

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)**  
**November 19, 2013**  
**Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD 21230**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Calvin Ball, Andy Fellows, Benoy Thomas, Karen Forbes, Andrea K. Taylor, Lisa Nissley, Robin Underwood
  
- Participants: Megan Ulrich, Crystal Heide, Richard Allen

**Introductions**

Each participant introduced themselves.

**Legislative Outreach**

Calvin gave a summary of the LBC reception. He said that the reception went pretty well. The Commission emailed all the participants to thank them for attending. He said that the Commissioners made some good connections with State legislators.

Megan said that the following legislators were in attendance: Delegate Washington, Delegate Jones, Delegate Pena-Melnyk, Delegate Cardin, and Delegate Braveboy. Additional attendees included: Ken Ulman, Frank Turner, Dr. Wilson, from Morgan State University, and several interested community members. Commissioners Calvin Ball, John Quinn, Scot Spencer, and Vernice Miller-Travis were also in attendance.

**County Outreach**

Megan said that she and Lisa were in contact with staff at MDP about the possibility of making an EJ presentation at the December Planning Directors' meeting. The Planning Directors' had a scheduling mix-up at their October meeting and therefore had to re-arrange the December meeting as well. Lisa and Megan will follow-up about future opportunities to present at a Planning Director's meeting.

Lisa and Megan contacted Adam Ortiz and his staff to discuss his ideas for the December meeting. Megan said that Prince George's County confirmed that they will host the meeting on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Megan asked them to send the details of the time and place by today's meeting but has not heard from them yet regarding those details. She will follow-up with them again and send the meeting details out to the Commissioners. Prince George's County provided a summary of the topics that they plan to discuss. They will be discussing: the status of their EJ initiative and issues they are encountering with implementation; their initiatives for environmental sustainability; and issues that other jurisdictions are experiencing with respect to EJ.

Andrea suggested that the CEJSC invite all of the state/county elected officials from Prince George's County to the December meeting.

Megan said she would check-in with Prince George's County on how many people the conference room can hold.

Robin said she lives in Prince George's County and she is happy to help with the meeting.

## **Title VI**

Robin said that she drafted a letter to send to different agencies that gives a background on Title VI and discusses Title VI obligations. Robin will send the letter to Calvin, Lisa, and Megan after the meeting. Robin also suggested that the state pass a Title VI law.

Richard Allen said that there is a Statewide Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Coordinator under DBM. This coordinator is in charge of all the Fair Practice Officers at the various state agencies. Richard will send Megan information on the EEO Coordinator and Fair Practices Officers.

Andy suggested that looping MDA in on Title VI would be a good idea.

## **Other Business- Conference call with MDA regarding pesticides and public health**

Andy discussed the conference call with MDA. Andy said that he was impressed overall with how MDA works to protect communities from pesticides. He said that MDA corresponds complaints to pesticides issues. MDA discussed day labors and how often enforcement is taking place. He said some of his questions related to issues that are being discussed at the Pesticide Workgroup. Another issue that was discussed on the call was the effect of pesticides on children who attend schools that are in poor communities. It was discussed that pesticides use at schools is not the concern, but rather housing issues are the concern.

Andy also said that MDA has a phone system that can translate Spanish, Vietnamese, and Creole so native speakers of these languages can obtain information from MDA. Andy said he thinks that these are all good efforts and the Commission should follow-up to make sure that MDA is protecting the most vulnerable populations from pesticides. Andy said the CEJSC should also follow up on food sustainability practices, such as encouraging MDA to create initiatives on alleviating food deserts.

Lisa said that she spoke with someone from the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) and he said that, based on surveys, there are about 2,000 undocumented migrant workers in the state. He said there are 673 workers with an H2 visa.

Andrea said that the Pesticide Workgroup is releasing a report. After the report is released the CEJSC should send a support letter to legislators or the Governor about it.

## **Business Outreach**

Lisa gave an update on inserting language into the EJ permitting documents. She said that MDE reviewed John Quinn's suggested edits to the language and liked them. MDE will start by putting

this EJ language into its air permits. MDE is possibly getting an intern this winter. If they get the intern, that person can look at the EJ draft language and insert it into other selected permits at MDE.

Andrea asked if the CEJSC can include links to its meeting minutes when it does blog posts.

Lisa said that can be done.

### **Academic Community**

Karen went over the internship matrix that Caroline created. She said that she and Caroline are creating the proposal for the smoking internship at housing.

Andrea and Richard Allen gave suggestions for potential academic organization partners at Morgan State University.

Lisa gave an update on MDE's internship proposal that she and Megan created. MDE would like an intern to research and develop a community outreach tool for communities affected by various environmental issues. This will be a pilot project implemented in a few communities. The first phase of this project will be to research how different communities prefer to receive information, i.e. community meetings, community newsletters, etc. The second stage of the project will focus on consolidating and analyzing this research while developing a tool for surveying communities about their interests and preferred methods of communication. In the third stage of the project, the student will implement the survey tool to determine the preferences of the various pilot communities and then analyze the results. Ultimately, the Department would like to be able to use this tool repeatedly as communities express interest in projects and/or issues of concern.

Lisa and Megan have been talking to Andrea about the proposal. MDE is going to submit this proposal to Morgan State University and Dr. Wilson at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Andrea said that the proposal should be submitted by January 1<sup>st</sup> for a summer of 2014 internship.

### **Other Business**

Lisa said that she and Megan have been making updates to the website. Once the changes are completed Megan will send a link to the Commissioners.

Lisa also said that there has been some discussion from Commissioners about changing the time of the Annapolis meetings to 9:30 a.m. She asked if anyone had an opinion on moving the meeting to 9:30 a.m. or keeping the meeting time at 8:30 a.m. The Commissioners expressed support for moving the meeting time to 9:30 a.m. in Annapolis. Lisa will confirm the conference rooms and new time with Delegate Bobo's aide.

### **Adjourn**

**The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for December 17<sup>th</sup> in Prince George's County.**