

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

**November 17th, 2011 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Baltimore, MD**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Lisa Nissley, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, John Quinn, Dick Fairbanks, Calvin Ball, Robin Underwood, Vernice Miller-Travis, Jennifer Peterson, Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Senator Bill Ferguson
- Participants: Megan Ulrich, C.J. Lammers, Richard Allen, Stephanie Cobb-Williams

Introductions: The meeting began with introductions from everyone in attendance.

Other Business:

Lisa Nissley reviewed the charge of the CEJSC and went over the rules of engagement. She then discussed the PlanMaryland comments that were submitted to MDP. Calvin Ball asked what the status was on PlanMaryland. Lisa said that EHE is doing a briefing on PlanMaryland.

Lisa said that the MDE internal workgroup is finalizing their recommendations. They are in the early stages of Tier 1 action items. They will be giving their final suggestions in the form of a memo. Jennifer Peterson asked if the memo will be published for the public to see. Lisa said it will not be made public, but some of the items for external outreach will be used to make a one-pager. Lisa also said that she would share the tiered list with Jennifer for comment. The brown bag with Vernice and Senator Harrington was rescheduled for after the holidays. The business two pager rough draft is completed and ready for comment. It should be done in the next week or two. It will also incorporate case studies of companies in Maryland that are doing a good job. Lisa asked if any other agencies have anything to report.

Caroline Varney-Alvarado said housing is looking at the HUD draft plan. The comment period has been extended to November 23rd. Lisa said that Kathy Kinsey and she are serving on one of the EPA Workgroups for Plan EJ 2014. Lisa went over the draft of the local jurisdictional model pilot program. Jennifer Bevan-Dangel said since counties are already doing WIPs (Watershed Implementation Plans) and PlanMaryland initiatives, can you tie EJ and public health into those? C.J. Lammers said if there are any examples of how counties have incorporated WIPs and EJ she would like to see them. Prince

George's County is doing their 10 year comprehensive plan this year. Calvin Ball said that they have a general plan in Howard County.

C.J. Lammers said Philadelphia and Portland have done a nice job integrating sustainability throughout their whole city comprehensive plan. Portland has been looking at sustainable food sources and equity in access to food sources. They estimate that once the plan is implemented 90% of the city population will be able to walk to grocery stores.

John Quinn said that unfortunately the logistics did not work out in time to have the business event before the legislative session. Not a lot happens during session so we will start planning the event in the New Year and have it in April or May. We only get one chance to make a good first impression, so I want it to go smoothly. Lisa said that she and John drafted an invitation. She will work on the business two-pager. If anyone has suggestions please send them. Dick Fairbanks asked if Sue Briggum was going to speak at the event. John said yes, she agreed to be the featured speaker and she is enthusiastic about it. Andy Fellows has agreed to speak for 5-10 minutes at the end of the event to get feedback. The business two-pager will be handed out at the end of the event as an educational piece. Jennifer Bevan-Dangel asked if the Chamber will distribute the piece. John Quinn said yes, because the value is in communication and introducing the topic.

Lisa said that Rebecca Rehr had invited the academic community to join a sub-committee on EJ. She will be sending them the minutes each month. Rebecca is also looking into building an academic library. Lisa said that she, Megan, Rebecca and Jennifer Bevan-Dangel have been working on integrating the problem/solution statement and the CEJSC charge. They have a draft and they will submit it to the whole CEJSC in January.

Robin Underwood said that there is a crossroads between Title VI and EJ. Mohamed Dumbuya from the National Highway Administration will be speaking at the December CEJSC meeting. Lisa said that she plans on talking to Tyrone Hill, the Fair Practice Officer at MDE, and she would like to have a meeting with the fair practice officers of other state agencies as well. Robin Underwood said that she is working with MTA, MVA, and SHA on maintaining compliance with Title VI. Richard Allen said that Title VI is important and we need to do more work on educating state agencies.

Jennifer Bevan-Dangel said that in regards to the environmental advocates, she still feels that we need to educate them on EJ and then ask them to do something related to it. There is something called Chesapeake Commons that has just been created that is an online place to go for information from a lot of different sources related to the Bay and the state of Maryland. Anyone can post on the site and create online mapping of data. Lisa said one thing MDE is talking about is local outreach. Jennifer Bevan-Dangel said that if anyone has any ideas for public outreach let her know. The advocates are working on the wind bill, a bag bill, and some issues related to the WIP. Lisa said that she contacted Eric from the CCE to discuss certain options. Jennifer Bevan-Dangel said that there are some big pieces moving right now and it would be worth doing a meeting with the advocates after session. Vernice said that there is a whole other universe of EJ advocates and it would be good to get them engaged as well. Lisa said the CEJSC should

get guidance to advocates on what issues are EJ related. Vernice said we should try to figure out how to have an impact earlier next year. Jennifer Bevan-Dangel said that all the groups have their own mission statements that they focus on.

Caroline Varney-Alvarado asked are people in Maryland looking at what federal agencies are doing. Vernice said there is an MOU that federal agencies signed this year and all federal agencies are coming out with an EJ plan as part of Plan EJ 2014. DOT, HUD, and other agencies have come out with plans. The CEJSC should weigh in on those plans and give comments. Lisa said she agrees that what is happening at the national level is important; so the CEJSC should identify advocates who care about the issues and get them to comment on the plans.

Lisa said that the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) call is set for November 22nd. We will circulate the call-in number later today. Jennifer Peterson said that she would send information about a webinar on a NPR/CPI report. The report looks at how energy answers (EA) will have an air pollution impact on Curtis Bay and Brooklyn.

Calvin said that CSX is currently going through the NEPA process for their intermodal facility. They have narrowed the list to four possible sites.

Lisa said that the results of the poll showed that the fourth Tuesday of the month was the best day of the week for most people to meet. The CEJSC will be meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month starting in 2012.

Dick said that limiting the 2012 take of menhaden is a really smart move. Reedsville, VA is the second biggest fishing port in the country. Taking the menhaden is depleting a very valuable resource that is good for the Bay. The filter feeders are very important for the Bay.

Vernice said that she missed the October meeting because she was at the NEJAC conference in New Mexico. They had a long period of public comments and all of the stories were very emotional. There is an enormous impact from Uranium mining on Native American tribes in New Mexico. The EPA Office of General Council said that they are going to release guidance from EPA on how the regulatory community can make legal decisions related to EJ. In the document, EPA says that they can address EJ under existing law, which is huge. The DOJ is also putting out a companion piece this year. Vernice said that there was a call from 3:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. this afternoon on EJ in federal agencies. She then gave the number and website information for the call.

Adjourn

The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for December 15th, 2011 at The Annie E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore, MD.