**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 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 infra-structure 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 25th to the 24th a survey will be sent out to other commissioners concerning this change.

Next schedule CEJSC meeting is scheduled for September 27th 2016

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