

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD
Aeris Conference Room
June 27, 2017

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Duane Johnson, Robert Hackman, Rebecca Rehr, Dick Fairbanks, Subha Chandar, Crystal Faison, Camille Burke, Janet Moye Cornick, Clarence Lam, Joseph Griffiths

- Participants: Liz Entwisle, Jeaneen Maxwell Logan, Angelo Bianca

Introduction

Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

May meeting minutes were approved.

CEJSC/CEHPAC Joint Meeting Update

Camille highlighted the four topics that were discussed: Climate Change and Children's Health, Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, Health in All Policies and the Impact Case Studies.

Rebecca indicated the Health in All Policies Commission did meet and their report is due in January 2018.

Camille said that Children's Environmental Health & Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) wanted CEJSC to consider partnering with them on the topics of Pesticides and Climate Change. Camille said she needed to get more details from CEHPAC before she commits CEJSC.

Case Study Updates

Eastern Shore: Subha Chandar indicated that DHMH has a Climate Change grant from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and as long as they have the grant they will continue to work on the health related adaptation related climate change issues.

Subha said the Eastern Shore Land Conservatory hasn't taken on environmental justice health equity approach to community engagement and maybe CEJSC could make suggestions. She said in terms of making this a full fledged case that could be something that could talk about at the July retreat.

Rebecca Rehr talked about what is the intent of the case studies saying that they are more about showing geographical diversity so that people would understand that it's just not

Baltimore City or Prince George County. She said it's really to show what tangible examples of what is environmental justice. She people really don't have a tangible example what environmental justice is and how is Maryland already implementing the principles without naming them as environmental justice communities.

Dick Fairbanks suggested discussing Chicken Farms at the retreat.

Rebecca mention the Community Healthy Air Act and suggested continue discussion about it.

Baltimore City: Rebecca said that the Baltimore Office of Sustainability provided a short YouTube video and an article that would be helpful in the case study. She said she having more discussions with them to get more down to specific language to provide to Planners the group she really targeting. She said goal is to have written pieces written up for the Annual Report.

Rebecca said it's worth bringing back up the EPA equitable development idea as a resource.

Robert Hackman suggested in the Annual Report to include the distinction when the outreach is done whoever is doing the outreach recognizes that there are different people to deal with, Rebecca concurred.

Potential Community Outreach with Education, Communication and Outreach (ECO)

Liz Entwisle from MDE gave an update on the Maryland Climate Change Commission outreach toolkit being developed and asked CEJSC to provide resources to help build it out. She said the goal is have a library of fact sheets and other resources that climate communicators can access and download from MCCC webpage and use in diverse communities, businesses and other organizations.

Liz said another piece of the puzzle is building the communicator list a list of communicators who will go out to the communities to share information on climate change or topics of their choosing.

Robert Hackman suggested getting MML and MACo on board as far as identifying communities to do outreach too.

Duane will send out the MCCC toolkit to all Commissioners.

Maryland Association of Counties Summer Conference

Les Knapp gave an overview of what it is that MACo does indicating that MACo is the voice of all of the 23 Counties including Baltimore City. It's a non partisan nonprofit organization who don't care what party you belong too. As a result of continue discussions and meetings with CEJSC it was determined that a more formal discussion with MACo and CEJSC would be appropriate. Les said that's how the invitation came about for some of CEJSC Commissioners to participate at MACo summer conference 2017. The goal is to talk to Planners and Administrators concerning issues of concerns of both organizations and see if it's away to work together to resolve those issues.

Les said he would like to see 2 or 3 Commissioners attend the conference and he would allow them to stay to hear other environmental sessions if needed. Rebecca Rehr said she will be attending the conference on behalf of CEJSC.

It was mentioned for those who might be attending the conference if they could set some goals beforehand and to continue discussing these goals at the July retreat.

It was some discussion about the agenda for the MACo conference, Les went through the agenda briefly. Commissioners had some dialogue about what's the best approach to engaging the audience at the EJ session. It was suggested posing a series EJ questions to the audience such as; what does EJ mean to you etc. Dick Fairbanks said this is what real outreach represents participating in something like the MACo conference.

It was suggested that CEJSC join with the MDE booth at the conference and hand out some fliers and answer some questions about EJ.

July Retreat Discussion

Camille said that the retreat is on July 25th at The College Park Airport 1985 Corporal Frank Scott Drive College Park, MD

Camille asked for ideas for the retreat.

- Delegate Lam volunteer to do a session on the legislative process and how the annual reports gets to the Governor. Rebecca mentioned that Common Cause might be able to help with this.
- Rebecca suggested reintroducing David Harrington to the Commission, Crystal Faison said she will reach out to David about inviting him.
- Camille said that Reggie Harris from the EPA has confirmed that he will be attending.
- Goals for 2018 were mentioned as a topic.

Public Comments

Liz from MDE talked a little bit about the Climate Ambassador program which will train a number of people to talk about a number of climate issues. She said as a pilot they are starting with Bon Secour Community Works in Baltimore. She said they plan on this pilot to start other Climate Ambassador programs in other communities. Another initiative they are working on is the Climate Champion which reaches out to the business sector to help their companies reduce the carbon footprint of their companies operations.

Camille asked Commissioners to complete their Financial Disclosure Form if they haven't already done so.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting July 25th