

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

ATTENDEES

Commission Members & Designee

Andrew Fellows (Served as Chair/Commissioner), Dorothy Morrison (Designee for Kendl Philbrick), Bob Bailey (Designee for Senator Ulysses Currie), Melania Pender (Representative for Delegate Elizabeth Bobo), Tory Ameree (Designee for Anthony McCann), Barbara Sattler, Kristine Dunkerton

Commission Participants

Nadine Jackson-Bey, Dawn McCleary, Paul Oberle, Clifford Mitchell, Mary Rosso, Betty Dabney, Rosa Burnstein, Vernice Miller-Travis

DATE: **Wednesday, January 26, 2005**

TIME: **8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

LOCATION: **Lowe House Office Building, Conference Room 406
Annapolis MD 21401**

HANDOUTS

- CEJSC Agenda
- House Bill 970 – Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities Bill
- List of legislative bills that CEJSC may review
- Draft copy of the Environmental Benefits District (EBD) Application and designation Procedure

NOTES

Overview of 2005 Activities

Dorothy Morrison questioned whether the Commission was meeting its obligated tasks as outlined in HB 970. Three of the six tasks have been met or are a work in progress.

Task yet to be addressed include:

- Review and analyze the impact of current State laws and policies on the issue of environmental justice and sustainable communities. To date, MDOT is the only State Agency that has existing guidelines on environmental justice policy; no other known policy analysis from other State agencies exist.

- Recommend options to the Governor for addressing issues, concerns or problems related to environmental justice that surface after reviewing State laws and polices including prioritizing areas of the State that need immediate attention.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Dorothy Morrison will review HB 970, Sections 2 of State Government Article to determine how the Commission should interact with the General Assembly.
- Attached is the 2005 CEJSC work plan.

Legislative Review

The Commissioners decided to establish a bill selection workgroup to:

- (a) Come up with criteria for bill selection.
- (b) Select existing and new legislation with potential environmental justice impact for the CEJSC to review.

The workgroup should be inclusive with interested citizen members as well as Commissioners.

The following volunteers have agreed to participant in the bill selection workgroup:

- Paul Oberle, MDOT
- Kristine Dunkerton, Community Law Center
- Mary Rosso, UMSON
- Barbara Sattler will explore if anyone from the School of Nursing would be interested in participating in the workgroup.
- Andrew Fellows will ask the Citizen Coalition if they would be interested in participating on the workgroup.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Bob Bailey, representative from Senator Currie's office and Melania Pender, representative from Delegate Bobo agreed to alert CEJSC about pending environmental justice related bills.
- CEJSC discussed creating by-laws and creating a system to serve as a quorum. Dorothy will following up on this.

Community Characterization Tool

Cliff Mitchell updated CEJSC on the following:

- The grant from Hopkins was not approved.
- Cliff will continue to research for other grants but will work on being more specific on the economic aspect, potential exposure and community usage of the grant.
- Funding from the grant will enable community pilots using the indicators tool in the first year.
- The grant must have a strong evaluation process in place.
- Once the process and grant application is refined the workgroups can apply for other grants.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Develop an instrumental online indicators tool.
- Contact other States that have online map driven indicators and discuss timetable and information on how they implemented online indicators. New York and California are one of the States that are further along with indicators work.

East Baltimore Demolition Protocol

Rosa Burnstein gave a summary on the status of the EBI Protocol. Ruth Ann Norton of the Lead Coalition has been very resourceful in leading this project. The local, State, and City Housing Agencies have pulled together in working with and overseeing the Demolition Protocol.

Vernice Miller-Travis recommended that CEJSC, if interested, read a book entitled, “Root Shock – How tearing up city neighborhoods hurts America and what we can do about it”, author of the book is Mindy Thompson-Fullilove, M.D.

The Commissioners discussed land use planning and the impact it would have on demolition and environmental justice and sustainable communities.

Regional All States EJ Meeting

Dorothy attended the Regional All State EJ meeting held in December 2004. She gave an update on what other States were doing regarding environmental justice. The following are links to each States’ environmental justice program:

Delaware: <http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/ciac/>

Project Fund application:

http://www.dnrec.state.de.us/ciac/documents/cepfapplicprocess_000.pdf

New Jersey: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/ej/>

New York: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/ej/index.html>

Pennsylvania: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/hosting/environmentaladvocate/>

Dorothy participates in the monthly conference call with other representatives from Regional II and III to network on environmental justice issues; she also attends the bi-annual meetings. The next scheduled bi-annual meeting will be held in May 2005 in West Virginia.

Environmental Benefits District (EBD)

The EBD update and discussion was deferred to the February 23rd meeting. Dorothy distributed a copy of the draft application and draft procedure process for review. All feedback or comments are due to Dorothy by February 16th and will be discussed at the February meeting.

CEJSC Updates

The following names have been submitted to the Governor's Appointment Office to replace four existing Commissioners whose terms have expired:

- Rosa Burnstein, Baltimore Community for Environmental Justice (BCEJ)
- Clifford Mitchell, John Hopkins Public Health
- Vernice Miller-Travis, Miller-Travis & Associates
- Council Woman Moonyene Jackson-Amis

A CEJSC Retreat is scheduled for June 29th, all suggestions regarding location of the retreat are to be forwarded to Dorothy.

If you know of anyone who has been omitted from notifications of the meetings and minutes, please ask them to forward an email to Nadine at njackson-bey@mde.state.md.us to ensure that they are on the distribution list or call (410) 537-3086.

**The next scheduled CEJSC meeting will be held on
Wednesday, February 23, 2005
Lowe House Office Building,
Conference Room 406
(same room as the January meeting)
in Annapolis.**