

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Conference Call Minutes
9:30 am – 11:30 am
Tuesday, February 28, 2017

Attendance

- Commissioners: Rebecca Rehr, Subha Chandar, J Moyer Cornick, Camille Burke, Steve Levitsky, Tanvi Gadhia, Crystal Faison, Deriece Pate Bennett, Duane Johnson.
- Participants: Andrew Fellows, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Jeaneen Logan, Tab Aburn, Laura Rogers.

Introduction

Duane Johnson asked everyone to introduce themselves. New Commissioners were asked to take a few extra moments to say something about themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The following 2016 minutes were approved: July, August, September, October and November.

Update on CEJSC Chairperson Vacancy

Duane announced that the commission now has a new Chairperson. Her name is Camille Burke. She is from the Baltimore City Health Department.

New Commissioners Orientation Discussion

This discussion was basically tabled until another time but there were some suggestions to include some specific items in a New Commissioner's orientation package. These items are: 1) 2015 and 2016 Maryland Climate Change Commission Annual Reports and 2) Environmental Justice 101 documents.

Rebecca Rehr indicated that she would like to know what the new Commissioners might be interested in doing over the next two years as it relates to CEJSC. Are the new commissioners looking to get something specific out of the commission or are they looking to contribute something specific to the commission? How do the new commissioners see their careers adding to the work of the commission, Rebecca asked? It was suggested that Camille, Rebecca and Duane talk offline about how best to set up an orientation forum for the new Commissioners.

Maryland Black Legislative Caucus Luncheon Update

Rebecca gave an update for the event scheduled on March 16, indicating that one of the reasons this luncheon is taking place is to build a relationship between CEJSC and the Legislative Black Caucus. Rebecca said the discussion will be centered around Food Deserts and Equity. Rebecca said it will be a broad range of people attending from academia, ministers to advocacy people.

Camille indicated that she will be attending and that she will be bringing a Baltimore City Food Desert expert.

Mitigation Working Group (MWG) Meeting Update

Rebecca briefly explained what ~~it is that~~ the Maryland Climate Change Commission (MCCC) is tasked to do. One of those tasks is to do outreach to underserved communities. Rebecca said the meeting on March 16th will focus on EJ and underserved communities and that the MWG invited CEJSC to speak on the panel. Rebecca suggested that maybe this would be a good time to determine which member of the CEJSC commission would be a good choice to participate on the panel. Duane suggested Rebecca. After hearing Tanvi Gadhia speak, Rebecca suggested using Tanvi or someone she knows.

Tad Aburn, the Director of the Air and Radiation Management Administration for the Maryland Department of Education (MDE), said the MCCC is most interested in the best way to reach out to underserved communities. "How do we make the policy work for everybody?" asked Tad. Tad said this is a great opportunity to let the MCCC and the MWG know what CEJSC thinks about the outreach initiative. It is also a golden opportunity to work with MCCC to engage with certain other communities.

Subha Chandar asked if this initiative is centered more around mitigation, the larger contexts of adaptation strategies, the other outreach or is the MWG only focused on the mitigation Green House Gas with the CEJSC partnership?

Tad answered and said the March meeting will be focused on the mitigation side but they are also partnering with another working group called the Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group.

Rebecca asked Tad if he would consider asking someone from the community to come to the March 16 meeting. Tad said he would look into that. Tad also suggested having someone from CEJSC speak about how the commission is regrouping and excited about partnering with the MWG.

New Commissioner Deriece Pate Bennett introduced herself and shared something about her background.

Public Comments

None

Meeting Adjourned

Next Scheduled meeting March 28, 2017