

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC) Meeting**

**November 18th, 2014, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Maryland Department of the Environment
Aqua Conference Room
1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore 21230**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Lisa Nissley, Rebecca Rehr, Dick Fairbanks, Meredith Moise, Larissa Johnson, Robin Underwood
- Participants: Megan Ulrich, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Jeaneen Logan, Lauren Rodgers, Angelo Bianca

Introductions: Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

Legislative Outreach:

Lisa asked Rebecca if she could give an update on identifying relevant data sets.

Rebecca said that she reached out to DHMH to ask them about the Health Enterprise Zones (HEZs). She is currently trying to set up a call with DHMH staff. The five HEZs are spread across the state.

Stephanie asked where the HEZs are located.

Rebecca said that there is one in West Baltimore, Annapolis/Morris Blum, Prince George's County /Capital Heights, Dorchester/Caroline Counties, and St. Mary's County/Greater Lexington Park.

Lisa asked Rebecca to update everyone once she hears back from DHMH.

Lisa said that the even though the CEJSC cannot host a reception at the Legislative Black Caucus (LBC) Weekend Conference this year, the Commission can pursue a relationship with the group. In regard to the joint hearing, the CEJSC can reassert its request to have a briefing once we know who the new committee chairs will be. There will be some movement on Environmental Committees in both the House and Senate.

Meredith asked if the CEJSC is still looking for an environmental champion in the LBC.

Lisa said yes, the CEJSC is looking for an environmental champion and that person could be a member of the LBC.

Academic/Community:

Lisa asked Dick if he had heard anything from Arabia regarding sea level rise and Zoe Johnson's possible presentation.

Dick said he hadn't heard from Arabia.

Lisa said she would check in with Arabia.

Dick asked the name of the new Commission working on Sea Level Rise at DNR.

Megan said she thinks it is called the Coast Smart Council.

Cumulative Impact Workgroup:

Lisa said that MDE will need guidance from the new administration on the Cumulative Impact Workgroup before anything moves forward. Also, due to the transition period and other factors, there will not be a December CEJSC meeting. That meeting is a working lunch if needed and has been canceled in other years as well.

Rebecca said that another group she works with is writing an introductory letter to Governor-Elect Larry Hogan's Transition Team. She was wondering if the CEJSC might want to do something similar.

Dick said his neighbor Roger Campos is serving on the Transition Team.

Lisa said she thought it was a good idea to draft the letter and asked Rebecca if she could take the lead on writing it.

Rebecca said she could draft the letter.

Lisa said that there will be some staffing changes throughout the Executive branch and while EJ may not be the first issues to get tackled, it would be good to establish some connections with the new administration.

Dick asked if the CEJSC will still be meeting in room 218 in Annapolis and if Secretary Summers will be staying on as Secretary of MDE.

Lisa said that Delegate Bobo's aid booked room 218 for the CEJSC in the past. MDE staff is currently looking into room options for 2015. She said that Governor-Elect Hogan has not announced his cabinet positions yet.

CEHPAC Report:

No one was present to give the CEHPAC update.

Other Business:

There was not a quorum for approval of September and October minutes.

Lisa asked if anyone had any other updates.

Meredith said that the Baltimore City Council passed a ban on plastic bags and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said she would veto the bill because she did not think there was sufficient public input. Meredith said that there are equity issues to be considered because distressed communities will have to purchase bags. If the ban goes through it would help to have free bags available.

Dick asked what the purpose was behind the legislation. Is it a revenue source for the City?

Larissa said it is an effort to reduce the massive amount of trash (particularly plastic bags) that is in Baltimore's waterways, parks, and public spaces.

Rebecca said maybe there could be a bag giveaway or bag exchange.

Meredith said maybe it is an issue the CEJSC can look at in the future.

Meredith also said that trash pick-up in the city is another equity issue. In her community, which is a distressed area, she is not allowed to put her trash in the trash can directly. She contacted the Baltimore City DPW and they verified that she has to put all of her trash into a plastic garbage bag before putting it in the trash can.

Dick said that he has interacted with the Baltimore City DPW for many years and never had that issue.

Meredith said his experience with DPW may be different, but that was her experience.

Rebecca said that on December 1st, there is a public hearing on the Targa Resource's proposed crude oil shipping terminal which would move Bakken crude oil from North Dakota to Baltimore by rail. The company is requesting to retrofit the facility and the rail infrastructure is old and the company is not required to disclose any emergency plan.

Stephanie said that they might not be disclosing their emergency plan for security reasons.

Rebecca said yes, that's possible.

Robin said that the transport of crude oil by rail is not regulated by USDOT/FRA.

Stephanie said she is not sure which federal agency regulates it, but it is regulated.

Angelo said that the December 1st public hearing is MDE's hearing and it is about an air emissions permit that the company requested. It is only a small part of the whole project. MDE has heard from the Sierra Club, CCAN, and EIP about the project. Angelo said he is not sure what government agency communities should be reaching out to if they have concerns on the project as a whole.

Rebecca said the Baltimore City Council will be making the ultimate decision on whether or not to allow the facility to be retrofitted to store the crude oil.

Robin said that MDOT has a Canton Railroad project to keep trains near the Port of Baltimore separate from the highway. The project has already gone through a NEPA analysis.

Dick said that George Washington University is helping to sponsor a large solar project that would site solar panels in North Carolina and have the power feed into the grid to provide power to Washington, D.C.

Angelo asked how many Megawatts the project will produce.

Dick said 52 Megawatts.

Adjourn

The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for January 27th, 2015 in Annapolis.