

Meeting Minutes

CEJSC Meeting – 2024/9/24

Attendees

Andrew Miller, Aneca Atkinson -MDE-, C Burke, Carlos Sanchez-Gonzalez, Cat Goughnour -DHCD-, Colleen, Crystal Faison, David Simon, Dr. Reneé Carr, Frederick Johnson, John Papagni -DHCD-, Kellie Gaither, Kylan Simpson -MDH-, Mariah Davis -DNR-, Monica Brooks, Nadya Chehab -MDA-, Noble Smith -MDE-, Noble Smith -MDE-'s Presentation, Patrick DeArmey, Rebecca Rehr, Subha Chandar -MDH-, Tracy Garrett, Veronika Carella, Voncia Molock, Yasmin Behram -MDP-

Review of July Meeting and Response to Curtis Bay Requests

Camille Burke: During the July meeting two actions were requested of the CEJSC commissioners. The first was a letter of support EPA petition is being currently evaluated. Most folks are for signing the petition. On July 23rd of this year CEJSC commissioners were invited to participate in a private tour of South Baltimore's Curtis Bay neighborhood. The tour, led by South Baltimore Community Land Trust (SBCLT) took place from 10a - 1p Included on the Curtis Bay Tour were the following stops. 1) Black Butterfly Teaching Farm 2) South Baltimore Community Land Trust Passive Home 3) CSX open air coal terminal and diesel truck routes 4) Discussion (and lunch) at City of Refuge and 5) Presentation by the Summer Youth Environmental Justice Scholars. A visit to the nation's largest medical waste incinerator was canceled on the day of this meeting due to time constraints. The South Baltimore Community Land Trust made two requests of the Commission following the tour and presentation. The first request is to send a letter of support to the EPA regarding potential rule making and second request was for the commission to request MDE deny the renewal of the operating permit for the nearby CSX coal terminal.

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Send a letter of support to EPA regarding the petition for rulemaking filed by South Baltimore Community Land Trust and community based environmental justice organizations across the country. The petition calls upon the USEPA to stop harmful coal pollution from open air coal trains by requiring coal train operators to obtain a permit for water pollution.
2. Ask MDE to deny CSX Transportation's application to renew their coal terminal's operating permit. In December of 2023, SBCLT, MDE, CCBA and academic partners released a report confirming the presence of coal dust throughout Curtis Bay.

The commissioners were not able to vote on these request during the meeting and the vote will be conducted online.

Legislative Talking Points and One Pager

Rebecca Rehr: The guide aims to provide legislators with a baseline understanding of the environmental justice issues affecting marginalized communities in Maryland. CEJSC helps ensure that laws and regulations do not disproportionately impact overburdened and underserved communities, promoting equity and fairness in policy. This guide should aid legislators in the prioritization of resources and efforts for communities that are most in need, ensuring efficient and targeted action to address environmental disparities. To aid in the development of holistic policy, legislators are provided with a framework to evaluate the potential impacts of proposed legislation on various communities, allowing for more holistic policy development. The guidance serves as a tool for promoting sustainable and just environmental practices and policies.

Following discussion suggestion we're made to clarify MDE and other agency jurisdictions. Language will also be adjusted to be informational for state legislators.

Annual Report Recommendations

Noble Smith: The following suggested recommendations were made and discussed during the meeting and commissioners provided edits and guidance that will be reflected in the final

Annual report recommendations

Advise State government agencies on EJ.

- Develop networks in EJ communities that highlight opportunities in green industries through partnerships between community organizations and educational institutions.

Analyze the effectiveness of State and local government laws and policies to address issues of EJ and sustainable communities.

- Compile and summarize local (county, municipal) EJ best practices.
- Develop a cross agency method and reporting form for tracking local actions that either advance or challenge EJ.
- Create a task force to develop shared messaging for state agencies' EJ Representatives/ Coordinators

Coordinate with CEHPAC on the issues of EJ and sustainable communities.

- Continuing outreach to those communities most adversely affected by EJ issues. Connecting EJ communities to the natural resources that CEJSC is working to preserve and protect.
- Increasing transparency within MDE for Maryland residents who want to advocate for Environmental Justice communities.

Develop criteria to assess what communities in MD may be experiencing EJ issues.

Recommend options for addressing EJ issues to the Governor and the General Assembly; include prioritized areas of the State that need immediate attention.

- CEJSC recommends passage of legislation that gives MDE the authority to condition, modify or deny a permit in overburdened and underserved communities.
- Coordinate with MDE on the establishment of an at least 40% goal for the percentage of state funding for greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures that should be used for the benefit of disproportionately affected communities

Public Comment

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Veronika Carella: Good morning and thank you for letting me speak. I am the legislative director for the Maryland Children's Environmental Health Coalition and I serve for 12 years on CEHPAC as well. So I just wanted to bring a quick update to the three points. Please take steps to clarify to the public and to enforcing state and local agencies such as the Maryland Department of Agriculture the issue of Standing when investigating PFOS permits. Nothing has been done since 2018. And since then there have been 91 days of applications on these 10 lots and sometimes over a hundred gallons. How can MDA ensure enforcement of existing laws and how can they enforce existing laws to protect public health and our environment? When MDA allows products that are known to be public health hazards and environmental contaminants because they explicitly state that they will contaminate the groundwater and not to use around wells. Why is this still being allowed? So some of the products approved for use, by the MDA, chemist, specifically, state on the EPA product label that the ingredients contain peace. And that would be about a thousand of the

Meeting Closed

11:45 PM