

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD
Terra Conference Room
June 26th 2018
9:30 am- 11:30 am

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Duane Johnson, Subha (Phone), John Quinn(Phone), Richard Fairbanks, Crystal Faison, Joseph Griffiths, J Moye Cornick, Malachy Rice

- **Participants:** Jacqueline Norris, Mary Yakaitis, Knowles Little, Stephanie Cobb-Williams

Introductions

Crystal Faison started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

May meeting minutes were approved.

New Business

Crystal briefly went over the new business agenda and asked anyone who had did EJ topics they wanted to discuss at the retreat to forward them to Duane. Once all the ideas are compiled they will be sent out to the entire Commission.

The date of the retreat is July 24, 2018. The address is 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD.

Crystal asked the Commissioners to be prepared to speak about their expertise at the retreat and for a 1 to 5 sentence bio from each Commissioner.

There was some discussion about forming community liaisons/ambassadors to help gage community concerns.

Richard Fairbanks said he could enlist some of the community groups he's involved with to come in and talk about some their issues.

Richard indicated the topic at MACo conference in Annapolis will be 'Water, Water Everywhere' but he wasn't sure how much of an EJ issue it was.

Subha asked if the Commission will spend some time at the retreat on identifying community liaisons/ambassadors. Crystal said yes.

Crystal said another goal is to devote some time to Prince George's County and invite Adam Ortiz out to the retreat to talk about his EJ Commission in PG County.

The Lead and Asthma conversation was postponed until further notice.

Subha from MDH said she would be happy to work with Camille on the Lead and Asthma topic.

Old Business

Joseph Griffiths talked about the outreach document he forwarded to the Commissioners. He said when considering outreach he focuses on 3 different items/plans before going out to the communities:

1. Communication Guidelines – How the Commission is going to say things and what media to use.
2. Outreach Plan – How to actually get people involved and what networking is going to be involved.
3. Engagement Plan- What question to ask once we have the community's attention.

Duane asked what the next step is. Joseph said to fill the out document he provided and answer the questions to be discussed at the retreat. The goal is to come out of the retreat with really good ideas, fill in the blanks, and bring them back to the September meeting for approval.

Subha said there ought to be working groups at the retreat to discuss Joseph's outreach plan

Public Comments

Mary Yakaitis, Vice President of the Greater Glen Hills Coalition, Knowles Little, Vice President of the Potomac Highlands Citizens Association and Jeffrey Kurland, President of the Potomac Highland Citizens Association came out to share information about their experiences concerning the Glen Hills sewer service restrictions.

Ms. Yakaitis said one of the reasons they came to CEJSC meeting is because they feel their concerns falls within CEJSC's mandate.

Some of their issues are:

- Glen Hills residents who have aging septic systems are being discriminated against by County policies restricting sewer connection. Most residents cannot meet new standards for replacing their septic systems but are not allowed to hook up to sewer.
- Montgomery County policies deny Glen Hills residents protection from pollution of their wells, streams, and ground water; creating a potential public health crisis.
- These restrictions apply within a community where some residents already have sewer service
- About 70 percent of the 542 properties that use septic systems won't be able to replace them and will not be able to obtain sewer service.
- They said they are the only community in the County subject to such restrictions and bear a disproportionate share of the negative consequences.

After continued discussion and some important questions from the Commissioners it was suggested this might be more of a public health issue than an environmental justice issue.

Joseph said he would look into the matter more and get back to Mary Yakaitis.

Meeting Adjourned