

# MARYLAND COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Date: 2/27/24

Time: 10a to 12p

## **Commissioners in Attendance:**

Yasmin Behram, Camille Burke, Dr. Renee Carr, Crystal Faison, Kellie Gaither, Dr. Tracy Garrett, Gerald Jackson, Voncia Molock, John Papagni, Lesliam Quiros-Alcala, Rebecca Rehr, David Simon, Asha Smith, Dr. Sacoby Wilson, Jacquetta A. Wright

## **Interested Parties:**

Garry Aime, Hadley Anthony, Christopher Beck, Nicole Bell, Kristina Campbell, Nadya Chehab, Eric Coffman, Eric Davidson, Patrick DeArmey, Molly Finch, Kamita Gray, Joseph Griffiths, Leah Kelly, Jennifer Kunze, Dorothy Morrison, Ramon Palencia-Calvo, Kim Pezza, Matthew Standeven

## **1. Introductions**

- Brandon Brooks, Environmental Justice Coordinator

## **2. MDE Environmental Justice (“EJ”) Legislative Update**

### Presentation

- Hadley Anthony, MDE Governmental Relations
- Delegate’s Boyce’s House Bill (“HB”) 24 first hearing was on February 21st
- Senate hearing scheduled for March 5th
- MDE in full support of HB 24

### Questions and Comments

- Commissioner Wilson mentioned an article penned on February 19th. He wants to follow the 17 principles of Environmental Justice. He wants community priorities integrated into EJ Bills. He discussed other Bills and groups that helped to move forward the EJ conversation.
- Leah Kelly noted that EJ communities are opposing the bill. They have several concerns with HB 24.
- Commissioner Rehr, Maryland League of Conservation of Voters, is favorable with an amendment to include Title V permits to address air pollution. The Commission can submit a letter of information. Post the legislative session the commission may need to educate legislators.
- Commissioner Gaither, a resident of Curtis Bay, agrees with Commissioner Wilson.
- Commissioner Smith would like to help write an EJ fact sheet.
- Joseph Griffiths has an EJ 101 document he would like to share.

### **3. Maryland Energy Administration (“MEA”)**

#### Presentation

- Eric Coffman, Division Director of Energy Programs and Garry Aime, Energy Program Manager - Partnerships and Innovation
- MEA’s mission is to promote clean, affordable, reliable energy and energy-related greenhouse gas emission reductions throughout Maryland, in a just and equitable manner.
- Carbon pollution cut 60% by 2031. Net zero greenhouse gas economy by 2045. 100% clean energy by 2035.
- Issued more than \$90 million in grants, incentives, and rebates in FY23.
- MEA program areas: clean energy, solar and resiliency, clean transportation, energy efficiency, offshore wind, schools and communities, and innovation
- Community solar is a program that has incentives to ensure community solar projects are accessible and affordable for those with low and moderate incomes
- How best to design programs to address equity
- Baltimore city has two net zero schools

#### Questions

- Commissioner Rehr asked MEA to collect Maryland data to determine in the reduction of asthma and other indicators to tell the story of the benefits
- Commissioner Wilson works on energy justice issues and would like to connect with MEA. How are we making sure that the money is going to the communities with the most need? MEA uses the MDE’s EJ screening tool. MEA needs to build more partnerships with communities.
- Commissioner Carr asked if there are requirements for MEA contracts? There are no

requirements. MEA promotes 20 programs to receive proposals.

- Commissioner Papagni would like to see the funding levels of each program and understand the demand for each program. MEA responded that they would like to have/keep flexibility so that they can meet the demands of various communities.
- Chair Burke wants better job partnering with MEA and getting opportunities out to the public. Garry Aime/MEA is willing to focus on outreach.
- Commissioner Faison, who owns a woman-owned weatherization business, is willing to help get the word out.

#### **4. CEJSC 2024 Meeting topics & calendar**

- Commissioner Rehr would like the 2023 annual report. She also invited the group to the Choose Clean Water Coalition Conference in Maryland on May 20th-24th, 2024. She would like to set the dates for the CEJSC meetings.
- Joseph Griffiths, Maryland Department of Planning, would like state agency collaboration on Managing For Results (“MFR”) and Key Performance Indicators (“KPI”). Mariah Davis, the new Environmental Justice Officer at the Department of Natural Resources, would like to chat about MFRs and KPIs.
- Chair Burke and the staff will disburse the EJ 101 overview page and will post it on the website. We will also work on a Fact or Fiction EJ overview page. Chair Burke wants to keep a running list of EJ officers at each State agency. Chair Burke wants to have meaningful (and ongoing) conversations in communities that the Commission is invited into.
- Commissioner Garrett, Lothian community, would like materials on how to reach overburdened and underserved communities.
- Garry Aime from MEA engages government representatives, community group leaders, schools and local churches.
- Commissioner Carr stated that perhaps local businesses could sponsor a free meal at an information meeting.
- Commissioner Smith would like to see community outreach about Earth Day.

#### **5. Public Comment**

- Molly Finch is a resident of Baltimore and a student at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Molly wants to ensure that Justice40 dollars are reaching communities in need of the benefit.
- Patrick DeArmey commented on water and wastewater permitted related topics. Patrick works in Lothian where the EPA took recent action against a wastewater treatment plant. He also asked if there was a representative from the MDE Office of the Secretary present.

- Jennifer Kunze commented on the Reclaim Renewable Energy Act to take trash incineration out of the Renewable Portfolio Standard. It is one of the demands of the communities located near the incinerator.
- Kamita Gray, Brandywine Coalition, represents residents and would like to present to the Commission.

**The meeting adjourned.**

**Notes (in part) from the chat:**

Jacquetta A. Wright

Rebecca Rehr

10:07 AM

HB 24 on the MGA website is here:

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/hb0024>

Hadley Anthony -MDE-

10:07 AM

Thanks Rebecca

Rebecca Rehr

10:07 AM

But the language does not reflect the language as amended when it was introduced

But that link will also allow you to watch the House hearing

Rebecca Rehr

10:09 AM

Hadley - can you send the reprint to the CEJSC so everyone has the most up to date language?

Dr. Reneé Carr

10:09 AM

Completely agree with EJ communities being essential at the start.

Rebecca Rehr

10:12 AM

17 principles of Environmental Justice: <https://www.ejnet.org/ej/principles.pdf>

Leah Kelly

10:12 AM

It's not an EJ bill if you don't listen to the communities

Asha Smith

10:16 AM

Is there an opportunity for the Commission to develop a brief pamphlet of talking points?

Do we have a website?

Rebecca Rehr

10:17 AM

Asha - love that idea. And perhaps a briefing over the summer or in the fall

Paulette Hammond

10:17 AM

Asha, we are included on the MDE website

Rebecca Rehr

10:17 AM

This is the CEJSC website:

[https://mde.maryland.gov/Environmental\\_Justice/Pages/CEJSC.aspx](https://mde.maryland.gov/Environmental_Justice/Pages/CEJSC.aspx)

Asha Smith

10:18 AM

@Rebecca - thanks

Rebecca Rehr

10:19 AM

SB 1088 and 1086

Rebecca Rehr

10:20 AM

I can help with that if it is the will of the CEJSC to make that a focus for the interim

Dr. René Carr

10:21 AM

Asha, I am interested in helping with the messaging.

Rebecca Rehr

10:23 AM

Thanks, Joseph. I was looking for it on the website but couldn't find it. I think there was also a timeline that used to be up there, too.

Joseph Griffiths -MDP-

10:24 AM

I don't know if it was ever posted on the website, but it sure can be. I will look through the rest of my files for other resources we developed

C Burke

10:25 AM

I'm not sure if it was

Sacoby Wilson

10:44 AM

happy to help with criteria

I have a few points to share

Dorothy Morrison

10:46 AM

Thank you MEA for your School Decarbonization Grant Program. Is there any chance the Match 15th application deadline can be extended?

Sacoby Wilson

10:46 AM

check out this RFP:

<https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/inflation-reduction-act-community-change-grants-program>, good model

another workforce related RFP, need to make sure we are employing and empowering folks from impacted communities: <https://seagrant.noaa.gov/crw/>

Sacoby Wilson

10:47 AM

Garry, I am the Co-Director of the EPA Region III TCTAC

Funds come from both EPA and DOE, we are scheduled to provide technical assistance to communities in Region III with environmental and energy justice issues

Our core job is to provide TA on grantwriting capacity building

Garry Aime -MEA-

10:49 AM

Thank you Dr. Wilson. TA is well needed service especially for MBE

Sacoby Wilson

10:49 AM

Working with the TCTAC will be a good collaboration for MEA; we want to make sure we take care of our backyard

Eric Coffman -MEA-

10:49 AM

That is an excellent suggestion Dr. Wilson

Crystal Faison

10:53 AM

We provide energy efficiency services in Maryland. I am willing to help with criteria

Sacoby Wilson

10:56 AM

Hey Crystal, can you send your company info? We are building a service provider database for the EPA Region III TCTAC, which will include energy related service providers.

Thanks!

Sacoby Wilson

11:00 AM

swilson2@umd.edu

Kellie Gaither

11:01 AM

Great point

Crystal Faison

11:01 AM

Sure. I'll send it to your email.

Rebecca Rehr

11:03 AM

The Climate Catalytic Capital (C3) fund just launched through the state's green bank

<https://www.mdcleanenergy.org/c3fund/>

A minimum of 40% of C3 Fund investments are to be targeted to assist low-income households and communities across the state to access decarbonization solutions and strategies.

Sacoby Wilson

11:10 AM

Thanks everyone, need to get to the TCTAC meeting, have a good day!

Garry Aime -MEA-

11:14 AM

[garry.aime@maryland.gov](mailto:garry.aime@maryland.gov)

C Burke

11:14 AM

Thanks Garry

Dorothy Morrison

11:17 AM

Thank you

Eric Coffman -MEA-

11:19 AM

Thank you everyone we really appreciate the opportunity and look forward to ongoing partnership opportunities. Garry can be reached at [garry.aime@maryland.gov](mailto:garry.aime@maryland.gov) and I can be reached at [eric.coffman@maryland.gov](mailto:eric.coffman@maryland.gov)

I am going to drop off for another meeting but thank you again for the opportunity to present.

C Burke

11:19 AM

Thanks soo much

Asha Smith

11:25 AM

@Brandon - can you send me a message offline to let me know logistically how to establish a subcommittee? I have documented the names of some volunteers.

You

11:26 AM

Yes, I will.

keep

Pin message

Rebecca Rehr

11:31 AM

<https://www.choosecleanwater.org/our-conference>

Mariah Davis -DNR-

11:32 AM

I'll plan to be there too as an attendee :)

Paulette Hammond

11:32 AM

Me, too!

Patrick DeArmey

11:33 AM

I will be at CCWC presenting on participation/engagement in local/county decision making

Mariah Davis -DNR-

11:35 AM

Has this commission ever had speakers from other state speak about how they passed cumulative impact legislation and what messaging / best practices worked?

I know a lot of the push back tends to come from the development community

Rebecca Rehr

11:38 AM

YES, ASHA! I love that idea.

B. Thomas Burton (BTB Coalition)

11:38 AM



I agree that "Cumulative Impacts" is ineffective... I don't understand the Environmentalists green groups as related to grant funding in not addressing as written in law is "disparate impacts"?

B. Thomas Burton (BTB Coalition)

11:39 AM

Ms. Burke, great point!

Kellie Gaither

11:39 AM

Curtis Bay and Brooklyn would love to host

Asha Smith

11:41 AM

I have to jump - thank you for an informative meeting.

Patrick DeArmey

11:44 AM

<https://www.epa.gov/md/epa-public-notice-maryland>

Patrick DeArmey

11:45 AM

<https://yosemite.epa.gov/oa/rhc/epaadmin.nsf/Dockets+By+Year+Filed?OpenView&RestrictToCategory=2023>

Jennifer Kunze

11:48 AM

<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgaweb/Legislation/Details/HB0166?ys=2024RS>

Tracy Garrett

11:48 AM

Thank you Patrick for all you do for the Lothian Community !! You are valued and appreciated!!!

Jennifer Kunze

11:49 AM

<https://cleanwater.org/publications/factsheet-hb166sb146-reclaim-renewable-energy-act>

Sign on:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePXrbqgAih1VfYDpfbMHKyC7eJ8XQ8OGV8sFS2oq2dbuBmlg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSePXrbqgAih1VfYDpfbMHKyC7eJ8XQ8OGV8sFS2oq2dbuBmlg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Mariah Davis -DNR-

11:54 AM

Thanks for having me. Great to be with you all!