

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

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners & Designees:

Scot Spencer, Dorothy Morrison (Designee for Kendl Philbrick), Carlita Lindsey (Designee for Audrey Scott), Rosa Burnstein, Kelly Pfeifer, Andrew Fellows, Barbara Sattler & Tory Ameree (Designee for Anthony McCann)

Other Participants:

Nan Lyon, Nadine Jackson-Bey, Roger Taylor, Ed Dexter, Dawn McCleary,

HANDOUTS:

- Agenda
- January 2006 Draft Minutes
- Unofficial Copy of House Bill 27
- Facts About Solid Waste Program (Ed Dexter)

Scot opened the meeting with a brief introduction from everyone that was present. Many of the Commission members and participants were delayed due to an accident on Route 50.

Debriefing on testimony to Environmental Matters Committee:

Scot and Cliff updated everyone on the briefing to the Environmental Matters Committee (EMC). They both agreed that EMC appeared very interested in what the Commission is doing. Cliff gave an overview of the development of the community environmental health indicators. The EMC questioned the budget aspect for the environmental health indicators.

Cliff fine-tuned and prepared a budget for the environmental health indicators project. A conference call with Dorothy, Barbara, Betty Dabney & Phil Heard (MDE staff) and John Braggio (DHMH staff) to discuss the budget that Cliff prepared. CEJSC will continue to update and brief the EMC on the activities and budget for CEJSC.

Environmental Benefits District:

Andrew asked, "How does a district become an Environmental Benefits District (EBD)"? To address this question, Scot decided to have the April 26th Commission meeting focus on a presentation from Dorothy on EBD's creation and process. Andrew will invite interested community folks from Prince George's County and Barbara will invite folks from the Washington Village Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council (WPNPC). The presentation will cover most of the meeting and will be held at MDE, 1800 Washington Blvd., in Baltimore City starting at 9:30 a.m.

Legislative Update:

The following bills were discussed. Kelly Pfeifer gave an update on HB 155 and SB 589/HB 1429.

HB 155 – Local Governments – Zoning Regulations and Building Permits – Appeals – Neighborhood Associations.

SB 589 – Environment – Judicial Review of Permits - Standing

HB 1429 – Environment – Judicial Review of Permits - Standing

HB 412 – Task Force on Minority Participation in the Environmental Community

Dorothy will forward the informational letter that MDE sent to Maggie MacIntosh, via email, to the Commissioners.

HB 27 – Department of the Environment – Rubble Landfills - Location

Ed Dexter, Administrator for the Solid Waste Program gave an overview on MDE's Solid Waste Program; he also discussed the issues surrounding this bill. It was decided to further discuss at the March CEJSC meeting with Ed and Commission members/participants. Dorothy, with the assistance of Carlita, will request zoning ordinance information from all State Planning Commissions to determine the social and economic factors that are considered when siting facilities including landfills. This will be discussed at the March CEJSC meeting too.

Demolition Procedures:

Scot discussed briefly the demolition procedures and the information that was provided from the presentation given at CEJSC's January meeting from Mr. Dorich and Ms. Elmenshaw from Baltimore City's Department of Housing & Community Development. Scot asked Dorothy to work with Mooney Jackson to find out what the demolition process is for the Eastern Shore. Dorothy will also get information on standards for demolition procedures across the State. This may be an agenda topic for the March CEJSC meeting.

Talkin Trash Workshop:

Barbara Sattler invited everyone to attend the Talkin Trash Workshop scheduled on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22, 2006 held at the Montgomery Park, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore. The workshops will be held in the auditorium from 1:00 – 4:00. The workshops will cover and provide information on recycling and trash management.

Next CEJSC Meeting
March 22, 2006
Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.