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

**April 23, 2013, Baltimore, MD**

In Attendance

* Commissioners: Calvin Ball, Dick Fairbanks, Andrew Fellows, John Kotoski (by phone), Andrea Kidd Taylor, Elaine McCubbins, Lisa Nissley, Larry Polsky, Nancy Servatius for Cliff Mitchell, John Quinn, Caroline Varney-Alvarado

* Participants: Rebecca Rehr (by phone), Rebecca Ruggles, Crystal Heide, Sacoby Wilson

The meeting began with introductions from all present and participating by phone. Lisa updated everyone on efforts to fill the vacancies on the Commission. Dr. Andrea Kidd Taylor of Morgan State University is joining the Commission as a representative of the health field. Dr. Larry Polsky, Health Officer for Calvert County, will serve as a local government representative. Finally, we have invited Dr. Alexis Aguilar of Salisbury University to serve as a member with an interest in EJ. He will begin to attend next month. That leaves just one vacancy for another affected community member and we do have some leads in that area.

Business Outreach

Lisa spoke to the person who manages the Green Registry at MDE, but there do not seem too many opportunities to collaborate. The person did agree to share information we suggest as it is appropriate. Lisa is going to mention it the person who supervises both of them in case she becomes aware of opportunities. Lisa will begin to work on the project of finding permitting materials that MDE might be able to add information about EJ, such as instructions or information letters. John Quinn spoke about framing this conversation. The thought is to present the benefits of addressing EJ issues up front before they become a larger issue for a project which can save costs and time for the businesses. He suggested we start with the larger permits.

Elaine updated on research she has done at DBED for better communicating about EJ. There is a new webmaster who she will be speaking to about placing articles in ebusiness publications, specifically one named Pulse. She had several ideas for articles which other Commissioners added to:

* a write up on the Sustainable Communities program out of UMD
* Highlight BCorporations
* Highlight Green Registry Program and consider doing some sort of award for EJ via the Green Registry; that lead to an idea about the Sustainable Growth Commission awards and perhaps incorporating EJ there
* Highlight Green Travel Partners, including the National Aquarium
* There is an EPA document on creating sustainable communities that might be relevant to businesses. Rebecca will share that with Elaine
* Hospitals are greening, highlighting that may be an option
* Small businesses in Baltimore have their own currency now - BNotes - might be of interest
* Article about the Institute of Policy Studies which uses a genuine progress measurement for the economy

Caroline mentioned doing the same on the Smart Green and Growing website. Dick noted we should always point out the benefit to business of supporting EJ up front.

County Outreach

Lisa circulated the EJ 101 for County Outreach that MDE has developed with the input of the Commission. She has asked for any other thoughts or comments to be emailed to her.

Calvin discussed options for working with MACo, perhaps by targeting the planners. Someone additional suggested reaching out to the health officers. Calvin will try to find out when the upcoming planners meetings are scheduled. There was a thought that we do target outreach similar to what we have discussed for business outreach. Lisa mentioned the MACo Blog and said Les Knapp had previously said they were open to that. We could consider a quarterly post, but we would need to develop a list of ideas for the posts so that we aren’t struggling to come up with something each time.

We would also like to be considered for an EJ related session at MACo.

Calvin shared information about the Diversity Caucus he is working with. The group is designed to look like the Women of MACo group to provide mentoring and networking opportunities for minorities serving in local government. This year they will be having a luncheon at the summer conference. It may be an opportunity to bring up EJ.

Legislative Outreach

Calvin explained that we are looking for opportunities to introduce ourselves as a resource for legislators, but are working on finding the correct way and time to do that. He has reached out to our legislative members, but like most legislators, they have taken a post session break and have been out of town. He will continue to work on that.

Lisa has circulated the EJ 101 paper that was completed by MDE interns with assistance from the Commission and MDE’s Office of Communications. The Commission has suggested this be shared with legislators. Calvin will be discussing this with our legislative members when they connect.

We will review EJ related bills at the May meeting with CEHPAC.

Rebecca Ruggles suggested when we connect with Senator Ferguson, we might also want to have a conversation about EJ and his own community specific to his thoughts on addressing public health concerns.

Title VI was held since Vernice and Robin were not able to attend. At last discussion, Vernice was to draft a letter to leadership at MDE and other agencies on importance of Title VI with Chris Hill.

Nancy reported on recent CEHPAC meetings. The Council recently finished reviewing recommendations on tanning bed use by teens and they will be going to the Secretary of DHMH. Next, they will be looking at recommendations on BPA. They are also interested in work that will be done as a result of HB 303: Task Force to Study Point-of-Care Testing for Lead Poisoning. Next month’s CEJSC meeting is a joint meeting with CEHPAC.

Academic Community

Dr. Wilson joined the meeting to discuss how we can partner with UMD to place interns and share ideas for student projects that would further the EJ conversation in Maryland. He filled the Commission in on recent work of CEEJH and relevant events he has participated in. He also reviewed what classes will be offered over the summer and fall related to EJ. For capstone projects, the Commission would be the “customer” and could be used to inform legislators, other policy makers. Calvin pointed out we should consider the charges of the Commission as we develop these ideas.

Ideas for collaboration were brainstormed:

* Information related to lead/upcoming lead legislation
* Pesticides task force - is certain data needed...what is the data needed for; also connecting what is currently tracked, what would be tracked, and the migrant worker population
* Look at health enterprise zones

Next steps would need to be to develop a formal plan of what the interns would be doing, and generate ideas for projects. Rebecca Rehr will share her concept papers from her own capstone so the Commission has a clearer idea of what is needed. Andrea may have some useful supporting materials too. We hope to have the examples by the end of next week (May 3rd) and would plan a call for the week of the 13th.

We would need something developed for the summer interns by the end of May; something for fall projects by the end of July.

Other Business:

The minutes from February were moved and accepted. One name correction will be made.

Lisa reminded members that some still need to share their paperwork for reappointments. Also, Ethics Forms are due by 2012 members by April 30th. They should submit these directly to the Ethics Commission. It can be done online.

Adjourn

**The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2013 at 9:30am at Montgomery Park.**