

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park Baltimore, MD
July 23, 2019
9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Camille Burke, Subha Chandar, Janet Moyer Cornick, Joseph Griffiths, Robert Hackman, Dick Fairbanks, John Papagni, Paula Dannenfeldt, Duane Johnson, Lesliam A'Quiro
- **Participants:** Paula Hammond, Veronika Carrella, Darlene Mitchell, Emily Wezik, Kamita Gray

Introductions

Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

July meeting minutes were approved.

Maryland Department of the Environment

Darlene Mitchell- Director of Professional Development-Highlights of speech on '**Recharging the Spark**'

- A motivational moment.
- Decide what kind of difference you want to make.
- Why are you here?
- Why would you accept the responsibilities of sitting on the EJ Commission?
- Understanding the purpose of the EJ Commission.
- Walk In your integrity.
- Create a Facebook page for the Commission and record a video of your elevator speech to help with recruitment.

National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)

Paula Dannenfeldt-Chief Administrative Officer

- Paula said NACWA has about 320 members which include nearly 300 public wastewater and stormwater utilities, also known as "clean water agencies" that encompass agencies of all sizes nationwide.
- Their vision is to represent every utility as a NACWA member, helping to build a strong and sustainable clean water future.
- Paula provided the report "Opportunities for Municipal Clean Water Utilities to Advance Environmental Justice & Community Service" which highlights their involvement in environmental justice issues.
- Paula said NACWA does not include hazardous waste dumps.

- Camille Burke asked Paula how the average person connects with NACWA Paula said they don't in terms of the association, but do so through their member utilities, fairs and award programs, and through education centers.
- Paula indicated that NACWA is not directly involved with ground water, but MDE is per Darlene Mitchell.
- Someone asked what involvement NACWA has with the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay Paula said their representation is at the federal level and that a number of their members are discharged the bay.
- Camille asked if Paula could bring back any legislation related to NACWA back to the Commission and if there are any national trends that could affect the environment locally. Paula said Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).
- Subha Chandar asked if there is any regional activity going on with local members. Paula said not through their association but there might be with other organizations.

Children's Environmental Health Advisory Council (CEHPAC)

Veronika Carella-Commissioner CEHPAC

- Veronika gave an update on her work with CEHPAC which is centered on the Health in All Policies (HiAP) workgroup.
- She talked about a statue of environmental justice based on state law and what the responsibilities of the EJ Commission should be. One responsibility being to report back to the Governor on our findings.
- Veronika said HiAP is a framework through which policymakers and public and private stakeholders collaborate to improve health outcomes, and reduce health inequalities in the state by incorporating health considerations in decision making across sectors and policy areas.
- She talked about a "data sharing process" and provided documents from EJ, DNR and HiAP.
- There was some discussion around why the Health Department is or isn't involved in the Health in All Policies issue.
- Veronika talked about the Department of Agriculture's involvement in pesticide spraying and there are safer ways to introduce pest management into our community environment.
- She said a key question for HiAP is- What is the impact on public health? And talked about the role of public health in protecting kids from environmental health impacts:
 - She said there are no state or federal safe guards to protect kids during construction or renovation in their schools.
 - The only people protected by OSHA laws are the people doing the work.
 - In terms of public health, she said children's health is going in the wrong direction and that kids are getting sicker and sicker.
- She also talked about Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for buildings that meet certain requirements related to the use of green products.

Miscellaneous Topics

There was some discussion about lead in housing by Camille Burke and Subha Chandar.

Camille said she will look into vacancies on the Commission and gauge the current Commissioners involvement. A list relating to the type of vacancies will be provided.

Subha Chandar said the Eastern Shore Case Study will hopefully be completed before August.

Kamita Gray- Discussion on the Community of Brandywine.

- Kamita talked about the Title 6 complaint with EPA and said an Agreement which took about three years was reached with several agencies in 2019.
- She gave an update on what led to the complaint which was an influx of several power plants in the community.
- She said the Agreement puts policies in place with all the state agencies.
- Kamita said she expects CEJSC to give voice to it by looking at affected communities.
- She said the Commission needs to rethink the positions the Commissioners represent like the position on affective communities for example.
- Joseph gave his thoughts on the PSA and any legislation put forward around local zoning.
- Camille asked Kamita to submit four lessons learned when dealing with agencies.
- Veronika suggested including a question on how EJ can help a community like Brandywine on the next CEJSC agenda.
- Veronika suggested that EJ hold a session on Title 6 for the communities.

Joseph Griffiths- Outreach Plan Discussion

- Joseph said there is a lot of work that needs to be done before CEJSC can go out and do outreach.
- He said outreach is getting the right people at the table to communicate.
- He asked where the balance is between outreach and the education component and talked about 3 phases of questioning:

-What is the Purpose?

- Raising Awareness
- Finding out what is going on-Information gathering
- Gaining local contacts

-What is the Caution?

- Expectations
- Delivery on Commitments
- Takes you in a new directions
- What is in it for them?-Motivation
- Negative news travels fast
- Resources

-Who is the Audience/Targets

- Community leaders
- HOA's
- Youth groups
- Faith based groups
- Environmental groups
- Planning departments

Camille suggested reaching out to Paula of MDE to get some ideas around outreach since she's already doing outreach.

Joseph said a potential outcome could be to not to do outreach considering what's already out there, but we haven't reach that conclusion yet.

Someone suggested letting the community define what outreach is to them.

Joseph said something to think about is -What is my information going to do? Is it going to change my work plan, is going to affect legislation, what are we going to do with the information?

No Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned