

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

Wednesday, October 25, 2006

## DRAFT MINUTES

### IN ATTENDANCE:

#### **Commission Members & Participants:**

Scot Spencer, Dorothy Morrison (Designee for Kendl Philbrick), Andrew Fellows, Sharmi Das (Designee for Anthony McCann), Moonyene Jackson-Amis, Nan Lyon, Nadine Jackson-Bey, Brenda Afzal (Designee for Barbara Sattler), Vincent Leggett, Robert Willy (Mayor, Town of Easton), Brian Hause (Assistant to Town Engineer), Vicki Fisher & another reporter (Star Democrat Reporter)

#### Welcome Remarks

Scot opened the meeting up with introductions. Mr. Robert Willy, Mayor of the Town of Easton attended the meeting to discuss the accomplishments in Easton as well as the areas of concerns. Two reporters from the Town's newspaper, Star Democrat, and Mr. & Mrs. Watson, residents of the Town of Easton, attended the meeting.

#### Minutes from September 2006 & Dates for 2007 meetings

The approval for the September draft minutes and the discussion for the 2007 schedule for CEJSC meetings was deferred to November's meeting.

#### Draft Outline 2006 Annual Report

All activities that the Commission has done this year will be put into the Annual Report. So far, information from the Land Use Workgroup and Health research are needed. Ms. Rosa with the Outreach Workgroup will submit more information on outreach activities.

The operating principles, drafted by Scot, will be added to the Annual Report.

#### Calendar 2007 Outline

Jan, Feb. March – meetings held in Annapolis

April & Oct. – off site visit

June or July – CEJSC Retreat

Each workgroup will be expected to give a presentation at the CEJSC meetings.

#### Updates

Andrew suggested that the Commission should talk with Senator Curry and Del. Bobo (appointed legislative Commission members) on suggestions for appointing new Commission members.

Betty Dabney is the new Research Associate Professor at the University of Maryland. She may also be able to assist in getting a community grant that can further assist with the Health Indicators work started by the Commission.

Sharmi Das announced that Tory Ameree from DHMH who attended the CEJSC meetings passed away the previous week.

### Brief Background on CEJSC

Scot gave an overview for the Mayor of the Town of Easton regarding the history of the Commission and how it was created based on a 2001 Executive Order. Through that order Advisory Council was created and in 2003 the Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities Commission were established. Scot also gave a broad overview of what the Commission has accomplished. Dorothy gave a brief overview of the Environmental Benefits Districts Program.

### Minority Task Force Update

Vincent Leggett, DNR gave an update on the formation of the Minority Task Force that was mandated from SB 350. The Taskforce will examine ways to improve communication with minorities, foster better engagement and establish environmental centers. The task force has a limited, delineated calendar of existence (1 year).

### Talbot Co./Easton/Ward 4 Environmental Concerns

Brian Hause gave thorough briefing on the concerns and problems that the Town of Easton is encountering. Funding and expertise are needed for Stormwater Management. Nan gave Brian several contacts through MDE's Stormwater Wetlands and Floodplains Programs. Dorothy will coordinate a meeting or discussion between the MDE folks and Brian.

### Neighborhood Tour- *Town of Easton Staff*

The Commissioners and participants took a tour to the Watson's resident and to several sites that have stormwater or environmental justice issues.

**The next Commission on Environmental and Sustainable Communities meeting  
November 17 @ 1:30 pm.  
Maryland Department of the Environment**