

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

February 26, 2013, 8:30am, Annapolis, MD

In Attendance:

- Commissioners: Calvin Ball, Dick Fairbanks, Nancy Servatius for Cliff Mitchell, Lisa Nissley, Vernice Miller-Travis, Andy Fellows, Christine Hill, Scot Spencer, John Kotowski and Caroline Miller-Travis, John Quinn and Caroline Varney-Alvarado
- Participants: John Sheff, Ann Goldscher for Liz Bobo and Adrienne Diaczok

Introductions, Attendance & New Members:

Lisa announces that Dr. Taylor is joining the commission and mentioned that the Affected Communities position is still vacant. Dick has four recommendations:

- Linda Towe might be a possibility; the Commission should invite her to a meeting in April in Baltimore.
- Chris Delaport is a former Parks and Rec. director from Baltimore City.
- Abby Cook works in the Baltimore City Office of Sustainability.
- Candace Thompson is former environmental/outdoors editor at the Baltimore Sun. Supported limited fish catch in the Bay.

Lisa reached out to Del. Olszewski for recommendations on Affected Communities commission members.

Business Outreach

Lisa describes the conference call on business outreach that occurred between this meeting and January's. The main points are outlined below:

- The Commission must reach out to business community where they exist rather than attempt to draw them to the commission.
- MDE can insert language into existing paper work relating to permits on how business community can affect EJ and how it can affect the business.
- MDE's Green Registry is a potential resource to find business open to discussing EJ issues. The Commission could suggest Sue Brigham speak at the annual Green Registry Banquet.
- Utilize DBED listservs to reach businesses.
- John Quinn notes that this as a gradual educational process with the business community.

Next Steps:

- Lisa is to pull together existing materials, e.g. permit applications where EJ language might be added. This is mostly likely to happen in May when session is finished.
- Lisa to follow up with the Green Registry.
- All commission members to forward potential EJ website content to Lisa.
- Lisa to work with MDE IT regarding email outreach and MDE Facebook page.
 - Work to broaden scope of weekly email to appeal to broader audience.
- Elaine took on ideas for using DBED lists.

Academic Outreach

There was a conference call regarding reaching out to Dr. Wilson at the CEEJH at the University of MD. The details of that call are outlined below:

- The question of whether Dr. Wilson can take on an intern to help communications between his office and the EJ commission was raised.
- There are a lot of EJ studies going on in Dr. Wilson's program and elsewhere (Univ. of Baltimore – Jacob Franze Institute) that could be useful for the commission. The Commission must broaden the scope of its academic search beyond Dr. Wilson.

Next Steps:

- Lisa to set up academic roundtable for April meeting.

Legislative Outreach

The question of how can we get legislators more engaged in the EJ Commission was raised. The Green Caucus is possibility although this group is reorganizing at the moment. The Citizens Campaign for the Environment is trying to get the Green Caucus back together and so an outreach effort should be made to them.

The issue is that most legislators don't necessarily know about the Commission and there needs to be an educational focus before real recruitment can begin. Because legislators are very busy during session it might be a good idea to try to engage them during the rest of the year.

Next Steps:

- MDE is working on a one-pager to distribute to legislators and this should be wrapped up during the next week if possible. Nicholas will forward Commission members for comments.
 - The email and one-pager could come from a legislator's office for greatest impact.
- Calvin and Lisa are to draft an email to every legislator announcing the Commissions' message and charge.

County Outreach

Once the legislative one-pager is complete, it will be used as the basis for a memo for the counties. Calvin suggested it should try to answer the question, "Why would county planning officials want to look at this issue?" Commission members should think about

1-2 county officials who might be willing to look at the one-pager before it's sent out to the larger group. This would be before it is sent out to MACO's summer conference. The memo should include an example of an EJ issue. Can the memo seek to link EJ with the larger "sustainability" issue? The memo should also incorporate jobs/economic development in some way.

Title VI

Lisa has offered to arrange a call between Vernice and MDE leadership on this issue. Vernice should get back to Lisa with a date that works for her. Vernice is going to follow up with Robin directly before March meeting as well.

Vernice shared that EPA is working to better establish Title VI enforcement – Bob Perciasepe is leading this effort. Bob has said he is willing to come to MDE to discuss Title VI.

There is a Title VI conference at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) this spring. This info should go on the website and email. The Commission should seek to co-sponsor this conference. There is a federal conference on EJ in DC this summer at which Vernice is speaking on Title VI. Vernice will get info to Lisa to share with the group.

Next Steps:

- Vernice is to draft letter with Chris to agencies about Title VI
- Vernice to get dates to Lisa for meeting with Kathy.

CEHPAC

- Nancy reported that CEHPAC main issues are now related to the following:
 - Consent form for tanning beds for kids under 18.
 - The pesticides bill.

Ethics Forms

- Reminder: forms due April 30th

Baltimore Sustainable Communities Initiatives

- Re-launching at University of Baltimore March 25 at 3pm
- Scot to send info to Lisa to share with group