

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC) Meeting
April 22nd
Domino Sugar Baltimore Refinery
New Administration Building
Main Conference Room
1100 Key Highway East
Baltimore, MD 21230**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Larissa Johnson, Arabia Davis, Benoy Thomas, Stephan Levitsky, Dick Fairbanks, Andrew Fellows, Lisa Nissley, Calvin Ball, John Quinn, Molly Mckee (for Senator Bill Ferguson)
- Participants: Megan Ulrich, Darlene Mitchell, Crystal Lemieux, Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Angelo Bianca

Introductions:

Business Outreach

Lisa Nissley said that MDE's intern gathered permit documents for permits with a public review process and suggested placement of EJ language in those documents. Lisa and Megan are currently reviewing the location of the EJ language.

Angelo Bianca said that the Air permit is already on-line with the EJ language. The permit guide has the EJ language, as well as the application itself. He said that companies that deal with MDE all the time might not see the new language because they just continue to use the same forms, but new companies will get these forms from now on. He said that the application asks the company to give MDE its plans for outreach.

Academic Community

Lisa said MDE gave its EJ internship application to UMBC, Morgan State, University of Maryland College Park, fellow CEJSC Commissioners and posted it on MDE's website. MDE has received some interest in the position. Lisa asked Larissa Johnson if she wanted to discuss her internship idea as well.

Larissa said that she was thinking of creating an internship to focus on making low income housing more energy efficient, including ways to reach out to the community about energy efficiency. Energy is an EJ issue, so maybe the CEJSC could work on it.

Benoy asked if there was any funding to pay interns or if the interns were eligible to receive credit.

Lisa said that MDE has worked with the students to get them school credit in the past. There is also potentially funding for summer student positions at MDE; however, typically internships are unpaid.

Steve Levitsky asked who at MEA is working on energy efficiency in low income housing units.

John Quinn said Matt Brucher is working on it for BGE.

Steve said West Virginia University did an energy audit at the Domino Sugar Plant, maybe they would be willing to do an audit for the state as well.

John Quinn said that someone from MEA could possibly come speak to the CEJSC about the issue.

Legislative Outreach

Lisa said that we can discuss legislation action items at the CEJSC July retreat. We can ID legislators to talk to about EJ and create a plan for moving forward. The June primaries are right before the retreat.

Andy agreed that it would be best to do outreach to legislators after the primaries.

Calvin said that the General Assembly will be getting anywhere between 50-60 new members.

Lisa said that EHE/ENV will have new committee members as well. The Speaker and President will have to move people around.

Andy said we should talk to the President and Speaker in the interim. He said that the cumulative impacts bill will likely be back next session. The environmental advocates did not find out about the bill until it had already moved along this past session and therefore they were not well organized on the bill. The idea came from someone in Senator Benson's district and the bill was seemingly still alive until the last week of Session. The environmental community is already working on a bill for next year.

Calvin said that once the primary is over, we can talk to the Speaker and the President about committee assignments, talk to new members about the EJ-101 and talk about legislative priorities for next Session.

Megan said that HB 1430 that passed during the 2014 Session affects the CEJSC directly because it requires one member of the CEJSC to serve on CEHPAC. The CEJSC will

need to consider who is going to serve in the dual-role. The bill takes effect on October 1st.

Calvin asked that any Commissioner who is interested in serving as the joint representative for CEJSC/CEHPAC let Lisa and Megan know by June 1st, 2014.

County Outreach

Calvin asked Megan for any updates on county outreach.

Megan said that she drafted an email to go out to the counties that have an environmental department or office of sustainability. She will circulate the draft.

Dick said that he got contact information from Prince George's County at the CEJSC December meeting and would like to follow-up with them.

Larissa asked if all the Environmental Directors in Maryland meet regularly?

Lisa said that the Environmental Health Directors meet quarterly at MDE. She said that it takes a lot of time between meetings to organize new events, but that presenting at meetings that are already scheduled for various groups is a feasible option.

Calvin agreed that the CEJSSC has tried to schedule meetings with various groups before and that it seems to work out better when we go to a meeting that is already organized and present at those meetings. He also said that maybe we should organize something at MACo's summer conference.

Larissa said that maybe the energy efficiency could tie into county outreach as well.

Calvin said that he is glad Larissa brought that up, because it aligns with the CEJSC's charge of EJ and sustainability issues.

Andy said that there is a lot of potential to create jobs in energy efficiency.

Calvin said that he reached out to the Smart Growth Commission and he should be able to report back at the next meeting.

Arabia said that she is working on having the Calvin speak as CEJSC Chair at the September Planning Director's meeting. She would also like to invite county environmental departments and DHCD to attend. Also, she would like to schedule a meeting with Chuck Boyd about PlanMaryland and how to incorporate EJ into it.

Calvin said it would be good for the CEJSC to comment on how to include EJ in PlanMaryland. He asked Arabia to send the link to PlanMaryland to Lisa/Megan, then they can distribute it to the Commissioners. He asked each Commissioner to send any

comments to Lisa and Megan before the next meeting on how to incorporate EJ into PlanMaryland.

Stephanie said that is also something that is consistent with the CEJSC's charge because PlanMaryland is a state policy. It would be a good opportunity for the CEJSC to comment.

Title VI

Lisa said we have been working on moving the Title VI letter forward.

Darlene said that we discussed the letter, and asked Robin to make some changes. We are at a place where we would like some feedback from the CEJSC. MDE also has a meeting scheduled with MTA to discuss their Title VI programs and MDE's EJ initiatives.

Calvin said he would like the Title VI letter to go out soon.

Stephanie Cobb-Williams said that the letter should go out to all State agencies because advising all State agencies on EJ is part of the CEJSC's charge.

Andy said that it would be good to see how Title VI is applied across all state agencies.

Lisa asked that since we are close to getting the Title VI letter out to the agencies, should we table the other Title VI items until after the letter goes out. That way people have time to ask us questions and we can get an idea of further initiatives that may or may not be needed.

Calvin said that makes sense to start with the letter and then see what else we might want to do as follow-up to the letter.

Other Business:

Calvin asked if we could get a motion to approve the March minutes.

John Quinn motioned to accept the minutes.

Andy seconded the motion.

The March minutes were approved.

Dick asked if he can pursue looking into a location for the CEJSC July Retreat. He said that Linkin Park has a great new facility with air conditioning and a conference room. He will check if the facility rental is free.

Calvin said that it was a great idea for Dick to do some preliminary research on a Retreat location.

Lisa said that the Retreat location will need to be booked pretty soon, so she would need the information within a few weeks.

Andy said that the Gwynn Falls watershed is a good place to highlight because of what has been accomplished there, what they learned about the tree canopy, and what needs work.

Adjourn

The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for May 27th at Montgomery Park.