

**Governor's Commission on  
Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities**

**Minutes**

**ATTENDEES**

**Commission Members & Designee**

Scot Spencer, Dorothy Morrison & Stephen Pattison, (Designee & representative for Kendl Philbrick), Diane Matuszak (Designee for Nelson Sabatini), Joan White (Designee for Bill Stack), Kristine Dunkerton, Andrew Fellows, and Robyn Gilden (representing Barbara Sattler)

**Commission Participants**

Andrew Sawyers, Nadine Jackson-Bey, Sharon Talley, Jim Richmond, Jerry Gietka, Kirsti Uunila, Betty Dabney, Barbara Brocks, Nicole Allen, Tanesha Johnson-Bey, Reider White, Phil Heard, and Mary Rosso

**DATE:**                    **Wednesday, September 29, 2004**

**TIME:**                    **9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

**LOCATION: Department of the Environment, Aeris Conference Room  
1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore MD 21230**

**HANDOUTS**

Draft copies of the Maryland State Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities Annual Report.

**NOTES**

Scot Spencer started the meeting with welcome remarks to the Commission members and participants. He introduced Mr. Stephen Pattison, Assistant Secretary for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Dorothy Morrison, MDE's new Environmental Justice Coordinator.

Dr. Clifford Mitchell, John Hopkins University delivered a presentation on behalf of the Community Health and Protection Workgroup.

- The purpose of the workgroup was: (1) to recommend to the CEJSC a series of useful environmental and health indicators related to environmental justice in local communities; and (2) to recommend a means of presenting the indicators that would be useful to various potential stakeholders, including the community, state planners environmental officials, potential investors, and others.

- Dr. Mitchell explained that the indicators tool was not meant to be used as a value judgment instrument to compare communities with each other; rather, indicators would be presented in a non-judgmental fashion.
- The workgroup's goal was to develop an easy-to-use tool for communities, agencies, and organizations that would help to identify community capacity, potential opportunities, and barriers to environment/health improvement.
- Dr. Mitchell gave a brief review of existing tools already in place: EPA's "EnviroMapper", Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance's "vital signs", and Environmental Defense's "Scorecard". These tools provide data from environmental assessments, geographic information systems, and census data.
- Challenges from the workgroup were, data availability, quality, compatibility, transferability between systems, resources, and inter-agency collaboration and communication.
- Recommendations from the workgroup were to: solicit opinions from a broad range of potential users and stakeholders regarding the plans for a community profile; refine the indicators and the profile format; conduct a pilot test; determine resources and collaborations needed to maintain the profiles; decide if profiles will be determined at the zip code level; communicate the profiles to a diverse audience; and coordinate with other efforts in the state to develop a "next generation" of health and environmental quality tracking indicators.
- The Commission members and participants discussed the presentation on environmental and health indicators and gave recommendations.

A draft copy of the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities Annual Report was distributed and discussed. Scott requested that everyone read the draft report and provide any comments and recommendations to Dr. Cliff Mitchell and Dorothy Morrison by Friday, October 8, 2004.

The Commission members and designees discussed the following 2005 work plan items:

- ✓ Replacing Commission members.
- ✓ Developing a better process of notifying everyone about upcoming meetings.
- ✓ Accessing the MDE website for upcoming meetings and meeting notes.
- ✓ Dorothy's role and description as it relates to the Commission.
- ✓ Having a clear vision on Environmental Benefits District and how to better utilize the frame work.
- ✓ Getting on Maryland's legislative agenda.
- ✓ Comparing efforts and communicating with other State Environmental Justice Commissions. Discussed having monthly or bi-monthly conference calls with other EJ Commissions through EPA's Environmental Justice resources.
- ✓ Assisting EPA's environmental justice grant recipients in Baltimore City, if needed.
- ✓ Providing quarterly or bi-annual interim reports prior to the annual report. This could be a tool to support the Commission's annual report due to the Governor.
- ✓ Discussed having morning and/or evening meetings, changing location of the meetings, to accommodate community member's schedules.

Action Items:

- Andrew will forward to the Commission members, the link where the Environmental Justice Executive Order and mandates can be found for review.
- Comments on the Community Health and Protection Workgroup draft report due to Dorothy Morrison no later than October 8, 2004. You may send comments via e-mail to [dmorrison@mde.state.md.us](mailto:dmorrison@mde.state.md.us).
- The next CEJSC meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. in the Aeris Conference Room at the Maryland Department of the Environment.