

MARYLAND COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Joint Meeting of the CEJSC and CEHPAC
February 15, 2022

Minutes

CEJSC Members: Ben Grumbles, Camille Burke, Barbara Paca, John Papagni, Joseph Griffiths, Lesliam Quiros, Monica Brooks, Paula Dannenfeldt, Phillip Wilson, Subha Chandar, Voncia Molock, Melissa Brown, Crystal Faison

CEHPAC Members: Cliff Mitchell, Eamon Flynn, Camille Burke, Christina Drushel-Williams, Devon Dodson, Kelly Love, Laura Allen, Megan Latshaw, Nse Witherspoon, Paul Ferraro, Ben Gitterman, Jovonne Walker, Kristen Rawlett, Dianna Abney, Alicia Mezu

Guests in attendance: Cassie Shirk, Veronika Carella, Shweta Sharma, Carol Holland, Horacio Tablada, Kimberlee Drake, Linda Boyd, Rachel White, Ruth Ann Norton, Shweta Sharma, Suzanne Dorsey, Veronika Carella, Ruth Ann Norton, Gabrielle Leach, George Stewart, Holly Richard Porter, Lisa Nissley

Welcome from both chair & secretary
November, December, January Minutes

- Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established for both CEHPAC and CEJSC.
- The Chair of each committee welcomed our guest and talked about the many overlaps between the commission and the council's interest. Today we will discuss legislation that both groups are following.
- CEJSC Chair, Camille Burke pointed out that Lisa Nissley shared the minutes from the past few meetings. Please take a look at them after the meeting and let us know if you have any edits.

- Announcement that Ruth Ann Norton has been named as the president of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission, and a joint meeting of LPPC, CEJSC, and CEHPAC was discussed.
- CEHPAC discussed relevant legislation for 2022, including:
 - SB 268 (Pesticide Regulations) received an unfavorable report.
 - HB 665/SN 576 and HB 686 which address school indoor air quality. Suggestion that CEHPAC may, as it has done in the past, articulate a general policy statement related to a particular topic. Delegate Brooks noted the need for air quality improvement efforts throughout Maryland, including in rural communities on the Eastern Shore.
 - Camille Burke motions that COPAC draft a letter stating that CEHPAC strongly supports the assessment of indoor air quality in schools, including the measurement of carbon dioxide in schools to measure ventilation, and further endorses that funding should be available to allow school systems to carry out those assessments throughout schools. Further, such evaluations should be made public as a matter of public interest. Seconded by Megan Latshaw.
 - Discussion about the role of CEHPAC in implementing policy changes.
 - Motion passed. (Chair, co-chair, Kristen Rawlett, and Kelly Love abstained).
- CEJSC discussed relevant legislation for 2022, including:
 - HB 171/SB 135: Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act, which tasks CEJSC with implementing certain provisions of the bill. The chair notes that the General Assembly has not filled any of the vacancies on the Commission, limiting the capacity of the Commission
 - HB 653/SB 348: Conservation Finance Act which requires CEJSC to make recommendations to MDE related to advancing human rights to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water
 - HB 708: Comprehensive Climate Solutions & SB 528: Climate Solutions Now Act, The bills are not crossfiles, but the CEJSC language is nearly identical. The bills require MDE to consult with CEJSC to recommend methodologies for identifying communities disproportionately impacted by climate change
 - HB 18: Paint Stewardship Program
 - HB 100: Sustainable Maryland Program Fund - Establishment
 - HB 402/SB 221: Department of Environment - Enforcement Authority, the OAG bill on water programs at MDE
 - HB 507: Environment - Electric Vehicle CHarging Infrastructure - EJ Considerations
 - HB 595/SB 90: Department of the Environment - SEP Database, Lisa Nissley let the Commission know the Department is already doing most of what this bill requires.
 - HB 596/SB 783: Constitutional Amendment - Environmental Rights - last year both the Council and the Commission sent letters of support on this bill (reintroduction)
 - HB 1033: Environment and Energy - Investment in Overburdened Communities - this bill deletes the definition of EJ and adds a definition of EJ principles. This could be problematic since the EJ definition is widely used and referred to in other parts of the law.
 - HB 1200: Environment Permit Application - EJ Screening
 - Ultimately, the Commission will write letters on HB 18, the Climate bills (as a group discussing resources of the Commission), and HB 596/SB 783 (repeat letter from last year). Camille Burke will touch base with Delegate Boyce about her new bill.
- The Green and Healthy Homes Initiative requested support of HB 361/SB 320 - Mold assessment and remediation; HB 108/SB 524 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Program;

and HB 101 - Landlord and Tenant - Repossession for Failure to Pay Rent - Lead Risk Reduction Compliance.

- Cliff will follow up with CAPAC members via email regarding HB 141, which is a revival of a bill CEHPAC previously weighed in on.

Public Comments:

- Linda Boyd asks for the support of CEJSC and CEHPAC for the environmental human rights constitutional amendment.
- Megan Latshaw added in the chat box: Hope that we can again support the proposed Environmental Human Rights Amendment (SB783 & HB596) that we sent a letter on last year. We also sent a letter last year on a bill similar to the Equity in Transportation. Hoping we can update it and resend it.
- Veronika Carella, MD CEHC Leg Director shared comments: Please include the “regulations of pesticides in Maryland” on the agenda for your next meetings, as this is an overlapping issue. CEJSC and CEHPAC both have a statutory duty to advise and act to protect children, public health, and the environment. This decision is what is best for Maryland – not what is best for the Agencies who serve Marylanders. Decisions must be made that are in the best interest of Maryland, its children and our environment. CEHPAC and CEJSC must decide if the regulation of toxins belongs with MDA or MDE. At the state level Marylanders will be better served when those tasked with protecting the environment and public health have a role in overseeing hazardous chemicals used in Maryland. The system of pesticide regulations is not working – resulting in harm to our children and natural resources. MDA has proven that they are unwilling and unable to regulate pesticides in a way that protects children and their environment, including air, water and soil. Please provide a deadline for the long overdue responses to the May 11, 2021 CEHPAC Call to Action Letters to MDA and MSDE. We still await the BOE Policies and DOE Plans for both the IPM in Schools and Green Cleaning Laws. How long do the children of Maryland have to wait? MDA and MSDE Secretaries are CEHPAC Commissioners bound by statute to act in a timely manner. No more deflect, deny and delay tactics. We are all waiting.. The Children are waiting.

The meeting was adjourned (motioned by Kristen Rawlett, seconded by Laura Allen, passed unanimously).