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

Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD

Aeris Conference Room

April 26th, 2016 9:30 am-11:30am

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance**

* Commissioners: Subha Chandar, Rebecca Rehr, Arabia Davis, Dick Fairbanks, Vernice Miller-Travis, Lisa Nissley, Clarence Lam, Steve Levitsky, Charles Glass
* Participants: Duane Johnson, Chloe Ahmann, Andrew Fellows, Crystal Lemieux, Dorothy Morrison

**Introduction**

Vernice Miller-Travis started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

Vernice Miller-Travis announced that Merrick Moise had resigned from the Commission and encouraged Commissioners who have not filed their Financial Disclosure Statements to do so.

Meeting minutes for February and March 2016 were approved.

**CEHPAC DISCUSSION**

Vernice mentioned the joint meeting between CEJSC and CEHPAC will be on May 24th in the Aeris conference room at MDE.

Subha reported that DHMH’s Lead regulations were adopted.

Vernice asked for a status report from MDE on lead in drinking water in Maryland for the joint meeting on May 24th. It was suggested that Benoy Thomas be the lead contact on this endeavor. Then, the joint appointment of Benoy Thomas on CEJSC/CEHPAC was discussed, including his greater involvement.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT OUTREACH**

Arabia Davis confirmed that Les Knapp of MACO will be present for the June 28th meeting.

The Mission Statement to be shared with Les Knapp and MACO was voted upon and agreed unanimously to move forward.

Arabia asked the Commission the ask how do we want to engage Les Knapp upon his arrival to the meeting. Vernice said someone should present some framing remarks about why we think engaging with county and local governments in Maryland is so important in terms of advancing environmental justice in Maryland. Also, what it that Les Knapp wants to know about CEJSC and what might he want from the Commission? It was suggested that Andy Fellows take the lead on this when Les Knapp arrives.

Arabia suggested that since we are engaging MACO, we should invite the executive director of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) into the discussion as well.

Dick Fairbanks shared his concerns about the development of Port Covington and its impact on the Westport and Cherry Hill communities. He stated that it’s a lot of Environmental Justice issues surrounding the Port Covington development to be addressed. It was suggested that the Commission invite Brent Flickinger, who serves as the Southern District Planner- Comprehensive Planning for Baltimore City Dept. of Planning to the June 28th meeting and talk about how the city of Baltimore identifies and integrates environmental justice considerations into their land use, planning process and to provide an update on their equity summit. It was proposed that if Mr. Flickinger could not attend the June meeting, to invite him to the July retreat.

It was asked how will the 700 million dollars budgeted by the Governor be spent in Baltimore City? Arabia said she will look into having an individual come and speak on the redevelopment plan if possible.

An invitation was extended to Mr. Charles Glass Deputy Secretary of Transportation to come and speak about transportation issues at the July retreat, potentially with MDOT hosting the retreat.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Delegate Lam gave a brief explanation of the Environmental Justice Bill (The Reduce Act), that he introduced in the House and addressed why it did not come out of the full committee. Delegate Lam mentioned his thoughts regarding concerns from committee leadership. Rebecca Rehr chimed in on the discussion also sharing the advocates perspective on why this bill was not successful in this session. There was also some discussion on what the commission can do to help move this bill forward in the 2017 legislative session? Delegate Lam said he will re-introduce the bill in the next legislative with edits to be discussed in the interim.

**MARYLAND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION MEETING ON APRIL 25TH**

CEJSC was invited to speak to the Mitigation Working Group of the Maryland Climate Change Commission as they consider equity in pursuing the implementation of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act (GGRA). A list of recommendations were presented by Rebecca on behalf of the Commission in hopes of continuing collaboration between both commissions throughout the year, and beyond to ensure that environmental justice and equity considerations are incorporated into the recommendations that come forth from the Climate Commission. Rebecca mentioned that the list is not in order of priority, but seeks to give MCCC the opportunity to decide what action items both commissions could work on collaboratively.  One major point made was the influx in the creation of jobs and the plan to reduce Greenhouse gas emissions while not negatively impacting job security. The assumption is that jobs lost in the fossil fuel industry are those held by people of color; and that’s certainly isn’t the case.

It was suggested to have another meeting where the four panelists could be invited again as more listeners and of a technical aspect the second time around. The Commissioner could address some of the ideas generated and answer questions that were not addressed at this meeting. Vernice thought it was evident that most people in the room did not have any perspective about the environmental justice and equity dimension of the conversation. It was suggested to brief the MCCC on the Planning for Climate Energy Equity in Maryland Report. Also, it was discussed to encourage regular engagements with the office Air and Radiation of MDE and to continue dialogu with Mr. Aburn at the July retreat.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

NEXT MEETING May 24th 2016