

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

March 26, 2019

9:30 am- 11:30 am

Maryland Department of the Environment

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Duane Johnson, Janet Moye Cornick, Richard Fairbanks, Joseph Griffiths, Steve Levitsky, John Quinn, Paula Dannenfeldt, Robert Hackman, Malachy Rice, Camille Burke
- **Participants:** Steve Charles, Jeaneen Maxwell, Paulette Hammond

Introductions

- Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.
- January meeting minutes were approved.
- Camille talked about vacancies indicating there are 3 on the Commission.

2019 Legislative Session

- Camille discussed environmental bills that were introduced during this year's legislative session and she would send copies of the bills to the Commissioners.
- Duane said he would continue to try to set up a meeting with the Legislative Black Caucus, if not now, then in the near future.
- Robert Hackman suggested having a post-legislative meeting around June 2019 to find out what happened this legislative session.
- John Quinn suggested it would still be a good idea to meet in Annapolis even if it is for one month instead of three and that he could help facilitate this meeting.

MACo Update

- Richard Fairbanks said he is planning on contacting the MACo folks within the next week. He continued to stress the importance of building on the relationship with Les Knapp.
- John Quinn suggested having a table at the next MACo conference and said he would help facilitate this.
- Joseph Griffiths said MACo also has a winter conference also and that he would reach out to Les Knapp about future ideas.

Eastern Shore Study Update

- Steve Levitsky said the Eastern Shore Study is essentially completed and that the Commission can look forward to seeing it soon.

Children Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) update

- Camille briefed the Commissioners on several bills that CEHPAC either support or does not supports such as: HB 70, HB 124, HB277, HB27 and HB275. Camille said she's not exactly sure which of these bills passed.
- Camille asked the Commissioners what they would like to discuss at the May 28th joint meeting and she will ask Cliff Mitchell to speak on asthma in Maryland.

Announcements

Duane announced that the new Commissioner representing the Senate is Senator Obie Patterson.

Joseph Griffiths announced he will be participating in the UMD EJ Symposium on May 11.

Outreach Plan Update

Joseph Griffiths said he had a long discussion with Tamara Toles O'Laughlin from the Maryland Environmental Health Network (MEHN). Some of the topics they discussed were:

- The MEHN website has an extensive library of informational documents. Things for CEJSC to consider include:
 - Can we post our research (case studies, etc.) there?
 - How can we use the materials that MEHN has already created?
 - These resources are expansive. Should we leave this level of research and education to MEHN?
 - Should we write one or more articles for the MEHN blog?
 - Do we want to post anything on their events page-or involve ourselves with events they are already putting on?

Joe said that Tamara is leaving MEHN to work for an organization called 350.org where she-going to be developing the "Unchurched, Unbanked, Unaffiliated (UUU) Network"-which can feed into the work of CEJSC.

Tamara will also be working with the Climate Change Commission.

Joe said he also asked Tamara some specific questions such as;

- How does MEHN solicit local input on EJ issues?
- Does MEHN conduct outreach?

Tamara said yes, primarily by relationship building through Community of Communities and providing practitioners with technical assistance (Joe said he needs to follow-up with her to get more details on this.)

Tamara said- their meeting minutes and workshop notes are on their website but, Joe said couldn't find them.

MEHN disseminates information on a list serve, which should be shared with the whole CEJSC. Joe asked if anybody from the Commission is on MEHN's list-serve and Camille said that she is.

Joe asked if Tamara if the Commission could use MEHN's network to send out communications or surveys. She said yes, a new network should be coming out soon and if Joe reached out to her next week she could connect him to the network.

Joe said the Commission should begin to think about how we can use this offer?

Paulette Hammond from the Citizen Campaign for the Environment asked if CEJSC would be interested in joining them for some discussion or getting involved in their organization.

Joe said he also asked Tamara about the idea of regionalism and localism and if MEHN has priorities broken down by region or community. She said they do but that they are coordinated by distinct groups or subject areas and not compiled generally. She said this information is also on the list-serv.

Tamara also said infrastructure is an issue everywhere but it differs by area (water, energy etc).

A final question asked of Tamara was- How can CEJSC support her work or piggyback on it? She said CEJSC could:

- Develop a platform
- Convene different groups
- Develop a framework for collecting information and gathering people and groups
- Help factor human health into the development of any state level process

Joe said these are some questions CEJSC should consider:

- How do we want to use the MEHN network for communication or outreach?
- What would our role as convener or platform developer for the UUU look like?
- How can we compile regional and local information, analyze it, and develop recommendations?
- How do we use the list serve information?
- Do we want to set up a liaison to MEHN or 350.org? How do we support the UUU?
- Can we offer or develop any form of technical assistance?

Robert Hackman asked is the Commission's job is to provide recommendations to the Governors or to do the actual outreach. Camille said she would look for clarity on this and get back to the Commission.

Steve Levitsky suggested that the Commission begin to consider a replacement for the MEHN representative.

Duane said Tamara showed some interest in joining the Commission after the legislative session.

Public Comments

Paulette Hammond asked- What is the genesis of the CEJSC commission?
Duane said he would send Paulette some literature by email.

Meeting Adjourned