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

**June 26, 2012**

**Aeris Conference Room 1800 Washington Blvd.**

**Baltimore, MD**

In Attendance:

* Commissioners: Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Arabia Davis, Rebecca Rehr, Lisa Nissley, Bob Sklar, Jennifer Peterson, Calvin Ball, Dianna Myles for Senator Ferguson, and John Quinn
* Participants: Crystal Heide, Kerri Morrison, and Jenny Levin

Introductions: The meeting began with introductions of Commissioners and Participants.

Lisa updated the Commission on MDE’s internal effort. A memo summarizing the MDE Internal Workgroup’s work has been approved to be shared and Lisa will circulate that to the Commissioners this week. As for the guidance documents, the business document was completed for the June 11th event and next she will be working on the county outreach document. Lisa & Calvin will be meeting soon to discuss the next steps on county outreach, including outlining the document.

The first monthly call of the agencies took place on the 11th. Caroline & Lisa participated. The next call is July 9th.

Bob recapped the business event that took place on June 11th at DBED. The event went off well and the conversation was good. There were about 40-50 people in attendance; about 60% were public sector, 40% private sector. Many of the private sector people were environmental consultants. While they do influence their clients, in the future we probably want to target decision makers. Calvin asked what type of decision makers we would like to reach in the future. Bob thinks people such as investors and developers as well as those starting new businesses. In speaking to Allyson Black of the MD Chamber of Commerce after the event, she agreed that we might speak at events the Chamber has in the future, perhaps as a breakout session of a bigger event. Then we will be going to the audience rather than trying to bring them to us.

Calvin suggested we make a list of people we would like to target. There are usually a limited number of developers working in each county so we could probably come up with a list. Bob agreed that is a good idea.

Caroline asked if there is a trade organization that would be appropriate to address. Bob mentioned the Regional Management Institute, but said they rarely have events with breakout sessions. Usually, their events are large and not conducive to a discussion. He is on the list serve though and will keep an eye out for anything appropriate. We will need to circle back with Allyson & John Quinn once we have our target list.

Rebecca proposed that we work to develop our relationship with UMD School of Public Health as the response to our academic effort has been most enthusiastic from UMD. They are in the process of opening two centers on EJ issues and a lot of the issues they are considering overlap with the work of the Commission. Once we have established a relationship there, it will be easier to engage other schools, such as JHU which has also expressed an interest. Calvin agreed with Rebecca, relaying an example of other outreach he has done for the Smart Growth Commission. Once there is a good example to build off of, other schools will be more likely to work with us.

In terms of the EJ Library, Rebecca could use help to get everything online. Lisa will seek approval for an intern to work with us on the project.

There was not a report on the Title VI disciplinary team, but Lisa suggested we might address this at the retreat and decide if we have the resources right now to move forward with this project of if it should be tabled until there is more time to commit to it.

Lisa suggested that we all commit to filling out SMART forms for their respective projects for review at the retreat. From there we can evaluate and prioritize our projects.

Jennifer Bevan Dangel discussed what we would like to do for the 2013 session in terms of outreach. It was suggested by Jennifer Peterson suggested we have one or two people develop a proposal that we review at the retreat.

Follow Up from CEHPAC Meeting will also happen at the retreat in terms of our direction and priority setting.

Lisa asked for other ideas for the retreat agenda. Previously, we discussed Health Enterprise Zones as a possible topic. It looks like that could be the morning and in the afternoon we would explore our priorities and revisit our charge. Rebecca pointed out that the comments on developing HEZs are due before the retreat on the 15th. She is willing to draft comments on behalf of the Commission and circulate them for review. It was agreed this is a good idea. Rebecca also said that she liked last year’s retreat activity where we went around the room and visited different topics to brainstorm ideas. She suggested we do that again with our current priorities/issues of interest.

Jenny Levin mentioned that she is part of the Environmental Health Network, an umbrella group to coordinate activity on public health policy and legislation. She suggested we might want to visit with the group at our retreat to hear about the upcoming session agenda. She also mentioned that the next meeting of the group is July 12th and she will share the details with Lisa to circulate.

On that note, Bob mentioned that he is aware of multiple overlapping groups that MDE is participating in. He asked if there is coordination on the policy. Lisa said that this happens on an executive letter.

Lisa reviewed the list of issues that will be included in the Annual Report including: standard items, our new operating techniques, advising MDE initiatives, the annual retreat, Plan MD Comments, Academic Effort (committee, Library, and Event), Business Event, EIP WTE Call, Research language in comp plans on EJ, Title VI outreach, Legislative activity, CEHPAC Meeting, and agency calls. Lisa relayed that this year it was an easy task to figure out what we would write about and recommend. She also noted that in this year’s report, many of our recommendations may be embedded in the report rather than a separate section. The way we have conducted business this year lends itself to doing this more than other years. No one had additional issues to add to the list. Lisa will work on the outline and ask individuals to help with the writing.

Lisa asked if anyone had additional reports. Jennifer Peterson mentioned a report coming out from EIP regarding Air Quality in Curtis Bay. She will share that with the group soon.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

**The Commissioner’s Retreat is scheduled for July 24th at 9:30 a.m. at Johns Hopkins University. Details to follow.**

Next Steps:

Update on MDE’s EJ work (MDE Initiative)

* Next Step: Lisa to share memo this week; everyone to return comment

Guidance documents at MDE- **Lisa**, Vernice, Karen, and Rebecca

* Next Step: Lisa & Calvin to outline county document; send any suggestions you have to Lisa & Calvin

Ask each agency representative to ID an EJ issue at his/her agency- **Lisa**

* Next Step: Next call scheduled for 7/9

Local jurisdictional model of incorporating EJ into permitting (HC) - **Calvin** and Lisa

* Next Step: Lisa & Calvin to meet

Business outreach: Review of event/moving forward- **John Q,** Bob, John K, Dick, Lisa

* Next Step: Bob & John Q to speak regarding upcoming events appropriate for outreach

Outreach to the Academic Community- **Rebecca** and Calvin

* Next Steps: Create priorities for working with UMD

Case Studies/building an academic library- **Rebecca**

* Next Step: Lisa will seek permission for an intern to help Rebecca

Title VI disciplinary team- **Robin,** Vernice

* Next Step: Should this remain on the agenda; perhaps postpone to another time when there are more resources to accomplish the goal?

Use SMART techniques to engage state agencies and local government- **Scot** and Andy

* Next Step: Review form for each project at the retreat

Legislative 2012 Session **–** **Jennifer Bevan-Dangel**

* Next Steps: Draft proposal for how to handle Session-related activities to be reviewed at retreat

Follow Up from CEHPAC Meeting – **Cliff,** Lisa

* Next Steps: To be determined at the retreat

Annual Report - **Lisa**

* Next Steps: Lisa to finalize outline, ask individuals to help write sections, and share timeline

Annual Commissioners Retreat

* Next Steps: Each Commissioner to fill out SMART forms for their projects for the retreat; Lisa to organize agenda and share details with Commissioners