

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Date: 04/26/22

Time: 10am to 12pm

Minutes

Commissioners: Ben Grumbles, Camille Burke, Joseph Griffiths, Paula Dannenfeldt, Paulette Hammond, Voncia Molock, Subha Chandar, John Papagni, Melissa Brown, Lesliam Quiros Alcala, Crystal Faison, Monica Brooks, Delegate Boyce

Devon Dodson, Kate Majchrzak, Caitlin Eversmier, Rebecca Rehr, Lisa Nissley, Cliff Mitchell, Kimberlee Drake, Pamela Kasemeyer, Patrick DeArmey, Gabrielle Leach, Georgette Lavetsky, Erica Bannerman, Hannah Schaeffer, Horacio Tablada, Callie Bartlett, Suzanne Dorsey,

1. Introduction by Camille Burke, Chair

Chair Camille Burke welcomed everyone to the meeting. She shared that there has been an invitation to meet with the Lead Commission to discuss mutual issues of concern. Secretary Grumbles expressed appreciation for the work of the Commission and said they are doing important work. The Commission is really growing and improving. MDE and the staff are enthused about it.

2. Administrative Items - Financial Disclosures

Financial disclosure filings are due to the Ethics Commission by April 30th. Commissioners should have received an email with the link (https://efds.ethics.maryland.gov/login?sender_from=ethics.public%40maryland.gov).

3. 2022 Legislative Update

Lisa Nissley reviewed the Legislative Tracker for the bills the Commission followed during session. The following bills passed:

Bill #	XFile #	Sponsor	Title	Passed by MGA	Change to CEJSC Duties?	Summary
HB0653	SB0348	Delegat e Love	Conservation Finance Act	Yes	Yes	Provides that MDA, DNR, and MET will allow participants in certain cost sharing programs to participate in and receive compensation from greenhouse gas markets, carbon credits, or soil carbon programs under certain circumstances. Requires the CEJSC to make recommendations to MDE to ensure that the Department is advancing the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water for consumption, cooking, sanitation, health, and recreation
HB1200	SB0818	Delegat e Wells	Environment Permit Applications Environmental Justice Screening	Yes	No	Requiring applicants for certain MDE permits to use the Maryland EJScreen mapping tool for the project address and include the EJ Score in the application. MDE reviews the score and shares with the surrounding community
SB0014	HB0100	Senator Elfreth	Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment	Yes	No	Establishes the Sustainable Maryland Program Fund, administered by the UMD Environmental Finance Center to expand and enhance Sustainable Maryland's

						promotion and support of communities in the effort to realize environmental, economic, and social sustainability
SB0 090	HB059 5	Senator West	Department of the Environment - Supplemental Environmental Projects Database	Yes	No	Requires MDE to maintain a database of SEPs to be considered as part of a settlement of an enforcement action; the Department will prioritize SEPs located in the same geographic area as the alleged violation
SB0 348	HB065 3	Senator Elfreth	Conservation Finance Act	Yes	Yes	Provides that MDA, DNR, and MET will allow participants in certain cost sharing programs to participate in and receive compensation from greenhouse gas markets, carbon credits, or soil carbon programs under certain circumstances. Requires the CEJSC to make recommendations to MDE to ensure that the Department is advancing the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water for consumption, cooking, sanitation, health, and recreation

SB0 528	Senator Pinsky	Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022	Yes	Yes	Requiring the State to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions through the use of various measures, including the alteration of statewide greenhouse gas emissions goals, the establishment of a net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions goal, the development of certain energy efficiency and electrification requirements for certain buildings, and requiring electric companies to increase their annual incremental gross energy savings through certain programs and services; etc. Adopts a definition of "overburdened community" and "underserved community;" MDE is required to consult with the CEJSC to adopt a methodology for identifying communities disproportionately affected by climate impacts, develop specific strategies to address geographical impact concerns, reduce GHG emissions and build climate equity in disproportionately affected communities; Establish goals for the percent of state funding for GHG reduction measures used for the benefit of disproportionately affected communities
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The Commission mentioned it may need to devote a meeting to the implementation of the CSNA. Likely, the agency will ask for a time to talk to the commission. Devon Dodson will make sure that is happening. MDE can make a proposal that the Commission can respond to. The Commission

asked if Lisa could provide a summary of the bill and what is required. She will follow up. When discussing the definitions of Overburdened communities and Underserved communities, as defined in the law, Rebecca Rehr pointed out that there is a third indicator, vulnerable communities. It is not fully defined.

Someone asked what permits are included in HB 1200; Environment Permit Applications Environmental Justice Screening. The bill applies to the public participation permits. This led into the next discussion on the MDE EJ Screening Tool.

4. MDE EJ Screening Tool

Devon Dodson introduced Kate Majchrzak who works in IT for MDE. She has created the MDE EJ Screening Tool that incorporates Dr. Wilson's tool and data from the Department. Bills that passed this session require the use of this tool or something similar. It is capable of giving us percentages for communities showing the social economic factors and assigns a score. You can see how that compares to the rest of Maryland. We see similar results/patterns from this tool, EJ Screen, and MD EJScreen.

As Kate Majchrzak showed the Commission how the screening tool works in real time, people asked questions within the chat box. Someone asked if the definition of "minority" is synonymous with "nonwhite" when using this tool. The answer is yes. Someone asked if the tool will be available to the public. Devon Dodson wrote that the tool will be available to the public shortly.

Patrick DeArme wrote: I may have missed something but is this tool available to the public? This is different than the UMD screening tool? Devon Dodson wrote back that yes, it is different - it incorporates more data that's MDE specific. Another person asked: On the solid waste facilities, is that only current operating or closed as well? because a landfill is an issue cradle to grave, not just when it's actively taking trash. Devon wrote that you can add in CAFO proximity

It was asked if we will be able to include MDH Environmental Health Tracking or at least reference that system or link to that system. Yes, this is on our list of things we'd like to do and include. There should be a longer conversation about how we might share that information.

Regina Boyce and Monica Brooks both expressed excitement for the launch. Monica Brooks really likes the idea of the health information being added.

Voncia Molock asked who will have access to the tool and how will training be rolled out? Devon Dodson answered that everyone will have access, hopefully sometime in May. There are some bugs we are trying to work out and we are currently testing internally

Rebecca Rehr asked via chat: Can you please comment on this tool in the context of implementation of HB 1200, as well? Devon answered that HB 1200 is written so that applicants have a choice of mapping tools to include in their packet of public information, and the hope is they will choose the MDE tool once it is available.

Joseph Griffiths also wrote in the chat that he agrees that this tool is excellent. I may have missed it, but does it currently or will it identify the overburdened census tracts by percentiles? Devon Dodson answered yes, by percentile overburdened will show the layers and the tool will do that. How you interpret it is up to you, but this is a state agency providing the citizens of Maryland with data and information that people have suggested to this Commission that we were failing to do. This is the culmination of what we can provide. There is a big difference between knowing this in your head and seeing it on a map that can be shared, discussed, etc.

Paulette Hammond wrote: I think advocates in these communities would welcome this data to booster their environmental advocacy. Voncia Molock asked in chat: Can you make training required BEFORE access to the tool is granted? Devon Dodson said that there will be a training session available. He sees the point, but we'd have to think about that.

Someone asked if the tool tracks crematories. Not in there yet, but we could reach out and perhaps include it.

Paulette Hammond asked Kate Majchrzak what if the year or years of each data set displayed were easily visible? Kate answered that we are using the permitting information and you can see the year in the description.

Subha Chandar asked in the chat, so you could be seeing data sets on a map, but from different years? Yes, depending on the data available and how it is tracked. Paulette Hammond asked if pet crematories will be included? Devon Dodson answered that he is not sure if we track that, but he will reach out to ARA to ask. If so, it could be added.

Monica Brooks said that this tool is encouraging. A lot of people may not know what is in their community, this can help. When I moved here I did not know and health data can be very beneficial.

Patrick DeArmey asked if sewer overflows are included or could be added to this? MDE already has a database for them. Kate Majchrzak said yes, you are correct Patrick, I'm in the process of reaching out to various administrations to get access to those datasets

5. Public Comment - There were no public comments.

Cliff Mitchell asked about a meeting on housing issues. Devon Dodson suggested that we need to go through everything we need to do and meetings we need to have. This discussion leads to a decision to maybe not meet in May while we make plans for the summer offline. Joe, John, and Subha volunteered to coordinate how to proceed, as did Delegate Boyce. We will not meet in August.

Adjourned at 11:21 a.m.