

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

Wednesday, July 26, 2006

## DRAFT MINUTES

### IN ATTENDANCE:

#### **Commission Members, Designees, Participants:**

Scot Spencer, Vernice Miller-Travis, Dorothy Morrison (Designee for Kendl Philbrick), Carlita Lindsey (Designee for Audrey Scott), Bill Stack, Tory Ameree (Designee for Anthony McCann) Kelly Pfeifer, Andrew Fellows, Richard W. Fairbanks, Nan Lyon, Ed Dexter, Nadine Jackson-Bey, Roger Taylor, Mary Rosso, Russell S. Donnelly

### Minutes from May 2006 Meeting

The draft minutes from the May 2006 were reviewed; several changes and corrections were needed to the minutes. The minutes will be approved at the upcoming meeting.

### Environmental Benefits Districts Update

Dorothy gave a presentation on the Environmental Benefits Districts (EBDs) and an overview of MDE's Environmental Justice Program. The overview included a summary of the goals for the program, the Governor appointed Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities, and environmental justice integration at MDE. The EBDs presentation addressed methods used to identify EBD's, preliminary screening for areas of interest, pilot EBD designated in 2003 and EBD's identified in early 2006.

The following questions and comments were discussed after the EBD presentation:

- ❖ Who in the local and county government reviews the EBD process?
- ❖ Discussion on whether or not a public hearing to decide if an EBD is needed or wanted was discussed.
- ❖ The Commission played a role in the outreach part the EBD initiative. Further outreach assistance from the Commission members with MDE was discussed.
- ❖ Applications for EBD were low during the last round.

### Workgroup Reports/Updates

***Land Use and Sustainability, Chair, Vernice Miller Travis*** – A mission statement for the workgroup will be developed and distributed at the upcoming Commission meeting. Vernice has continued her efforts in monitoring the EBDI protocol; it is a challenge because more houses are being torn down. Vernice will provide more information, in writing, at the upcoming September meeting.

On August 18<sup>th</sup> at the MACo Conference, Vernice is scheduled to give a presentation on environmental justice and land use issues. Any materials and relevant information that needs to be discussed and addressed at the MACo conference needs to be sent to Dorothy before August 18<sup>th</sup>.

***Legislative and Policy Development, Chair, Kelly Pfeifer*** - Kelly discussed the demolition protocol letter that was distributed at the last Commission meeting. Scot suggested the letter be modified to address areas that can be accomplished. He suggested that Kelly work with John Garlick of Baltimore City and include the protocol information from Vernice.

***Health and Environmental Research*** – Clifford Mitchell was not present at the meeting but information regarding a grant being applied for research on this initiative was discussed; no formal letter had been received but a verbal agreement was given. Dorothy will meet with Cliff to further discuss the grant and regarding his new position with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. George Oberu, MDE Water Management, volunteered to participate on this workgroup.

Bill Stack discussed inviting the Baltimore ECOS System to give a presentation, in October, on public indicators; the focus of the presentation would be Human and Natural ECOS System. Bill volunteered to take the lead on this presentation.

***Community Involvement and Intergovernmental Liaison, Chair, Rosa Burnstein*** – Ms. Rosa was not able to attend the meeting so no update was provided. She will update the Commission at the upcoming meeting.

## Annual Report Items

### Recommendations

- Through Brownfield, draft a bill with support of Easton Group on EBDI protocol.
- Each State Agency should have an environmental justice liaison. An Executive Order would need to be implemented to make this happen.
- Continue to work with and meet with the Washington Village Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council.
- The Environmental Justice Program of MDE could benefit from additional staff support.
- Link Environmental Benefits District to Health Indicators.
- The Chairperson for each workgroup must submit information on accomplishments achieved from October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006.

**The Annual Report is due October 1, 2006.**

## Updates

Scot gave an update on the Reality Check Plus workshops that were held in June in Hagerstown, Western Maryland and Baltimore City. The workshops were designed to increase participation with faith-based groups; community groups and grass roots folks as opposed to just the Business Community and Government.

Scott will forward a letter from the Commission regarding appointment issues. Mr. Fairbanks will assist in making a phone call to the Governor's Appointment's Office.

**The next Commission on Environmental and Sustainable Communities meeting is September 27, 2006**