

## Education, Communication and Outreach Work Group (ECO)

### Agenda and Meeting Notes August 26, 2020

#### 1. Welcome and Intro of new members (Jody Couser)

Ashley Duckman, V.P. Govt Affairs, MD Chamber of Commerce  
Kirsten Jackson, Environmental Literacy Specialist, MSDE  
Trystan Sill, Resiliency and Education Coordinator, DNR

#### 2. Infographics (Susan Casey)

Susan thanked co-chair Jody Couser for Chesapeake Conservancy's financial and intern support for drafting new infographics for social media use on the Maryland Department of the Environment's Climate Change FB site and possibly for in-person outreach post-Covid. Susan thanked Chesapeake Conservancy interns Carly Sniffen and Yazan Hasan, for their work. The infographics are an ongoing project but should be able to be shared with the WG at next meeting.

#### 3. Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) Commission (Chris Beck)

Chris introduced the Commission's chair, Camille Burke, from Baltimore City Health Department, and MDE support staff for the Commission, Cindy Osorto. Camille and Cindy participated in today's meeting and spoke about rejuvenating the Commission under the supportive direction of Devon Dodson of Secretary Ben Grumbles' office. ECO will need to work closely with the Commission to ensure Marylanders are treated equally; ECO plans to actively listen and engage interested communities. ECO will work with the CEJSC, The Chesapeake Bay program, and others to identify lists of organizations who are actively working on EJ issues. ECO can then ask to be included on their meeting agendas and find ways to collaborate with them.

The CEJSC Commission's website:

<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Crossmedia/EnvironmentalJustice/Pages/details.aspx>

Chris Beck said it is quite a challenge to articulate the hundreds of programs that are a part of the final Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA) plan that MDE is writing.

Chris said that he and Kim Drake, of the MDE Climate Change Program, have been talking with the relevant state agencies who have programs that should include EJ.

MDE Assistant Secretary Suzanne Dorsey said that while that is important, we must listen to communities' concerns and then articulate those issues.

#### 4. MCCC's 2020 annual report process and timeline; ECO recommendations are due by next meeting – September 16. (Chris Beck)

Chris Beck talked about how each work group of the MD Commission on Climate Change contributes a set of recommendations for the upcoming year. He invited members of ECO to send in their suggestions for the ECO part of the report to him

[Christopher.beck@maryland.gov](mailto:Christopher.beck@maryland.gov).

#### 5. Public Comment

Jeff Silva: The Infographics should say the LOCAL economy will be improved when MD stops sending money out of the state to purchase energy for transportation since we do not extract fossil fuels in MD. By electrifying our autos, trucks, and buses to reduce our GHG we position ourselves to buy our transportation energy from in-state businesses, which builds the demand for Maryland workers.

ECO should mention the real gains we got from present MD GHG reductions. Such as – "...the region avoided an estimated 537 cases of child asthma, 112 preterm births, 98 cases of autism spectrum disorder, and 56 cases of low birthweight from 2009 to 2014. By avoiding such impacts to children's health, the researchers estimate an economic savings of between \$191 million to \$350 million. See Environmental Health News - <https://www.ehn.org/climate-change-plan-air-pollution-children-health--264681>

Paul Berman: We should change the narrative that we in Maryland are improving the economy by reducing Greenhouse gases, especially with respect to jobs. The economy should have equal prominence with the environment. It is a good strategy in Post-Covid recovery.

#### 6. Other Business

Tad Aburn, MDE, said he'd like to offer the ECO work group some good news examples of the state building relationships over the last four years with disadvantaged communities that have yielded positive impacts on neighborhoods. He cited Turner Station and Curtis Bay. Susan Casey sent in a summary (post-meeting) of the Maryland Port's various community initiatives funded by the VW settlement with the state that include Turner Station (cleaner trucks) and Curtis Bay (new yard trucks), that Tad cited.

Steve Levitsky said there is a previous EJ case study from the Eastern Shore about sea level rise that he will offer the work group.

John Kumm, co-chair, said he will put the case studies materials together for ECO to review at next meeting.

Also, by the next meeting, Chris Beck will provide MCCC key results and findings to ECO to turn into actional items going forward.

The next meeting will be online September 16, 10:30 a.m.