning and climate change as a way of engaging around the issue of vulnerable population. CEJSC can help local planning authority and play a more active role at an operational level in terms of advancing the agenda.

Veronica said Lisa asked the commission to really think about identifying the most likely physical location for a meeting that would get a number of people to be engaged. Rebecca commented and mentioned in the mitigation working group, we have been formally asked to provide some input. She said by having conversation today, conversation on June 28th and July 25<sup>th</sup> by the July retreat we should have come up with draft recommendations and to make sure that these recommendations are put forth because the commission has been asked several times by different audiences to identify vulnerable communities and vulnerable climate change, in particular environmental justice and it's in our state charge.

Rebecca said the list of recommendations that the commission submitted to the mitigating work group needs to be revisited before the June 28<sup>th</sup> so that on July 25<sup>th</sup> we can make sure the migrating working group has what they need. She also stated that in those recommendations, reducing diesel emissions in vulnerable communities as a mitigating issue, which will be a joint effort between MDE, MDOT and climate commission. Rebecca said when that recommendation was presented to the climate change commission it was some push back from some of the commissioners, partly reflexive of the Reduce Act which was part of legislation. Rebecca said there may be some relationship and political agenda rather aim at getting some federal money to retrofit diesel traffic and we would recommend prioritizing to vulnerable communities. Rebecca said everything they talked about was officially recommended and now it's decision making time. It can be presented what they did at the cumulative working group although it was never any consensus about what demographic indicators or income indicators to use but maybe when we talk about climate change some of the indicators could be high rental properties and high vulnerabilities to traffic exposures. Finally, Rebecca suggested that the commissions keep this time line and to follow the deadlines and a grant could help with this.

- Veronica Carella said that if you really want to affect change, we have to begin influencing the zoning regulations and correcting mistakes within them.
- It was voted on and approved to jointly look into the research opportunities, to look at the vulnerable population and climate mitigation arena.
- It was some discussion about having a webinar around the Equity and Environmental Justice and the Maryland Greenhouse Gas Act implementation report.
- Lead In Drinking Water:
  - In Maryland, it's roughly 1000 water systems that has their own drinking water source and serve at least 25 people. The Largest system is over 50,000 and serves 4.3 million people and is in compliance.
  - It's currently 35-41 systems that are not meeting standards. MDE is constantly working with these systems to notify people who they think may have elevated lead level and will work with them to resolve treatment issues.
  - EPA region 3 is taking part in overseeing MDE water program to insure that what happen in the Midwest don't occur here in Maryland.



- Within the last few month lead surveys were sent to all the communities' water supplies asking them to update their data from the early 90's. One of the questions asked was "how many of you have lead lines and have you taken corrected actions to remove those lead service lines?" From the survey it was about 21 that have identified with some lead service lines and are reviewing their inventory. Many systems did take corrected action years ago by replacing the lead service lines that were in distribution. EPA is doing an audit of Maryland to make sure that they are in compliance with the lead and copper laws.
- A number of the public schools across the state are not covered by MDE program because they are part of a larger water system. Meaning there isn't a mandated federal program for testing these schools.
- There were discussions over regulatory gaps between federal and state government water systems authority particularly in schools.
- Issues related department of education is out of MDE jurisdiction. Dr. Mitchell added that it's two things that aren't in MDE jurisdiction; one is private wells and schools water supplies. Drilled wells are the responsibility of the home owners, counting for about 15% of the population and are not covered under MDE regulations. These are just two of the gaps being identified of which the commissions need to address with delegate Lam on how to fill these gaps.
- **Legislative Session 2016 Update**
  - Dr. Mitchell said that DHMH new regulations states, any child born on or after January 1, 2015 is considered to be at risk for lead exposure and must be tested at ages of 1 and 2.

It was asked can the commissions have a fall meeting." Answer was yes.

- **Other news**
  - EPA has release EJ2020 Action Agenda Plan
  - Rebecca Rehr offered to take any comments relating to EJ 2020 Action Agenda.
  - Maryland Stake holder meeting on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 is at MDE.

## Meeting Adjourned

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)  
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD  
Aeris Conference Room  
June 28, 2016 9:30 am- 11:30 am**

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance**

- Commissioners: Subha Chandar, Rebecca Rehr, Vernice Miller- Travis, Clarence Lam, Steve Levitsky, Janet Moye Cornick, Duane Johnson
- Participants: Richard Allen, Chloe Ahmann, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Andrew Fellows, Les Knapp, Jeaneen Maxwell, Molla Sarros, Michael Braverman, Julie Day, Kevin Baynes, Kristen Mitchell, Kathryn Hendley, Brent Flickinger, Kamita Gray, Gwen Dubois.

**Introduction**

Vernice Miller-Travis started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Vernice asked the commission members would it be a problem to move the July meeting from Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> to the Friday 29<sup>th</sup>. For those commission members not present Duane will reach out to them concerning which dates will work for them.

Vernice asked Delegate Lam if he could write something about the legislator efforts that he has been leading to share with the commission in his absence from the July meeting.

Vernice gave an overview of land use and zoning and its impact on environmental justice. Andy Fellows gave an overview of CEJSC and how CEJSC got started.

Vernice read the Local Outreach Vision Statement:

The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities emphasizes improvements in quality of life, economic development, and environmental protection for distressed areas through capacity building, civic engagement, offering a variety of housing choices, heritage preservation, stewardship, sustainable wealth creation and transportation choices. Given this emphasis, we seek collaborative opportunities with local governments, including with the following:

- Host listening sessions/regional meetings;

- Identify where potential EJ impacts exist on projects/plans and policies throughout the State;
- Develop a pilot study.

Utilizing local government expertise and working with County partners is essential to transformative outcomes.

### **Local Government Discussion**

Vernice stated that this will be a discussion centered around local land use, zoning opportunities and environmental justice issues and to have dialogue so that we understand what the issues are. The voices of communities that are impacted by decisions centered around land use and zoning should be factored into the process beforehand and that the decisions get made either mitigate adverse impact or try to avoid those impacts from the very beginning. These thoughts will guide framework of this conversation today. To share what some government entities are doing and give the commission recommendations on how the commission can work with you and be in more direct dialogue with one another.

Kevin Baynes gave an overview of what it is Department of Housing and Community Development does.

Mr. Baynes said DHCD is in the business of revitalizing neighborhoods in order to do that DHCD works with its partners. He said they are basically a funding source which has loans, tax credits and grants.

Mr. Baynes said Project CORE is really an acceleration of taking a hard look at the city and its neighborhood trying to determine what funding is needed to revitalize some of those neighborhoods. It's a new initiative for Baltimore, clearing the way for new green space, new affordable and mixed use housing, new greater opportunities for business owners to innovate and grow. The initiative will generate jobs, strengthen the partnership between the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland and lead to safer, healthier and more attractive spaces for families to live.

Mr. Baynes said that Governor Hogan has shown great commitment to Project CORE by providing 75 million dollars for 4 years to a program called Strategic Demolition Fund.

Mr. Baynes said what Project Core is not...

- One Specific Program
- One Specific Community
- One Specific Funding Source
- One Specific Activity such as Demolition

Julie Day of Baltimore Housing gave an overview of what her departments does which is to take a comprehensive approach to mitigating blight throughout the communities of Baltimore City. She said her team does acquisitions, tax sell foreclosures, asset management, strategically support blight elimination and asset management relocation properties on behalf of the city. Ms. Day stated that demolition is the last resort over preservation of buildings.

Ms. Day said Mayor Blake gave them an infusion 10 million dollars for demolition over ten years which is limited too special income constituents and response demolition.

Vernice asked what is the role of the Stadium Authority? Ms. Day said the Stadium Authority said third partner in CORE and serve as practitioner of demolition. When Baltimore identifies a demolition they will pass it on to the Stadium Authority and they procure contractors to do the demolition and deconstruction. She said the CORE funding provides for stabilization especially properties with historical value or will have a market they are stabilize to encourage investment which will function as a construction subsidy which in turn will make the dollars number a little better and promote a quicker rehab and hopefully promote new homeownership as well.

Michael Braverman Deputy Commissioner of DHCD in Baltimore City said there are about 17,000 boarded up houses in Baltimore. The challenge facing Baltimore in terms of demolition is that it's rare to find a whole block that is vacate you usually see **1 or 2** people living in between vacant houses. So the cost of demolition would include relocation of the resident which could be a 500 million dollar price tag. For a city like Baltimore that is a hefty price tag. Similar cities like Detroit and Cleveland, which the federal government has allowed them to re-program tart money of 100 of million dollars, funds Baltimore just do not have access to.

Ms. Day said she noticed that the vision statement it mentions wealth creation. When people get relocate into better homes costing hundreds of thousand dollars more than the \$20,000 they were living they now have an asset and some equity.

Vernice asked Mr. Braverman what he thought of the demolition protocol in Baltimore? and how valuable he thinks it is because there no state protocol in place Mr. Braverman said he thought it was important because notifications had to be sent out before any demolitions were done giving people the opportunity to protect themselves from dust etc by closing their windows. He said contractors can't get their demolition permits without consultation first with the building inspector. He also said the city codified into city law that all demolitions must use wetting practices on any demolition. He also said that demolitions couldn't start until everyone on that particular block was relocated.

Mr. Braverman stated that Baltimore wants to be the model city in terms of demolitions nationally so they are working with MSA who's going to be procuring demolition service for the new state money. The city will still spend its own allocation and do its own demo but working with MSA they're taking the lead in developing what we hope is going to be the best practices nationally.

Rebecca Rehr asked about blight elimination verses redevelopment and understanding the goals of the project she asked what happens to the land after demolition? Ms. Day said depends on where it is and how soon it might be re-used. If you see a row of 10 vacant buildings to be demolish the city will go thru the process of acquiring land post demolition or if they think it's a near term redevelopment opportunity they will acquire the block ahead of demolition. Part of the funding will have to include an establish approach from the city which is based on how well the city think it is before its suspect to patient right, manageable and directly working with the community to see what they want.

Rebecca asked what are the protocols to make sure community involvement and equitable development is involved in what happens to the land? Ms. Day said the Department of Planning has put out a Green Planning Book that has been very helpful. Storm water management is going to be a key piece in a number of the locations. Additionally, there will be a Green Network Plan basis with the potential green spaces and use that as part guide to where demolition goes. Rebecca said it seems like the sustainable community part of it is really well plan out. She said when it comes to Baltimore City, the sustainability piece seems to be in place, but is concerned that housing affordability and access might be at risk if there is no say in what happens to the land after demolition, citing DC as an example. Vernice said there is no more affordable housing left in DC that is not already occupied. She said if you don't plan for preservation of existing communities you won't get preservation of existing communities and that's a really big concern.

Brent Flickinger of Southern Planning for Baltimore City chimed in and said one thing that communities in Baltimore are doing is setting up land trusts and when that land is developed, some of the equity goes back to that community.

Steve Levisky asked besides money is there anything else Baltimore needs to make this project successful at the end of the day? And is it something CEJSC can do to help? Mr. Braverman said do an assessment of the protocol and how best to codify it as appropriate.

#### CEJSC DISCUSSION with MACo

Les Knapp of the Maryland Association of County Officials (MACo) said that MACo is a non-profit, non partisan organization that represents all 24 counties including Baltimore City. MACo is involved in policy issues from land use, public safety, elections, the environment and budget tax etc. MACo also has conferences, disseminates information, conducts research, and maintains a blog which gets information out to the community groups.

Les said they also have affiliate organizations they partner with such as; professional counties staff, formal groups for meetings and regularly meets with county planners, county health officers and county environmental officers. He said his organization can help CEJSC reach out to some of these organizations.

Les talked about the counties' challenges and issues of today and how different they are from place to place. He said counties are less concerned with pie in the sky theories; they want practical and achievable outcomes. Les says counties have to make a lot of challenging decisions. Finally, Les indicated that local government take their land use authority very seriously and that it is the one of the core powers that has been divulged to local governments and one that they will protect the most. The easiest way not to get re-elected is to make a poor land use decision or tax decision.

What are MACo and counties' views on environmental justice? Les says that MACo has had a basic engagement with environmental justice, basically looking at bills. MACo has worked on a number of cumulative impact work groups and feels comfortable with the direction of those groups.

What are the challenges of doing local government outreach? One, understand and work with specific needs and concerns of the particular county or municipality just don't come in and say I have all the solutions just do x, y and z because you're not going to get far with that. Secondly, have some clear definitions for both environmental justice and sustainable communities, the clearer the definitions the better engagement with local governments. Have a clear definition of what you mean by sustainable communities.

What are positive steps looking forward? MACo would like to engage in ongoing discussions with CEJSC, maybe a presentation at MACo winter conference. Meeting with some of MACo affiliate groups would almost be more productive. Finally, if it is any resources that CEJSC would like to make known to the counties MACo would be more than glad to include that information in their blog and other resources.

Vernice spoke about the implementation of bad land use decision and the impact on communities, such as; Brandywine. She asked how can we address these land use decisions before they get made. She asked Les for some guidance on how people could get in front of the conversation instead of having to react after the decision is made. Les said building relationships with counties up front, the land offices, as they are going through their comprehensive planning process and as they are going through their zoning process. Build personal relationships with each jurisdiction early.

Andy Fellows asked Les Knapp if you know of certain counties and including Baltimore City that are developing best practices on the local levels. Les says its variable; in terms of sustainability, Frederick County has a very good office. He said sustainability often gets thrown out more as a term, like an officer or policy rather than environmental justice. He said he thinks Baltimore City is ahead on some of the issues because they have some of the most long standing issues. Montgomery County and Price George County to some extent have raised some challenges. He said keep in mind for the fighting of energy generation facilities that is actually more of a Public Service Commission (PSC) issue and state purview everything else, air pollution certainly is under the county level.

Andy said he thinks it would be a good idea if CEJSC members would go out and talk to departmental groups of the counties. Andy asked Les who he thinks the members should speak to first. Les said planning, health officers and environmental health directors which meet at MACo. Les invited the commissioners to attend the October or November meeting at MACo.

Rebecca Rehr asked Les what he thinks about the value of statewide environmental justice legislation. Les Knapp said MACo hasn't been one of those proponents but he's very familiar with what the opposition has been. He said there are many benefits statewide but the legislators and cumulative work groups are working on narrow issues. Vernice interjected and asked are the cumulative impact working group working or are they just talking? Les said the chance of any legislation passing statewide is unlikely and it might time to pivot and get a few local ideas in the mix. He said there's been a lot of policy where this has been very effective. He said if you get a couple of municipalities who are willing to actually build relationships and undertake a pilot program with that success other counties will look at that and start to document it and show this makes sense from resident's well being and makes dollar and cents wise. It's always good to have an economic benefit tied to the component, some aspect of sustainability and environmental justice component certainly do.

There was some discussion about forming some conclusion to the MDE cumulative impact group since they haven't met in awhile or to put some value back into the group again.

Brent Flickinger Southern Planner- Baltimore City Department of Planning said that CEJSC needs to talk to developers and not just local governments.

Brent talked a little bit about Port Covington and its transportation challenges for the city and was wondering if CEJSC could slow things down in a way for which the planners can't do.

Brent asked what criteria they can use as planners to evaluate the projects they do. First thing they looked at was housing market typology and criteria from a bunch of distressed neighborhoods up to regional choice and noticed that it was the same as the red lining map. He said planners want resources to go into the most distressed neighborhoods but developers are going to go in areas where they don't need it. So planners are trying out how to change or re-use the market type typology that they feel is a valuable tool so that it can be used in red lining in distressed neighborhoods.

In terms of capital budget where is the money being spent and what neighborhoods? Brent said this is the time to ask questions and to address certain projects and issues before they take the plans to the planning commission. So planning is trying to figure how to equity consideration into the capital budget and other issues including, the vacant to value. The beauty id that the equity committee is putting together a white paper for things they can do, looking at models around the country for criteria and indicated that CEJSC can be of help. Brent said that Baltimore City doesn't have an environmental justice criteria and this could be something that CEJSC could help with. Just like they are looking at design, zoning and setbacks, critical flood plains they would welcome CEJSC help with indicators. Brent said planners can do a lot but they certainly could use partners in working with developers and other agencies.

Rebecca suggested looking at indicators at CEJSC retreat in July. If Brent could provide within 2 weeks a written description of what it is Baltimore City is looking for from CEJSC. It would be helpful if CEJSC could get some of the questionnaires Brent was talking about. If CEJSC had some material to hand out at the session doing the retreat it would be a good time to formalize CEJSC thoughts and to have a follow up meeting maybe with the equity committee. CEJSC can develop recommendations on indicators with a formal letter.

Rebecca said she heard a presentation from Sagamore and they talked about exactly what is being talked about in this meeting. Rebecca said she asked about the access and health indicators? Rebecca said CEJSC can help recommend indicators not to propose new projects, but to highlight benefits the benefits the programs are already creating, but not yet counting. Brent said they are receptive to those kinds of ideas. Brent mentioned another way to help saying Sagamore is in negotiation with a group called SP6 which is Cherry Hill, West Port and neighborhoods around Middle Branch if CEJSC could assist them with not only the environmental stuff but with the transportation access.

Vernice said maybe CEJSC should pilot some ideas on how to bring these policy instruments, sustainable. Equitable development and EJ conversations into one practice and pilot those constructs into some place, indicating that CEJSC is that place. Vernice said maybe everyone around the table should offer up their services. Vernice asked Brent if he could help CEJSC figure out how to be part of this conversation with Baltimore City Department of Planning.

Vernice proposed that at CEJSC September meeting we try to get everybody together in one conversation so that they understand the nexus between environmental justice, equitable and sustainable development. Vernice said if you ask six people what is EJ, six people are going to give you six different answers, its regulatory answer and then it's the community perspective. Vernice said if CEJSC does nothing else but to help people understand what the conversation they are talking about she thinks it will be greatly appreciated by all the stake holders who are tired of chasing down the different definitions that we are operating under.



Kristen Mitchell from Maryland Department of Planning is working on setting up a working group meeting with Maryland Municipal League and CEJSC commissioners.

Rebecca said that she's taking lead on preparing comments for the EPA EJ 2020 Action Agenda.

Vernice asked Angelo to come to the July Retreat to talk about the status of the cumulative impact working group: where it stands and what support you think it needs from the commission to help it achieve its objectives.

Next Scheduled CEJSC Meeting Is July 29, 2016

## **Commission on Environmental & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)**

Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD

Salisbury, MD

July 29, 2016 9:30 pm- 5:00 pm

### **MINUTES**

#### **In Attendance**

- Commissioners: Subha Chandar, Larry Brown Jr., Steve Levitsky, Vernice Miller-Travis, Janet Moyer Cornick, Rebecca Rehr, Michael Leslie, Dick Fairbanks, Duane Johnson
- Participants: Keith Lackie, Angelo Bianca, Don Tannenbaum, Kameta Gray, Lisa Inzerillo, Margaret Barnes, Kathy Phillips, Akosu Dosu, Dawn Hawkins, Andrew Fellows

#### **Introduction**

Vernice Miller-Travis started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Vernice read the open meeting law to the commission. Vernice indicated that there has been some tension between Perdue and the public; however, this meeting isn't going to be the place to air out those issues.

Rebecca Rehr gave an overview of how the CEJSC developed and created a meeting site in Salisbury, MD and why the location had to change from the Perdue facility to the Salisbury University.

#### **CEJSC Charge Discussion**

- Advise State agencies on EJ and Sustainable Communities issues,

Vernice asked state agencies around the table how CEJSC can be of better assistance in helping with this conversation within their agencies. Angelo Bianca of MDE said he would like to see CEJSC giving more guidance on community issues like the Sherriff Road project. Angelo would also like CEJSC to pick specific goals and focus on them throughout the year. Subha Chandar from DHMH said it would be great to see information exchange between agencies and CEJSC. Larry Brown Jr. from DHCD said he's interested in learning more about the goals of CEJSC. Janet Moyer Cornick said she would like to see CEJSC elaborate more on the Title IV issues within EJ.

There was some discussion about how to communicate with all 14 state agencies maybe by cc'ing state agencies in introduction letters and sharing any other letters that may-be of interest to the agencies. Venice said that federally, the conversation around EJ and Sustainable communities is moving at a fast pace versus on the state level.

Rebecca Rehr suggested that the commission should pick 3 communities within Maryland to tell stories that represents the diversity of EJ issues. Some cities recommended are Brandywine, Eastern Shore and Baltimore City. Case studies should be presented to the commission.

Also, CEJSC been asked to provide input to the Climate Commission on where in the state the Climate Commission can put more resources into that are disproportionately affected by climate change.

Subha Chandar suggested adopting Federal policies for CEJSC.

- Review and analyze the impact of state policies, laws and regulations on EJ and sustainable communities issues in Maryland,

Vernice said that CEJSC isn't doing this bullet point. As of matter of course, there are a lot of policies and state regulations that have come out and have environmental justice and sustainable communities implications, but the commission isn't necessarily weighing in on the issue.

The inherent difficulty is the CEJSC commission is a voluntary commission which requires time and dedicated commitment and analysis. Vernice asked if there is something CEJSC can do more effectively based on the way the commission is structure since it's a voluntary body.

Vernice said that CEJSC really could use some guidance from the state agencies about policy issues that are percolating in the agencies that could use some advice or counseling from CEJSC.

In terms of being out front on policy issues at the legislative level could CEJSC head that off at the path, could we talk about it in the development and evolution stage so that these considerations are incorporated before we get to the point of litigation? Could CEJSC integrate these considerations sooner? Can we talk about implementation of the policies on the constituents sooner, so that we really begin to factor those considerations into the development of a policy or legislative action?

Steve Levitsky asked what could be done as it relates to report base. The report could be put together and then generate outreach to agencies with the same document to ask what policies or issues could be anticipated down the road or what EJ issues are in the community that the state agencies might know about or can educate CEJSC on. Angelo Bianca from MDE thought this was a good idea. Angelo said in terms of legislation it tends to get a little difficult because the Governor office looks at legislation that could potentially become a Bill but the MDE process doesn't start until August and sometimes the agency doesn't know whether something has received approval until December and it leaves you in somewhat of a gag status during that period, when the legislation session has already started not leaving enough time to get engaged.

- Vernice said CEJSC tried to get the conversation started well in advance of the legislation session. She said CEJSC tried everything from being pro active in the evolution and development of legislation that CEJSC knew would have an impact on EJ constituencies and CEJSC sat at the table had conversation and dialogue but still when the legislation got to the floor it wasn't supported from critical state agencies. Coordinate with the CEHPAC on recommendations related to EJ and Sustainable Community concerns;

The commission agreed that CEJSC does coordinate with CEHPAC on sustainable communities although its once a year. Vernice asked is meeting with CEHPAC once a year is sufficient and are we following up on issues discussed in previous meetings?

There was some discussion about replacing the commissioner who represents CEJSC on the CEHPAC commission. CEJSC would like to have a conversation with this commissioner in the near future to address this issue.

- Develop criteria to assess whether communities within Maryland maybe experiencing environmental justice concerns;

This goes hand in hand with the suggestion of focusing on 3 communities for the year.

- Recommend options to the Governor to address EJ issues and concerns that we believe that will target areas of the state which should be prioritized for immediate and redress of problems;

Vernice asked if there actually is a communication network between what we recommend in the commission and the Governor's office. Vernice says she's not convinced that the Governor's office knows anything about this commission except who gets appointed to the commission and that's only because they do the appointments.

It was some discussion about reporting to the Governor's office and who really gets to see the annual report that CEJSC puts together. It was suggested that a briefing of the Governor or the senior staff member who is involved in the area of environmental and sustainable communities be that contact person. Vernice said in this coming year she would like to see the commission clarify this last bullet point.

CEJSC wants to know how the information received from the CEJSC meetings is flowing to MDE Secretary Grumbles and how is it flowing from MDE to the Governor's office? It was mentioned having the Secretary come to a CEJSC meeting **to** discuss this issue.

Andy Fellows suggested that the commission try to figure out a vehicle for making sure that House and the Senate are informed about a issue that the commission is talking about which could be through a commissioner or through some other mechanism.

April meeting minutes were approved with May minutes being tabled until further edits.

### **Public Comments**

Ms. Margaret Barnes founder of Moms Across America of Eastern Shore said the goals of the organization are to empower parents to protect their children from toxins in the air and food. She talked about the challenges of CAFO's 'concentrated animal feeding operation'/Chicken houses. Vernice asked Ms. Barnes how she sees the issues with CAFO's issues intercepting with EJ charge. A vague answer was given. Vernice said maybe down the road a more comprehensive discussion around these challenges could be had but maybe in Baltimore. Vernice said the **CAFO** issue is a long standing environmental issue on a national and local level.

Kathy Phillips of Coast Keepers said when CEJSC develops their criteria to keep in mind that a lot of cumulative impacts are not addressed through zoning regulations or current permitting structure.

Vernice said that a lot of time is being spent battling each other over this CAFO issue. Instead we need to focus on a resolution. How can we reduce the impact on communities? How can you support a sustainable approach to energy production and agriculture? CEJSC thinks these are some of the things they could provide assistance with.

Vernice asked if people are good with coming together to resolve the CAFO issue? Rebecca said she think it could happen in the context of the Climate Commission because the Climate Commission needs to hear this conversation. Rebecca said CEJSC's recommendation to the Climate Commission should be to have one of their meetings on the Eastern Shore because they are seeking CEJSC's input on two stake holder meetings for their commission.

Kamita Gray from the BTB Coalition said she came to the meeting to determine the objectives of the commission for 2016. She talked about the challenges facing citizens in Brandywine, MD due to the industrial environmental impacts. Vernice said this is one of the reasons why CEJSC is going to recommend that one of the three meeting be held in Brandywine to address some of these challenges head on. EPA has accepted Brandywine Title IV complaint and will be looking into it. Kameta if anything, it needs to be a two way communication on how we fix this problem so that it never happens to another community.

Steve Levitsky said one of the reasons why he invited CEJSC to Salisbury is to show the magnitude and destruction you've been hearing about isn't happening. Steve said the issue is that certain groups just don't want poultry period.

Vernice suggested scheduling a tour of the Perdue processing plant.

Rebecca said the role of CEJSC is to tell a story, to ask why EJ isn't here on the Eastern Shore, to ask for demographic data, to find out as a commission if the issues that are being brought up are disproportionately affecting low income folks of color and to answer the question, is this an EJ issue? Another perspective would be to hear from the folks that are working here in the plants.

## **Local Government Outreach**

Rebecca shared some thoughts on the meeting she had with the Maryland Municipal League (MML). She said that MML did some research and realized that people are talking about EJ but they aren't calling EJ. We did find out that Gaithersburg is the most diverse municipality in the country. Two concrete things were proposed at the meeting: 1 CEJSC could write an article for MML magazine and 2 CEJSC could present at their conference. The first option has to go well for the second to happen.

Rebecca said MML's representatives seem very interested in continuing this conversation. There was something to learn about what is considered municipality. There are approximately 157 municipalities. Over 100 exercise planning authorities and some 40 are under Maryland law and don't have planning authority.

Vernice asked if the Public Service Commission (PSC) decides where the power plants go in Brandywine as opposed to PG County. Kamita said they collaborate with the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission. The Park and Planning Commission do mandatory referrals to engage the public into engaging the government agent, PSC has a direct link to National Park and Planning.

Andy, Vernice and Rebecca will work on the article for MML magazine. Rebecca also recommended that someone from MML sit on the CEJSC commission as a local government representative. MML has tons of things on sustainability.

It was suggested that the Maryland Department of Planning be brought into the conversation. The goal is to nurture that relationship to make sure there's a free flow of information.

PG County gave an overview of projects they are currently working on. They are in the process of developing what a sustainability plan would look like in PG County and factoring the environmental piece into that plan, another project is to address one area of the county where the residents of the county have had a long standing issue with industrial operation like Sherriff Road which MDE is working closely with. The community has claimed for many years that the industrial operation is impacting their health due to the dust being generated by this operation along Sherriff Road.

Akosu Dosu of PG County is working on a Maryland Health Impact Analysis with Dr. Wilson. Dr. Wilson's students were looking at the health impact of truck driving force or at least get some data on how many trucks are driving through Sherriff Road. The students also did a sample air quality analysis.

Akosu said the main goal of this analysis is to present this as data only. The Sherriff Road community has taken this into litigation but it was shot down because Sherriff Road is still developing and the community doesn't have the concrete data to say these problems in the community are related to industrial operation. Based on research, the students found that the county has some sort of Health Impact Assessment legislation but it can be strengthened and that the HIA is the most important data that can be collected to support any type of litigation or advocacy for the community.

Rebecca suggested that CEJSC obtain a formal report on Dr. Wilson's project. CEJSC offered to provide letters of support for grants to the project and the possibilities of partnership grants between state agencies and counties to really look more deeply into this.

It was mentioned at the September meeting to have a discussion about creating a working group centered around the topics of the case studies, data sharing and collection. It was suggested by Rebecca to have a conference call maybe around the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in August to hash out things before the September meeting.

There was some discussion around Environmental Benefit Districts (EBD), how did they come about and just what are the benefits of being classified as an EBD. Vernice asked if we are we going to use EBD and if are we going to give it some value?

### **Maryland Commission on Climate Change Update**

Rebecca said the Climate Change Commission is seeking CEJSC advice on where to have two meetings to enhance outreach, to talk about climate change and implementation of the GGRA in vulnerable communities. The Climate Commission is also seeking CEJSC advice on how to do the outreach and where to hold the meetings. The question CEJSC needs to answer is whether they want to have the meeting in counties, big cities or small cities? It was suggested to have one of the meetings on the Eastern Shore.

Vernice shared some thoughts from Steward Clark's thoughts. Clark is a member the Maryland Climate Change Commission. He made several recommendations that he would like to see CEJSC consider. CEJSC agreed to take him up on those recommendations.



CEJSC decided to recommend Baltimore County, Baltimore City and the Eastern Shore as meeting locations for the Maryland Climate Change Commission outreach efforts.

CEJSC has decided to focus engagement on three areas: 1) Brandywine community, 2) PG County and 3) Baltimore City in the next year.

CEJSC suggested compiling a list of definitions about EJ and will then share it with the state.

It was suggested that a facilitator be brought in to work with MDE's cumulative impact working group by January 2017.

### **Priorities for 2016-2017**

- Identified 3 Case Studies including Brandywine, Eastern Shore and Baltimore.
- On-going work with Maryland Climate Change.
- Continue engagement with Maryland Municipal League and MACO.
- Identified two communities for Climate Change Commission public meetings.
- Continue to track Sherriff road activities.
- Continue to engage with Baltimore City Department of Planning on Equity.

There was some discussion concerning CEJSC commission vacancies and what should be done to help fill those seats, such as; write a letter to the Governor Office of Appointments.

Next schedule meeting is on September 27<sup>th</sup> at Montgomery Park, 1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD

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

Conference Call Minutes

August 23, 2016

9:30 AM

**Commissioners:** Rebecca Rehr, Larry Brown Jr., Michael Leslie, Steve Levitsky, Vernice Miller-Travis, Lisa Nissley.

**Participants:** Duane Johnson

Rebecca Rehr gave an update on the Climate Change Mitigating Working Group meeting. Rebecca said the Mitigating Working Group sent out a document including their recommendations calling it 'Mitigation Working Group Draft Input To the 2016 Maryland Climate Change Commission Report'. One of their recommendations is to enhance economic analysis of social equity issues. Rebecca said they omitted the work with the CJSB but she was able to bring that up to them and they responded absolutely.

Rebecca said the more specific CEJSC can be in their recommendation for the report to the Climate Commission the more that will enhance outreach for next. Rebecca said she was able to recommend outreach on the Eastern Shore and Brandywine as the two specific areas of the state were CEJSC is recommending the Climate Commission do outreach. Rebecca said as a CEJSC member she has a meeting with Maryland Climate Commission staff at MDE and ECO working group. Rebecca said they have been talking about specific recommendations on how things will happen. Rebecca will be writing a few bullets points to be included.

Rebecca said she wanted to make sure everyone is on the same page with the enhanced outreach in Brandywine and on the Eastern Shore and that we are working towards making sure community members are involved in planning **and** shaping those meetings. Vernice said let's make sure those bullets points are shared with the CEJSC commissioners before we send them to Climate Commission work groups. Rebecca said the idea is to get them in their official annual report so it's documented and shows accountability and transparency.

Vernice suggested that it might **need** to be another meeting between CEJSC and Maryland Climate Change Commission.

Vernice said there's a lot happening in the state on paper but it's the implementation that is lagging.

Rebecca gave an update on her interaction with Maryland Municipal League (MML) indicating their desire to have CEJSC submit an article in their newsletter. Rebecca and Vernice will work on that article. Vernice said she would seek advice from Andy Fellow on how to couch the article-Andy is a member of MML.

Vernice said she would like to put the article issue on the September meeting agenda to gather up some ideas and suggestions from commission members about some approach and theme of the article.

Rebecca said Brent Flickinger of the Baltimore City Planning Department is interested in having CEJSC work on the Equity work group which could be a good case study for Baltimore in the coming year.

Steve Levitsky said as it relates to the term case study maybe CEJSC should send something out to the commissioners explaining what case study means.

Vernice indicated what CEJSC is going to need is commissioners to be point people on shaping the case study work. Vernice said as it relates to the case study on the Eastern Shore CEJSC needs to have a meeting on the Eastern Shore and to have some dialogue with the people working on the Eastern Shore to help frame that case study.

Steve said he would like to get some commissioners down to see the processing plant. Vernice said it would be hard to develop a case study without seeing the facility first hand. Steve agreed and said that's been one of the problems with folks writing bills. They usually are getting one side of the story and then are putting regulations together based on that one perspective.

Rebecca said she doesn't want people to be under the assumption that the case study is going to be about chicken houses but it could be part of the case study. Rebecca said the Climate Change commission could highlight some of their issues and CEJSC could highlight theirs.

Vernice indicated the issue with Brandywine is two parts: 1) one that's incorporated, 2) one that's not incorporated. She said the unincorporated part is where all of the facilities sightings are going on and where the coal ash facilities are.

Lisa said if Angelo Bianca was on the phone he would suggest that you look at what the Public Service Commission (PSC) is doing and their outreach program because there's a real difference between what they do versus what MDE does or even what other agencies do. Lisa said comparatively, MDE does more than what the PSC does.

Michael Leslie said from a technical perspective, what needs to be considered is the pipeline that runs through that part of the state that has capacity, capacity meaning the pipeline that was built for plants to allow support construction for Coe Point Plant for the exporting of natural gas. Michael said there are certain places in the State of Maryland that you could justify building one of these plants. Michael said if Maryland wants to reduce their carbon footprint by reproducing Bin-cycle natural gas systems, there are so many places they can do it. Michael said residents of those areas should benefit from low cost clean and affordable natural gas. He recommends expanding and enhancing the infrastructure allowing that strife. When you look at indoor quality it's a huge concern for those areas where their using other liquids or even wood for heating or cooking, it's important for them to have access to the natural gas like the power plants does.

Vernice says there should be some sort of template on how to move forward, what it is CEJSC is trying to identify as it relates to the case studies, what is the role of the commission and the role of the state agency partners in trying to address some of these challenges?

Vernice suggested having a CEJSC commissioner and a state representative take the lead in this case study because these issues fall in their purview.

**Things to focus on in the coming year:**

1. **Develop a template for case studies,**
2. **Develop some metrics to see what it is CEJSC is trying to look at,**
3. **Engage with PG County, Brandy Wine Department of the Environment and the Eastern Shore community,**

**It was suggested moving CEJSC meeting to from October 25<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> a survey will be sent out to other commissioners concerning this change.**

## **Commission on Environmental & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)**

Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD

Aeris Conference Room

September 27, 2016

### **Minutes**

#### **In Attendance**

- Commissioners: Rebecca Rehr, Lisa Nissley, Richards Fairbanks, Steve Levitsky, Vernice Miller-Travis, Charles Glass, Delegate Clarence Lam, J Moye Cornick, John Quinn
- Participants: Duane Johnson, Angelo Bianca, Odessa Neale, Anne Dradley, Laura Rogers, Julie Gabrielli, Stephanie Williams

#### **Introduction**

Vernice Miller-Travis started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Vernice gave a brief update on the July Retreat at Salisbury

State University. **Local Government**

The Baltimore Office of Sustainability gave an update on their sustainability plan. The plan was started in 2009.

- First plan was divided into 7 chapters, 29 goals, 131 strategies
- Served as an umbrella document to organize citywide goals for disparate but related issues into one document.
- Enabled people working on a wide range of issues to be part of the same team pulling toward a common set of goals.

The Question was asked **WHY UPDATE THE PLAN NOW?** The plan needs to be updated because:

- Plan is seven years old
- Much has changed since 2009
- We are developing the updated plan with a consciousness of the racial inequities in Baltimore that exist because of historical of discriminatory public policies and practices, such as real estate redlining, restrictive housing covenants, a transportation system that favors people with cars, etc.
- To update the plan, we are seeking input from a demographic representative of the city, primarily through the use of sustainability ambassadors.

- Since the first plan was released, many sub-plans have emerged with detailed strategies and actions to advance Sustainability Plan goals.
- The updated Sustainability Plan should embrace the goals and strategies put forth in those plans.

Ms. Neale talked about the engagement process:

**Resident Engagement Process**

- Gather resident's input by utilizing a team of over 100 trained Sustainability Ambassadors. **Institutional Engagement**
- Convene issue-based groups
- Convene businesses and institutions

Ms. Neale said that the resident engagement process is under way, and that they are gathering input through 10 teams of ambassadors who are talking to residents all across the city.

We are complementing the ambassador work with a series of issue-focused and other stakeholder meetings...including transportation.

**Timeline for the Plan update is from April 2016-April 2017 which includes:**

- **ANNUAL TOWN HALL EVENT** - Launch plan update process.
- Engage residents with trained ambassadors.
- Engage businesses, institutions and other stakeholders in meetings hosted by partner organizations.
- Host Community Forum to review input from engagement process.
- Begin utilizing feedback for plan development
- Develop draft plan
- Review priorities with stakeholders
- Final draft of plan for public comment.
- Present Plan to Planning Commission and City Council
- Release updated Sustainability Plan at Annual Town Hall meeting.

What has been accomplished so far with the plan?

- *One PLUS One*
- *Citywide Street Sweeping*
- *Trash can for every household*
- *Food Desert Retail Strategy developed in 2015*
- *Virtual Supermarket provides online grocery ordering at 5 sites*
- *Local Urban Agriculture Plan*
- *Baltimore Energy Challenge trained over 200 energy captains, helped residents on average achieve 4% energy savings*

There were some discussions about how to include equity into the sustainability plan. Vernice said the city needs a definition for equity. Vernice gave an update on equity in Baltimore City and said that it's sort of troubling that the issue wasn't discussed in 2009 planning. Vernice said given the demographics of Baltimore with a 63% population of African Americans and 5 % Latino population it is somewhat startling that there's no definition of what we mean by equitable and environmental justice.

Rebecca Rehr talked about how the federal government defined environmental justice. Rebecca said what Baltimore City is doing with their sustainability plan is commendable because you're creating a model by which other government agencies can follow.

Rebecca spoke about equality in equity in Baltimore City stating that we know one part of Baltimore may not need what another part may need.

Vernice explained why she hates the word equity from health access to disease and to the rate of mortality in Baltimore City.

Rebecca said the Commission want to package and write about the good work that Baltimore City is doing and report that to the Governor's office.

John Quinn said one thing Baltimore City has been able to do is advance inclusion, John asked how the office of sustainability has been able to train people to go out into the community? He said they have been to all of the schools, in every community in the city and have sent out plenty of mailings. He said inclusion is what gives you the path to what you're after and Baltimore City is doing an outstanding job.

Ms. Neale asked the Commission what organizations should be referenced as implementation partners.

- Vernice said the group that is conducting research with the Baltimore City Eco System study would be a good partner.
- Steve Levitsky said having districts create their own individual plans would be a good idea.
- Angelo Bianco suggested partnering with larger institutions around the city that might want to give some guidance.
- Vernice also suggested Morgan State University School of Community and Public Health and the Office of the President, the Morgan Mile Initiative, Blue Water Baltimore and Clean Action.

Ms. Neale asked the Commission what equity issues need to be addressed.

- Dick Fairbanks said schools.
- Vernice said schools drinking water and the physical plant or conditions of the schools.

Ms. Neale asked the Commission if there are any plans out there that the Office of Sustainability should be looking at.

- Vernice said there is the Redline Compact Plan consisting of all communities along the Redline.
- The West Baltimore Moving Forward Plan

The Commission encouraged the Office of Sustainability to come back and give an update on the plan in the coming months.

### **Commission Vacancies**

The Commission wants an update on vacancies within the Commission, especially the Chair and Vice Chair.

Rebecca suggested having the two elected officials write a letter to the Appointment Office requesting for a Chair for the Commission.

Rebecca nominated Ms. Natalie Burke for Chair of the Commission.

Dick Fairbanks nominated Ms. Destiny Wolford as a Commission member.

### **CEJSC Annual Report**

Vernice suggested getting the CEJSC's annual report completed following the template and maybe in the future changing the format. **Case Studies Discussion**

3 focal areas were selected: Baltimore City Office of Sustainability and Equity Plan, Eastern Shore and Brandywine.

Steve Levitsky brought up the idea of completing two case studies instead of three.

Charles Glass asked if there is funding for the case study-Vernice said no. Rebecca said she doesn't know if there could ever be funding. Vernice said that the Commission and MDE applied for a grant but they didn't get it.

Vernice said that she would step up and head the case study for Brandywine. She suggested Steve for the Eastern Shore and Rebecca for Baltimore City.

Charles Glass from MDOT offered his staff as a resource to the Commission. Angelo suggested the Commission partner with Universities.

For the next meeting Vernice, Rebecca and Steve will share how they will proceed with the case studies, what kind of partnership opportunities there are and if there are resources to move forward.



### **October Meeting Change**

Duane will send out a Doodle Poll to see what day will be good for a conference call for the October meeting.

### **Local Government Update**

No follow up from MACo.

Andy Fellow is working on the first draft for the MML article.

Vernice suggested having key stakeholders at the November meeting to talk about cumulative impact working group status.

### **Climate Commission Update**

Climate Commission Mitigating Work Group has put in funding that could be used for fulfilling the Mitigation Working Group focus on enhances outreach around the work of the climate Commission. Education, Communication and Outreach (ECO) Working Group along with Environmental Justice Commission are coordinating resources to do outreach to overburdened communities.

### **Others News**

Vernice announced that US EPA Office of Environmental Justice Headquarters is having National Resource and Training Summit from October 25-26.

Stephanie Williams gave an update on the new regulations for the Open

Meeting Law.

Duane will send out June, July and August minutes by Friday for edits.

Next Meeting Schedule for October 25, 2016

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)**  
**Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD**  
**Conference Call Minutes**  
**October 24, 2016**

**In Attendance by Phone**

- Commissioners: Vernice Miller-Travis, Rebecca Rehr, Delegate Clarence Lam, Duane Johnson, Janet Moya Cornick
  
- Participants: Dawn Nixon, Laura Rogers, Andrew Fellows, David

O'Leary, Okosu Dosu **Minutes Approval**

June meeting minutes were approved.

**Commission Vacancies Update**

Duane Johnson indicated that he talked to Jeff Fretwell, Director of Legislative & Intergovernmental Relations, who suggested that the Commission wait until he confirms the 3 candidates who have already been submitted to the Governor's Office of Appointments. He will then begin for work on the other 3 vacancies on the Commission.

Vernice suggested meeting with Secretary Grumbles to discuss the remaining vacancies before a decision is made.

**CEJSC Annual Report**

Duane shared what action items needed to be completed for the report.

Vernice, Rebecca and Andy will be taking leads on getting the report completed.

Rebecca said we need to request the need for a Chair of the Commission and the need to do better education on environmental justice work. This should to be included in the report.

Vernice asked Delegate Clarence Lam to provide a paragraph on the development of the Reduce Act and what went into it. This should be included in the report.

Vernice asked to have Angelo Bianco, ARMA Deputy Director provide a synopsis of the status of the Cumulative Impact Working Group.

## **Local Government Update**

### **Maryland Municipal League (MML)**

Andy Fellows said he will be working on the draft article for Maryland Municipal League in the next coming week.

Duane will be checking with Les Knapp of MACo about CEJSC attending their December conference. **Case Studies Update**

### **BRANDYWINE COMMUNITY:**

Vernice said she's been in touch with the folks at Brandywine and indicated that the community does not want an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in regards to the complaint they filed with the EPA.

Vernice has asked the Brandywine folks if they could come to a CEJSC meeting with an update on their complaint to the EPA. She also wants to make sure that the Brandywine issues are being addressed and not side tracked.

Vernice said Brandywine community is interested in serving as a case study but wants to know what that means and what will be the outcomes of the study.

Vernice said besides Maryland Department of Transportation she can't think of any other state agency that has a Title IV policy in place. Duane indicated that MDE is looking into a Title IV policy.

Vernice suggested convening a discussion with stakeholders including state agencies, to get a clear picture of what issues exist concerning the Title VI complaint filed by the Brandywine community and how state agencies are working to resolve the issue.

Rebecca had concerns about bringing state agencies together without including the Attorney General in the discussion without breaking any laws etc. Steve Levitsky agreed with Rebecca on this issue.

Because the Public Service Commission doesn't have anyone on the CEJSC commission Vernice thought that it would be beneficial to hear from them and get a feel for their thoughts on the issue. Rebecca also thought it would really important to hear from PSC.

Vernice and Duane will work together to try to set up a meeting with PSC for November or December.

### **Baltimore City**

Rebecca provided the Commission with a case study she wrote up including five tangibles. Rebecca said the main goal is to write about the work that is already being done and use it as a platform to recommend other government entities pick up some work. The benefit of doing a case study is to elevate other folks' work.

Vernice said that as a result of CEJSC's annual report, maybe a paragraph or two should be included in the report discussing the case studies.

### **Eastern Shore**

Steve shared a dissertation by Christine D. Miller that focused on things such as: Climate Resiliency, Sea Level Rise and Environmental Justice. Steve suggested that the Commission look into what was done in the thesis and take it to the next level and to do more studies to verify what communities are being impacted and then take this information to the governor's office for more discussions.

Steve suggested bringing in Ms. Miller to discuss her dissertation with the

Commission.

### **Maryland Climate Change Update**

MCC has asked CEJSC for recommendations for outreach locations by November 15, 2016.

Vernice said we should include in the CEJSC annual report the dialogue with MCC and the ongoing desire to help influence MCC's conversation around outreach and being a partner with them.

Rebecca will take the lead on formulating the letter of recommendations to MCC.

### **Public Comments**

Dawn from PG County expressed concerns about the industrial operators who have created these high mounds on their properties, which could be mounds of gravel or soil. She said she's been looking for some sort of guidance or action that maybe have taken place in the past relating to these stockpiles. She asked CEJSC for any suggestions on this issue. Rebecca recommended delegate Tony Knocks, who may be able to help with the situation. Rebecca also said that MACo may be of assistance with the issue. Vernice suggested Association of File Base Management Organization (AFWMO), EPA and Waste Management out of DC.

Next Meeting November 15, 2016

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)  
November 15, 2016 9:30 am-11:30 am  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
Aeris Conference Room  
1800 Washington Blvd Baltimore, MD 21230

## Meeting Minutes

### **In Attendance**

- Commissioners: Duane Johnson, Vernice Miller-Travis, Rebecca Rehr, Subha Chandar, Clarence Lam, Steve Levitsky, Lesliam Quiros-Alcala
- Kamita Gray

### **Introduction**

Vernice Miller-Travis asked everyone in the meeting to introduce

themselves. **Meeting with MDE Secretary Ben Grumbles Update**

Vernice said she and Andrew Fellows met with the Secretary to talk about CEJSC and it's important to the administration.

Vernice said she was encouraged to hear the Secretary say that in terms of environmental initiatives already started in Maryland, nothing will change. The Secretary said he thought CEJSC plays a very important role.

Vernice addressed the Commission membership and particularly the vacancy of the chairperson of the Commission with the Secretary. She suggested involving CEJSC in selecting the next chairperson of the Commission.

Secretary said he looks forward to continued engagement with CEJSC and will try to make additional meetings.

### **Chesapeake Bay Program Diversity Workgroup Meeting Update**

Several Commissioners that attended the meeting and gave a brief update on what they thought about the meeting. Rebecca Rehr gave a brief synopsis of what the Chesapeake Bay Program does.

Rebecca said the Diversity Workgroup is looking at what their workforce looks like and what their workforce is doing. There were breakout sessions to discuss long and short term goals of the workgroup.

## **Maryland Climate Change Commission**

The Climate Commission has asked CEJSC to make written recommendations as to where to do outreach as it pertains to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act in underserved communities.

Rebecca Rehr talked about the draft letter she completed for the Climate Change Commission. She said that the letter won't go in the Climate Change Commission final report but will be on their website. The fact that the letter won't go into their Annual Report was based on timing of the request from the Climate Change Commission.

Vernice said CEJSC wants to help recommend two communities for outreach. CEJSC will need someone to be involved in the Climate Change working group to help them be as successful as possible with the outreach initiative.

Rebecca said as the Education, Communication and Outreach (ECO) working group moves forward, CEJSC should make a formal request to ECO keep CEJSC in the loop of things.

## **Community Outreach Update**

- **Eastern Shore:** Steve Levitsky said he did some additional research on the climate change issue and found a dissertation done by a PH student from UMD that spoke about some issues in lower Somerset County. Steve said he wants to get the student attend the next CEJSC meeting to talk about her findings.
- **Brandywine:** Vernice said one of the problems in Brandywine is the lack of communication between the PSC and State agencies. Vernice said EPA is looking at an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process to try to resolve the complaint issues in Brandywine.
- **Baltimore City:** Rebecca said she went to a meeting at the Office of Sustainability for Baltimore City to get input on their plans. Rebecca said she thinks they are beginning to get outreach directly from a government entity. She said she will write up a report to be used for a government model for future government led community outreach.

## **Public Comments**

Kamita Gray asked that CEJSC not white wash the EJ issues and cumulative impact in Prince George County with a 68% African American population. She would like CEJSC to take a broader look at what is happening across the county in respect to permitting, facility operations and disproportionate impact on underserved communities

## **Meet Adjourned**

