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

**Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD**

**Conference Call Minutes**

**October 24, 2016**

**In Attendance by Phone**

* Commissioners: Vernice Miller-Travis, Rebecca Rehr, Delegate Clarence Lam, Duane Johnson, Janet Moye Cornick
* Participants: Dawn Nixon, Laura Rogers, Andrew Fellows, David O’Leary, Okosu Dosu

**Minutes Approval**

June meeting minutes were approved.

**Commission Vacancies Update**

Duane Johnson indicated that he talked to Jeff Fretwell, Director of Legislative & Intergovernmental Relations, who suggested that the Commission wait untill he confirms the 3 candidates who have already been submitted to the Governor’s Office of Appointments. He will then begin for work on the other 3 vacancies on the Commission.

Vernice suggested meeting with Secretary Grumbles to discuss the remaining vacancies before a decision is made.

**CEJSC Annual Report**

Duane shared what action items needed to be completed for the report.

Vernice, Rebecca and Andy will be taking leads on getting the report completed.

Rebecca said we need to request the need for a Chair of the Commission and the need to do better education on environmental justice work. This should to be included in the report.

Vernice asked Delegate Clarence Lam to provide a paragraph on the development of the Reduce Act and what went into it. This should be included in the report.

Vernice asked to have Angelo Bianca, ARMA Deputy Director provide a synopsis of the status of the Cumulative Impact Working Group.

**Local Government Update**

**Maryland Municipal League (MML)**

Andy Fellows said he will be working on the draft article for Maryland Municipal League in the next coming week.

Duane will be checking with Les Knapp of MACo about CEJSC attending their December conference.

**Case Studies Update**

**BRANDYWINE COMMUNITY:**

Vernice said she’s been in touch with the folks at Brandywine and indicated that the community does not want an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in regards to the complaint they filed with the EPA.

Vernice has asked the Brandywine folks if they could come to a CEJSC meeting with an update on their complaint to the EPA. She also wants to make sure that the Brandywine issues are being addressed and not side tracked.

Vernice said Brandywine community is interested in serving as a case study but wants to know what that means and what will be the outcomes of the study.

Vernice said besides Maryland Department of Transportation she can’t think of any other state agency that has a Title IV policy in place. Duane indicated that MDE is looking into a Title IV policy.

Vernice suggested convening a discussion with stakeholders including state agencies, to get a clear picture of what issues exist concerning the Title VI complaint filed by the Brandywine community and how state agencies are working to resolve the issue.

Rebecca had concerns about bringing state agencies together without including the Attorney General in the discussion without breaking any laws etc. Steve Levitsky agreed with Rebecca on this issue.

Because the Public Service Commission doesn’t have anyone on the CEJSC commission Vernice thought that it would be beneficial to hear from them and get a feel for their thoughts on the issue. Rebecca also thought it would really important to hear from PSC.

Vernice and Duane will work together to try to set up a meeting with PSC for November or December.

**Baltimore City**

Rebecca provided the Commission with a case study she wrote up including five tangibles. Rebecca said the main goal is to write about the work that is already being down and use it as a platform to recommend other government entities pick up some work. The benefit of doing a case study is to elevate other folks’ work.

Vernice said that as a result of CEJSC’s annual report, maybe a paragraph or two should be included in the report discussing the case studies.

**Eastern Shore**

Steve shared a dissertation by Christine D. Miller that focused on things such as: Climate Resiliency, Sea Level Rise and Environmental Justice. Steve suggested that the Commission look into what was done in the thesis and take it to the next level and to do more studies to verify what communities are being impacted and then take this information to the governor’s office for more discussions.

Steve suggested bringing in Ms. Miller to discuss her dissertation with the Commission.

**Maryland Climate Change Update**

MCC has asked CEJSC for recommendations for outreach locations by November 15, 2016.

Vernice said we should include in the CEJSC annual report the dialogue with MCC and the ongoing desire to help influence MCC’s conversation around outreach and being a partner with them.

Rebecca will take the lead on formulating the letter of recommendations to MCC.

**Public Comments**

Dawn from PG County expressed concerns about the industrial operators who have created these high mounds on their properties, which could be mounds of gravel or soil. She said she’s been looking for some sort of guidance or action that may have taken place in the past relating to these stockpiles. She asked CEJSC for any suggestions on this issue. Rebecca recommended delegate Tony Knocks, who may be able to help with the situation. Rebecca also said that MACo may be of assistance with the issue.

Vernice suggested Association of File Base Management Organization (AFWMO), EPA and Waste Management out of DC.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Next Meeting November 15, 2016