



Maryland State
Commission on Environmental Justice
and Sustainable Communities

Annual Report
2017-2018

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1. Background.....	3
2. Commissioners Serving 2018 to Present	4
3. Commission Activities October 1, 2017- September 30, 2018	5
4. Planned Commission Objectives for 2018-2019.....	6
5. Appendix A- July 2018 Retreat Summary.....	6
6. Appendix B- 2017- 2018 Meeting Agendas/Minutes	7

1. Background

CEJSC Background

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) was first established by Executive Order on January 1, 2001 and signed into law on May 22, 2003. The Commission is a fifteen-member body that includes the following representatives: two State legislators, three cabinet secretaries, and ten Governor appointees representing six interests groups- environmental advocacy, public health, local government, regulated business, impacted community, and the general public with expertise and/or interest in environmental Justice.

The CEJSC is tasked with examining environmental justice and sustainable communities issues that may be associated with creating healthy, safe, economically vibrant, environmentally sound communities for all Marylanders in a manner that allows for democratic processes and community involvement. Maryland's approach to Environmental Justice (EJ) is consistent with the approach advocated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA calls for States to address Environmental Justice issues as appropriate and for improvements in efficiency and sustainability in the use of resources and production processes. EPA defines EJ as,

"The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." Fair treatment means that no group of people including a racial, ethnic, or socio-economic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

Additionally, Maryland's definition, which builds on EPA's definition, specifically notes that all citizens of the State should expect (1) to be protected from public health hazards and (2) to have access to the socio-economic resources necessary to address concerns about their livelihood and health.

2. Commissioners Serving 2017-2018

Camille Burke, Commission Chair (*Local Government)

Senator Victor Ramirez, State Senate (*State Legislature)

Delegate Clarence Lam House of Delegates (*State Legislature)

Secretary Ben Grumbles, Maryland Department of the Environment (*State Agency)

Secretary Robert Neall, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (*State Agency)

Secretary Robert S. Cord, Maryland Department of Planning (*State Agency)

Secretary Pete Rahn, Maryland Department of Transportation (*State Agency)

Secretary Michael Gill, Department of Commerce

Mr. Richard Fairbanks (*Impacted Community)

Mr. Stephan Levitsky (*Impacted Community)

Ms. Tanvia Gadhia, Environmental Organization

Ms. Lesliam Quiros-Alcala, Environmental Health, Exposure Assessment and Children's Health

Mr. Benoy Thomas, Licensed Social Worker (*Public Interest)

Ms. Deriece Pate Bennett, General Public

Mr. John Quinn, Constellation Energy (*Regulated Business)

Ms. Crystal Faison, Business/Affected Community

Mr. Robert Hackman, Business/Public

Ms. Rebecca Rehr, Maryland Environmental Health Network (*Health Expert)

3. Commission Activities January 23, 2018- September 25, 2018

Membership.

Of the twelve members appointed by the Governor to the Commission, one member must be a representative of a business organization, a representative of an environmental organization, a health expert, a local government representative, and a person of the general public with interest or expertise in environmental justice. At least two of the Governor's Appointees should be representatives of an affected community.

There is an effort to balance the representation and generally there is an average of two members for each category, even if unofficially. For example, a local government person may have a business background; an advocate may specialize in public health issues.

Vacancies frequently occur in the Commission when members make the decision to either step down from their position or to leave the Commission entirely. Currently there are several vacancies and many remaining members are subject to reappointment. MDE staff is working with the Governor's Appointments Office to fill these vacancies.

Joint CEHPAC Meeting

The Commission held a joint meeting with the Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council on May 22, 2018 per its statutory charge. The organizations shared information on recent progress and issues of mutual interest. Full details are outlined in the meeting minutes in Appendix C.

4. Plan Commission Objectives for 2019-2020

1. Continue with the Eastern Shore Case Study.
2. Meet with jurisdictions or have listening sessions to talk about the Commissions duties.
3. Continue engagement with Maryland Associations of Counties (MACo).
4. Focus on Asthma in Maryland.
5. Continue conversation with Legislative Black Caucus.
6. Work with legislators to come up with ambassadors/liaisons from their communities they represent.

5. Appendix A-July 2016 Retreat Summary

The retreat focused on the statewide important environmental challenge of Lead, the efforts being made to mitigate the effects being made to raise awareness and the work being done to address the challenges. In addition CESJC also acknowledged the need to improve our outreach to other jurisdictions in Maryland. As a result Akosua Dosu from the Prince George's County Department of the Environment and Paula Montgomery from the Maryland Department (MDE) and was in attendance and presented.

Ms. Dosu conducted a presentation on the environmental landscape of Prince George's County. The commission listened attentively to some of the issues and challenges facing the citizens of Prince Georges County. The Commission listened attentively to some of the issues and challenges facing the citizens of Prince George's County. The Commission offered our support and stated that we are looking forward to partnering with the Prince George's County Environmental Justice Commission. In Addition, the Commission will also engage our partners in Prince Georges County to not only offer support but to also provide another conduit to State Agencies.

Also at the retreat, the topics of lead poisoning, lead Prevention in Maryland, and Lead Inspections in the State of Maryland & efforts of MDE were discussed. Also a brief presentation by the chair of the commission- Camille Burke on the Lead Poisoning prevention work being done in Baltimore City also was discussed.

At the conclusion of the retreat, there was a lively discussion about outreach and communication with the citizenry of Maryland. The commission will be re-introducing the Commission to our Legislators in the hopes of re-engaging their constituencies as well as strengthening the lines of communication. We intend to conduct some peer to peer mentoring. We will develop details and solidify plans in the upcoming year.

6. Appendix B-2018 Meeting Agendas/Minutes

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC) Montgomery Park Baltimore, MD
January 23, 2018
9:30 am-11:30 am**

AGENDA

Conference call number 641-715-3580 access #951633#

- 9:30 am Welcome and Introductions
- 9:45 am Defining Equity (composing working definition) & Equity Areas in Maryland
- 10:15 am Composing/Creating EJ areas of concern/ interest or fact sheet for Legislators
- 10: 30 am Eastern Shore Case Study
- 10:40 am Baltimore City Case Study follow up
- 10:50 am How best to handle recommendations as it pertains to the case studies.
- 11:00 am How to evaluate the performance-measurement put into the recommendations in the case studies. Review Legislative Agenda/Priorities
- 11: 10am Review Legislative Agenda/Priorities
- Adopting uniform definitions of environmental justice and vulnerable communities
 - Provide environmental justice information/issues for legislative
 - Continue dialogue with the Legislative Black Caucus
 - Engage local government in the discussion
 - Continue engagement will MML
 - Continue engagement with MACo

Meeting Adjourned

Next Schedule Meeting February 27, 2018

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC) Montgomery Park Baltimore, MD
January 23, 2018
9:30 am-11:30 am**

AGENDA

Conference call number 641-715-3580 access #951633#

- 9:30 am Welcome and Introductions
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- Adopting uniform definitions of environmental justice and vulnerable communities
 - Provide environmental justice information/issues for legislative
 - Continue dialogue with the Legislative Black Caucus
 - Engage local government in the discussion
 - Continue engagement will MML
 - Continue engagement with MACo

Meeting Adjourned

Next Schedule Meeting February 27, 2018

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
1800 Washington Blvd
9:30 am -11:30 am
February 27, 2018

AGENDA

Conference call number 641-715-3580 access code 951633#

9:30 am Welcome and Introductions

9:40 am Approval of November & January Minutes

9:45 am New Business

- o Leslie Knapp- Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Discussion
- o Revisit Commission Charge

10:30 am Old Business (Review of prior follow up items)

- o Defining Equity Update-Camille Burke
- o Composing/Creating EJ areas of concern updates-Camille Burke
- o Eastern Shore Study update-Steve Levitsky
- o EJ 101 Documents-sent to Commissioners
- o Legislative Black Caucus Schedule update-Delegate Cheryl Glenn sent an email requesting a schedule for Caucus
- o MACo update-Les Knapp sent an email
- o Outreach Plan Update-Joseph Griffiths

FYI: Prince George's County Delegation introduced House Bill 183

11:15 am Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Next Schedule meeting March 27, 2018

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Baltimore, MD
March 27, 2018
9:30 am-11:30 am

Agenda

Conference call number 641-715-3580 access code 951633#

9:30 am Welcome

9:45 am Approval of February Minutes

10:15 am Old Business

- Defining Equity- Crystal Faison
- Legislative Feedback- Camille Burke
- HB1109 and HB 1603- Subha Chandar?
- Eastern Shore Case Studies Update-Steve/Subha.

10:35 am New Business

- Devon Dobson Senior Advisor MOE-Updates on EJ Bills (HB 1126 & HB715) and PG Delegation Bill.
- MACo Liasons- person who will interact with MACo, possibly serve on committees & report back to the Commission
- Inquiring about county/municipality issues. Obtain info from MDE & individual municipalities/counties. Ask a Commission member to engage or develop a simple outreach plan.

11:00 am Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
Montgomery Park Baltimore, MD
April 24, 2018
9:30 am-11:30 am

AGENDA

Conference call number 641-715-3580 access# 951633#

9:30am Welcome and Introductions

9:40am Approval of March Meeting Minutes

OLD BUSINESS

9:50AM Defining Equity-Crystal Faison

10:15 am MACo Updates-Dick Fairbanks

10:30 am Outreach Plan- Joseph Griffiths

10:40 am Eastern Shore Case Study- How to move forward?

NEW BUSINESS

10:50 am May Meeting Ideas With Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC)

11:00 am Update on additional meeting places outside of MDE ex: PG County

11:15 am Next Steps with Prince George's County Legislation HB0183

- <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmgq/frameMain.aspx?pid=billpage&stab=03&id=hb0183&t ab=subject3& vs=2018RS>

11: 20 am Strategy for the Annual Retreat ex: location

11: 25 am Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD
June 26, 2018
9:30 am-11:30 am

AGENDA

Conference call#641-715-3580 access code.951633#

9:30 am Welcome and Introductions

9:40 am Approval of May Meeting Minutes

OLD BUSINESS

9:50 am Eastern Shore Study Update

10:10 am Outreach Plan Update

10:30 am July Retreat Updates

10:35 am MACo Updates

10:40 am CEHPAC Joint Meeting Update

NEW BUSINESS

10:50 am July Retreat Ideas:

- List EJ topics to discuss at the retreat
- Introduction of each Commissioner
 - o Will need a 1-5 sentence bio from each Commissioner
 - o Will need for each Commissioner to indicate which area of Maryland they represent
 - o Will need each Commissioner to discuss/indicate if there is a specific EJ concern(i.e. Lead, Asthma etc)
- Address the Outreach Plan
 - o Discuss possibility of having Community Liasons/Ambassadors
 - o Discuss continued outreach over the next year & what that looks like
- Devote some time to Prince George's County
 - o Discuss its Environmental challenges(invite Adam Ortiz to the retreat)
 - o Discuss better ways to partnership with all counties especially with PG County EJ Commission
- Focus on Lead & Asthma (joint effort with CEHPAC)
 - o Request presentation of LEAD 101from MOE
 - o Request presentation of Asthma from MOH

11:15 am **Public Comments**

Mary Yakaitis-Board Member, Potomac Highlands Citizens Association

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
Annual Retreat July 24, 2018 9:30 am-3:00 pm
The College Park Airport
1985 Corporal Frank Scott Dr.
College Park, MD

AGENDA

Conference call number 641-715-3580 access# 951633#

- 9:30 am Welcome and Introductions
- 9:40 am June Meeting Minutes Approval
- 9:45 am Adam Ortiz-Director Department of the Environment
Prince George's County
- Prince George's County Environmental Justice Commission discussion
How can CEJSC partner with Prince George's County EJ Commission?
- 10:15 am Paula Montgomery- Maryland Department of the Environment
- Lead Presentation
- Camille Burke- Baltimore Health Department
- Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention in Baltimore City
- 10:45 am Break
- 11:00 am Open Discussion with the Commissioners
- Each Commissioners should indicate what Environmental Justice means to them
 - Also what area they represent i.e business, etc.
 - Indicate if there is specific EJ concerns or area of interest
 - Legislative Priorities & Legislative Relationship (Legislative Black Caucus)
 - Upcoming year, direction, expectations moving forward
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Maryland Department of Health
- Asthma in Maryland
- 1:25 pm Outreach Plan Discussion
- Communication Guidelines document
 - How to move forward
 - Community Liaisons/Ambassadors
 - Next Steps
- 2:45 pm Public Comment
- 3:00 pm Adjournment

PARKING INFO:

Please do not to park on the Museum parking lot but to park on the Airport parking lot.
Directional signage will be in place.

Drive up to the facility, take a slight right and then straight into the parking lot. If you take a sharp right, you will be headed to the Museum parking lot.

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park, Baltimore MD
September 25, 2018

AGENDA

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. July Meeting Minutes Approval
- III. Review drafted letters for approval (County Executive and Legislators)
- IV. Outreach
 - a. Creation of Community Ambassadors
 - b. Identification of specific Legislators on EJ matters in coming year
 - c. How to connect to communities
- V. Remind Commissioners of Upcoming Year Goals
 - a. Camille said she wants to get ahead of legislators on EJ matters
 - b. Keep up dialogue with MACo and try to include them in the Commission's outreach plan
 - c. Joint meeting with CEHPAC
 - d. Focus on Asthma in Maryland
 - e. Continue conversation with Legislative Black Caucus
 - f. Meet with local jurisdictions or have listening sessions to talk about the Commission's responsibilities
 - g. Medicaid Plan
 - h. Eastern Shore Case Study
- VI. Public Comments

Next Schedule Meeting October 23, 2018
Maryland Department of the Environment

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

January 23, 2018

9:30 am-11:30 am

Annapolis, MD

Meeting Minutes

InAttendance

- Commissioners: Duane Johnson, Camille Burke, Joseph Griffiths, Robert Hackman, John Quinn, Crystal Faison, Subha Chandar, Deriece Pate Bennett
- Participants: Angelo Bianca, Jeanne Maxwell, Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Richard Tabutean

Introduction

- Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.
- Camille indicated that Rebecca Rehr resigned from the Commission due to a job change.
- Camille said it is possible the February meeting might be referred back to MDE and then come back to Annapolis for the March meeting, Robert Hackman agreed to have the next meeting as MDE.
- Camille said she would send a poll out to the Commissioners to see what their preferences are for the next meeting place.

Eastern Shore Case Study Update

- Put on hold due to the absence of Steve Levitsky

Defining Equity Update

- Camille said she didn't get around to doing this task due to an increased work load. She asked the Commissioners for ideas about places to look.

Composing/Creating-EJ Areas of Concern-/interests or fact sheet for legislators Update

Camille said she wanted to be clear about what the goal is and what the Commission is doing with this topic. She asked if the goal is to inform legislators on a particular issue, or something in general the Commission is supporting. She said she wants to be clear about the reason we are doing the fact sheets.

- Subha Chandar said she felt as though this was brought up doing the retreat and how it relates to the Commission communicating more generally about a lot of bills instead of one particular bill. Subha said we are asking legislators to look at environmental issues through an equity lens.
- Robert Hackman asked are we asking legislators to do something they don't have a clue how to do? Subha said yes.

- o John Quinn said that over the years they developed a one pager which served as a useful tool. He said that maybe the Commission needs to send it to the legislators more often to remind them that the Commission exists. That it provides a useful service and could use their support.
- o Sending EJ 101 out right away and on regular basis was suggested.
- o Camille suggested letting legislators know when the Commission's next meeting is, since the 2018 General Assembly is now in session.
- o Subha suggested that the Commission should reach out to our partners who might approach legislators on behalf of the Commission to suggest that they should have the EJ 101 handy also.
- o Angelo Bianca suggested looking at bills around equity and suggesting to legislators how it could be better or why it's terrible.

How best to handle recommendations pertaining to the case studies

- Robert Hackman asked how the Commission makes sure the recommendations don't fall by the wayside and said if you want to have an effective Commission, the Commission needs to insure some accountability such that when the recommendations are forwarded to the Governor's office something actually happens. Otherwise the Commission is just spinning wheels and they go nowhere.
- Joseph Griffiths said for any recommendations the Commission makes, he would need time to run it across his agency to see what their positions are or if they want to make any charges.
- It was decided to continue this discussion further.

How to evaluate the performance-measurement-put into the recommendations in the case studies

- Put on hold until further discussion

Review Legislative Agenda/Priorities

- Subha suggested having some sort of tracking mechanism in place to determine the Commission's reach and if it has to follow up on metrics.
- Robert suggested that having headings in the agenda such as "Old Business" and "New Business" would help with doing follow-up.
- Robert Hackman suggested having representatives from MML and MACo give the Commission an update on what they are doing.
- It was asked if the Commission has a solid contact with the Legislative Black Caucus-Camille suggested it might be Delegate Cheryl Glenn.
- Angelo Bianca suggested matching the CEJSC meeting with the Legislative Black Caucus meeting.
- Joseph suggested sending the EJ 101 to the Legislative Black Caucus in the event of a meeting and asking them if there is any assistance they could use from the Commission.
- Camille asked if anyone would like to take lead on helping with local outreach and developing the plan.
- Joseph said he was willing to help with the Eastern Shore but asked what the initial questions are that the Commission is asking. He said just asking EJ questions might not be sufficient.
- Angelo suggested to Joseph that he might reach out to Lisa Nissely of MDE who might be able to help him with the process.

- Joseph said it's important to know what-information the Commission wants to get from the counties, such as; environmental justice a concern, is it something that you address? What are your strategies? What is environmental justice?
- Subha said one of the reasons they were doing the case studies was to have counties tell the Commission what they are doing and then to highlight and assist them.
- Camille said they are going to reach out to George and Lisa Nissley to see what kind of outreach they have done.

Camille said an email will go out to determine where the next meeting will be held.

No public comments

Meeting Adjourned

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

March 27, 2018

9:30 am-11:30 am

Baltimore, MD

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Duane Jonson, Camille Burke, John Papagni, J Moye Cornick, John Quinn, Camille Burke, Dick Fairbanks, Subha Chandar, Deriece Pate Bennett
- **Participants:** Devon Dobson

Introductions

- Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.
- February meeting minutes were approved.

Legislative Update

Devon Dobson, Senior Advisor for Secretary Ben Grumbles gave a brief update on several bills that loosely involve environmental justice, House Bill 1126, House Bill 715, and House Bill 183.

HB 1126 seek to require the Public Service Commission to take final action on a certain application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), only after due consideration of the effect of a generating station and overhead transmission lines or qualified generator lead lines, on air quality and water pollution; rather than considering these effects only when applicable.

Mr. Dobson said H.B 1126 was passed by the House of Delegates and is on its way to the Senate. If it passes into law it will add Water and Quality Criteria (WQC) to the (CPCN) process. He said those who are supportive of environmental justice issues were hoping to use H.B 1126 to move forward on another environmental justice issue-public health and health impacts. But Mr. Dobson doesn't see that happening because in addition to WQC added by H.B. 1126, H.B. 715 led through this year's legislative session, would add public health and health impacts to the CPCN process.

Dick Fairbanks asked what a CPCN is. Mr. Dobson said it is "Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity" and gave an example: If anyone wants to build a Power Plant they have to meet a lot criteria to obtain approval. Currently the criteria do not include public impacts. H.B. 715 would have required public health impacts to be included in the criteria'.

This is something that Brandywine and other communities were seeking. Unfortunately, H.B 715 was killed by the House Economic Matters Committee. Dick asked what happened with H.B. 715. Mr. Dobson said he' is not at liberty to answer that, but explained the reason environmental justice bills

have such a hard time passing the General Assembly-is because developers who may be looking to build power plants or coal ash facilities come out in masses to protest those bills.

Finally, Mr. Dobson talked about H.B. 183, a Prince George's County specific bill designed to set up an environmental justice commission in PG County. H.B. 183 has passed the House and is on its way to the Senate with two weeks remaining in the session. Mr. Dobson said that normally, local courtesy is given to a jurisdiction for what they want to do in their jurisdiction.

Camille Burke suggested lending the CEJSC resources to the PG County EJ Commission if the bill passes.

Old Business Updates

- Defining Equity was tabled until further notice.
- Camille Burke talked briefly about lead bills, especially H.B. 304 which sought to lower blood levels from 10 ppm to 5 ppm. She said hundreds of people in Baltimore City supported H.B. 304.
- Subha Chandar spoke about Senates Bills 1109 and 1603, which are based on collecting data on race and ethnicity.
- No additional updates on the Eastern Shore case study.

New Business Updates

- Camille asked if any of the Commissioners would consider being the MACo representative. Dick said he would be willing to serve on a bridge basis. Duane will provide Les Knapp's information to Dick.
- Camille wanted to know what MDE is doing in terms of EJ outreach. She also mentioned having a meeting with Prince George's County to get an update on what they are doing.
- Dick said in the past the Commissions have met with folks in PG County.
- Camille said she is soliciting a Commissioner to look into finding out what other jurisdictions are doing as it relates to EJ centered outreach. The goal is to be able to assist these jurisdictions better.
- John Quinn suggested visiting other jurisdiction and asking them what they need help with verses having them come to the Commission.
- Camille indicated that she is going talk to Crystal and Joseph to get an update on what they are working on as it relates to outreach.
- Camille mentioned the Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council's May meeting.
- Camille mentioned MDH, MDE and DHCD in conjunction with local health departments are embarking upon a brand new program using Medicare funds to do asthma and lead prevention at an early stage. Camille said she's going to ask Cliff Mitchell to do a presentation on this at the retreat.

No Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

February 27, 2018

9:30 am-11:30 am

Baltimore, MD

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Duane Johnson, Camille Burke, Crystal Faison, Joseph Griffiths, Subha Chandar, Malachy Rice, John Papagni, Deriece Pate Bennett, John Quinn, Janet Moye Cornick
- **Participants:** Les Knapp, Stephanie Cobb- Williams

Introductions

- Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.
- November 2017 and January 2018 minutes were approved.

Update from MACo

- Les Knapp gave a brief introduction about what MACo does. Mr. Knapp said MACo is a non-profit, non-partisan association representing all 23 counties and Baltimore City. He said they base their positions on legislation and bills and State policies. He said they turn on just about anything from public works, to transportation and environmental land use issues. He said MACo holds several conferences a year that State official must attend.
- Mr. Knapp said the MACo theme for this coming summer conference is 'Water Water Everywhere'. He asked if the Commission has any ideas get those ideas, to get them to Duane and he will send them to him. He said MACo has affiliates that they work with.
- Mr. Knapp said this could be a great time to have discussions around EJ issues. He said you can compare EJ with trash pickup in that it is not one of those things at the top of a legislative agenda; as important as it is, EJ doesn't always grab the headlines. Mr. Knapp said he thinks that now there is much more awareness around EJ issues on the county and State levels and that he is hearten by that.
- He said the Commission can set a fairly broadly agenda, and set their mark as to where and how the Commission wants to go with EJ issues before they are lost or dropped to second tier issues in the eyes of some.
- Mr. Knapp said how the Commission targets their message is very important. For example, if the Commission comes across as coming in and telling local officials that 'this is how we are going to do things'-it will turn off a lot of local officials. But if we come in and say we care about your

water issues, clean air issues and environmental issues; and we want to work with you to make things better', then we will seem more receptive to local officials. Mr. Knapp said the tenor and nature of the Commission message is important when dealing with MACo. Mr. Knapp said MACo is willing to do anything they can to help the Commission, and suggested the Commission meet with MACo affiliate groups and elected officials.

- Camille Burke asked Mr. Knapp how he chose which abstract to discuss from all the 23 counties at the MACo conference. He said it had to be something relegated to all of the counties, -and not just Baltimore City for example;- or if it had does an urban, suburban and rural component to it, and that they look for broad approaches, rather than local ones.
- Duane Johnson asked Mr. Knapp if it would make sense to have a designated Commissioner assigned to Mr. Knapp or MACo. Mr. Knapp said yes that would be a good idea.
- John Papagni asked Mr. Knapp if MACo have any particular legislative priorities they are focusing on this session. Mr. Knapp said no but- they are keeping an eye on certain issues like the Public Information Act bill.

Commission Charge

Camille asked the Commissioners to revisit the charge and really familiarize themselves with it.

Defining Equity Update

Camille assigned Crystal Faison with coming up with a general definition to share with the Commission at the next meeting.

Old Business Updates

- Steve Levitsky said he didn't have much to add but had sent some additional information to-Subha Chandar's group. Steve said he's hoping he will have something final by next month.
- Camille said the EJ 101 document was sent out to the Commissioners, and if any additions or changes -are needed to reach out to her or Duane.
- Camille said an email was sent to Delegate Cheryl Glenn requesting the Legislative Black Caucus schedule, but did not receive a reply at the time. She said she received a last minute invitation to attend one of their luncheons, but unfortunately she could not attend.
- There was some discussion about filling vacant Commission seats, especially Rebecca Rehr's seat.
- Joseph Griffiths said that due to his schedule at work he wasn't able to work on the outreach plan for the Eastern Shore. He said the State outreach plan is absorbing all of this time, but the information they are gathering may help with the Eastern Shore outreach plan.
- Joseph said he will send the state -wide outreach schedule out to the Commissioners.

- There was some discussion about Prince George County delegation's House Bill 183- Camille thought the Commission should have been involved in this process somehow. Crystal suggested-that there is a disconnect between the PG County delegation and the Commission.
- Camille suggested the Commission find away to dialogue or meet with the PG County delegation.
- Camille asked that someone reach out to Adam Ortize of PG county Environmental Health Department.
- Camille gave an update on House Bill 304 which addresses lowering thresholds for blood lead levels from 10 ppm to 5 ppm.
- Camille asked where the Commission wants to meet for the March meeting. John Quinn said Annapolis would work for him. Crystal said MDE is better for her.

No Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD
Aeris Conference Room
April 24, 2018
9:30 am-11:30 am

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Subha Chandar (phone), Joseph Griffiths, Camille Burke, Crystal Faison, Dick Fairbanks, Janet Moye Cornick, John Papagni (phone), John Quinn (phone), Duane Johnson, Steve Levitsky (phone), Lesliam Qcala (phone).

- **Participants:** Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Jeaneen Maxwell

Introduction

Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

March meeting minutes were approved with corrections.

- Janet Moye Cornick's name was corrected
- Dick mentioned the Commission never met in Brandywine as the minutes indicated

Old Business Updates

- Crystal Faison provided a working definition of Equity:

Equity is the universal fair and impartial treatment of all individuals regardless of geographic location and socioeconomic status. It is the altruistic guide that incorporates the following in decision-making:

- o Land use and development will not compromise the health of vulnerable communities
- o Permitting, construction, as well as - diversion permits shall not compromise (or jeopardize) clean air, water, and food
- o Construction development that affects and reshapes a community shall incorporate economic development strategies to limit gentrification.

Duane will send the definition out to the Commissioners.

Subha suggested including social determinants of health in the equity definition.

John Papagni suggested including in the equity definition some overarching principles as it relates to the environment.

Crystal asked the Commissioners to submit bullet points on their ideas for equity.

- Dick Fairbanks said he didn't have any additional updates concerning MACo. He said Les Knapp is interested in collaborating with the Commission-and he will have a more comprehensive update at the next meeting.
- Joseph Griffiths said he hasn't really done much on the outreach plan being that he's been busy with his job reaching out to all 23 counties.
 - o He suggested that before any outreach plan can be developed the Commission needs to decide what the goal is-what the communication around outreach is, what people need to be involved and why; and what the Commission wants to get out of the outreach.
 - o Joseph said the Commission needs to develop materials for marketing the outreach and to talk about purpose- what will the Commission do with the feedback?
 - o Finally, how will the Commission further engage the folks they first engaged by outreach? Is it going to be by a survey or at regional meetings?
 - o Joseph said when it comes to actual outreach getting people to the table his department has extensive contacts and could provide support. But since his department is working on a similar outreach program he didn't want to confuse his folks.
 - Who should the direct message come from?
 - Who would be sending out the material out and setting up any meetings?
 - Finally, who would be the voice doing the outreach, is it the actual Commission?

Joseph will look at the one pager produced by MDE EJ 101 and develop what he thinks would be some good messaging and share it the next meeting.

Subha Chandar asked if it was anything in the Baltimore case study around equity Camille said she would revisit the case study to see.

Joseph said he can look at the notes for the twelve counties his agency looked at for any environmental justice components that may apply.

- Steve Levitsky said he plans on having- the Eastern Shore case study completed by the end of May.

New Business

- Camille mentioned the May 22nd meeting with the Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) and asked Commissioners to submit idea's for the agenda within the next week or so.
- Camille asked the Commissioners for recommendations for additional locations for future meetings and the retreat. Crystal said she will take on this task.

- Camille indicated that HB0183 Prince George's County's bill to create their EJ Commission passed.
 - John Papagni said it passed in both the House and Senate unanimously.
 - The PG County Commission will consist of all the County's representatives based somewhat around the structure of CEJSC.
 - Camille said she will consider writing a letter to the PG County folks letting them know that CEJSC would like to partner with them on specific issues.

- Subha said she will send the Complete Streets info to Camille.
- Subha suggested inviting the Health in All Policies Committee to a CEJSC meeting or to the retreat.
- Dick asked about any contact with MML in the past- Duane said he and Rebecca met them once to talk about a partnership.

No Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Commission on Environment Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
&
Children's Environmental Health & Protection Advisory Council
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD
Aeris Conference Room
May 22nd, 2018
9:30 am-11:30 am

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Duane Johnson, Camille Burke, Subha Chandar, Janet Moye Cornick, Steve Levitsky, John Quinn, Richard Fairbanks, John Papagni

- Participants: Jackie Norris, Megan Weil Latshaw, Nsedu Witherspoon, Laura Allen, Julian Levy, Belinda Adeso, Ben Gitterman, Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Veronica Carella, Dan Foster, Liz Green, Pam Casmeyer, Caroline Varney

Introduction

Camille Burke and Clifford Mitchell started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

CEJSC April 2018 meeting minutes were approved

MACo Update

Richard Fairbanks said he is meeting with MACo and Les Knapp on May 23, 2018 at 10:00 am.

Outreach Update

Camille Burke said that CEJSC is using the Department of Planning outreach plan that Joseph Griffiths put together and that she willing to share the plan with CEHPAC.

Cliff Mitchell of CEHPAC said every State agency has been going out to communities for outreach. Cliff asked CEJSC have the Commission disseminate any of the meeting /schedules to CEJSC members. Camille said she's aware that MDE and MDH have forwarded schedules of meetings and listening sessions.

Cliff suggested it might be good for staff to get listening sessions schedules from other State agencies and disseminate them to the CEJSC Commissioners.

CEJSC Retreat Update

There was some discussion about possible retreat locations. Crystal said she has ideas and will report back to the Commission.

Camille reported that Prince George's County passed HB0183 allowing PG County their own EJ Commission, and she will be sending out a letter showing support for their efforts.

CEHPAC Updates

Cliff gave an update on WiFi radiation and said its effects appear to be consistent with consensus on low level carcinogenesis (the initiation of cancer formation) but they are not sure of the mechanism yet. He said two studies shows this pattern of neurological cell tumors associated with WiFi radiation.

Cliff talked about HB1110 (Health and Safety Guidelines) and said it passed in the last legislative session. He said the bill does not specifically talk about health impacts and did not focus on health. Cliff said he and Rachel will keep the Council informed on HB1110 and efforts around the digital device work group.

Veronica Carella said HB1110 mandates development of health and safety best practices for use of digital devices in the classroom, by June 1, 2019. She wants to insure that CEHPAC is included in those discussions. Veronica asked if Cliff could share the final version of the CEHPAC testimony with both Commissions, Cliff said he can.

Veronica also reported that HB-57 (Green Cleaning Bill) did not pass.

Lead and Drinking Water

Camille said HB270 (Testing for Lead in Drinking Water-Public and Nonpublic Schools) passed last year and became effective April 9, 2018. She said they were holding information sessions for the school systems and that her staff came back with loads of questions. The bill basically requires all public and non-public schools to test all portable drinking water sources for lead and report the test results publicly. Some jurisdictions are already doing the testing, but for others it will be new. MOE has been doing training sessions with schools across the State and will be developing a website to post test results.

The question was asked are there funds in the Bill for remediation if necessary? Cliff said no, remediation will be dependent upon the schools.

Veronica said she thinks the Council should write a letter to the legislators letting them know how they can make this a better Bill.

Cliff said he thinks questions for both Commissions are how to provide feedback to groups and how the groups can be involved in monitoring test results and following up.

Lead and Asthma Update Programs

Cliff said the Department of Community Development and MDE have been working across the State on two initiatives to abate lead in homes with children who have been exposed to lead and working with children with asthma.

The State is providing \$500,000 in funding for lead abatement initiative combined with \$3.2 million in matching funds from the federal government. Participants will come from the lead registry over the last two years for children who have had lead levels between 5 ppm to 10 ppm.

The programs have been up and running since January 2018.

Health in All Policies Workgroup Update

Veronica said the Senate passed SB340 in 2017 which requires a workgroup of State and non State agency representatives to use a Health in All Policies framework to examine the health of all Maryland residents and how State and local governments collaborate to implement policies that will have a positive impact on the health of residents in the State. Veronica said the workgroup submitted a mandated report on January 31, 2017.

Workgroup Priorities

- Create a Health in All Policies Framework
- Develop a tool kit
- Finding Announcements
- Develop a process to provide guidance to State and county agencies that facilitate data sharing between agencies
- Comprehensive Planning and Zoning development process

Veronica recommended that someone from CEJSC should be on this workgroup.

Veronica said she will send an email out to when the Health in All policies meeting will be.

Cliff asked how the Commissions can take advantage of the commonality between both groups. It was suggested that both groups work on the Health in All Policy issue. Julian suggested working on asthma because of the racial disparity. Somebody mentioned working on Citizen Science. Cliff suggested that by the time the two groups meet there should be a work plan in place with specific goals, time tables, and s action items that identify what we want to accomplish in a year's time.

Steve Levitsky suggested that CEJSC could help CEHPAC with the lead initiative since they have funding. Cliff said if CEJSC wanted to help they could look at what CEHPAC is doing and point out things that are working or where things could be strengthened.

Cliff asked both groups to send him the 3 most important objectives/points on asthma they want to work on that are achievable and realistic.

Steve mentioned community engagement and the question of how to reach those communities.

Public Comments

A parent talked about wireless radiation and its effect on children in school, and passed out some material concerning it.

Meeting Adjourned

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD
Terra Conference Room
June 26th 2018
9:30 am- 11:30 am

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Duane Johnson, Subha (Phone), John Quinn(Phone), Richard Fairbanks, Crystal Faison, Joseph Griffiths, J Moye Cornick, Malachy Rice

- **Participants:** Jacqueline Norris, Mary Yakaitis, Knowles Little, Stephanie Cobb-Williams

Introductions

Crystal Faison started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.

May meeting minutes were approved.

New Business

Crystal briefly went over the new business agenda and asked anyone who had did EJ topics they wanted to discuss at the retreat to forward them to Duane. Once all the ideas are compiled they will be sent out to the entire Commission.

The date of the retreat is July 24, 2018. The address is 1909 Corporal Frank Scott Drive, College Park, MD.

Crystal asked the Commissioners to be prepared to speak about their expertise at the retreat and for a 1 to 5 sentence bio from each Commissioner.

There was some discussion about forming community liaisons/ambassadors to help gage community concerns.

Richard Fairbanks said he could enlist some of the community groups he's involved with to come in and talk about some their issues.

Richard indicated the topic at MACo conference in Annapolis will be 'Water, Water Everywhere' but he wasn't sure how much of an EJ issue it was.

Subha asked if the Commission will spend some time at the retreat on identifying community liaisons/ambassadors. Crystal said yes.

Crystal said another goal is to devote some time to Prince George's County and invite Adam Ortiz out to the retreat to talk about his EJ Commission in PG County.

The Lead and Asthma conversation was postponed until further notice.

Subha from MDH said she would be happy to work with Camille on the Lead and Asthma topic.

Old Business

Joseph Griffiths talked about the outreach document he forwarded to the Commissioners. He said when considering outreach he focuses on 3 different items/plans before going out to the communities:

1. Communication Guidelines - How the Commission is going to say things and what media to use.
2. Outreach Plan - How to actually get people involved and what networking is going to be involved.
3. Engagement Plan- What question to ask once we have the community's attention.

Duane asked what the next step is. Joseph said to fill the out document he provided and answer the questions to be discussed at the retreat. The goal is to come out of the retreat with really good ideas, fill in the blanks, and bring them back to the September meeting for approval.

Subha said there ought to be working groups at the retreat to discuss Joseph's outreach plan

Public Comments

Mary Yakaitis, Vice President of the Greater Glen Hills Coalition, Knowles Little, Vice President of the Potomac Highlands Citizens Association and Jeffrey Kurland, President of the Potomac Highland Citizens Association came out to share information about their experiences concerning the Glen Hills sewer service restrictions.

Ms. Yakaitis said one of the reasons they came to CEJSC meeting is because they feel their concerns falls within CEJSC's mandate.

Some of their issues are:

- Glen Hills residents who have aging septic systems are being discriminated against by County policies restricting sewer connection. Most residents cannot meet new standards for replacing their septic systems but are not allowed to hook up to sewer.
- Montgomery County policies deny Glen Hills residents protection from pollution of their wells, streams, and ground water; creating a potential public health crisis.
- These restrictions apply within a community where some residents already have sewer service
- About 70 percent of the 542 properties that use septic systems won't be able to replace them and will not be able to obtain sewer service.
- They said they are the only community in the County subject to such restrictions and bear a disproportionate share of the negative consequences.

After continued discussion and some important questions from the Commissioners it was suggested this might be more of a public health issue than an environmental justice issue.

Joseph said he would look into the matter more and get back to Mary Yakaitis.

Meeting Adjourned

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
Annual Retreat July 24, 2018
The College Park Airport

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Duane Johnson, Crystal Faison, Subha Chandar, Robert Hackman, Joseph Griffiths, John Papagni, Camille Burke, Richard Fairbanks, Stephen Levitsky, Janet Moye Cornick

- Participants: Akosua Dosu, Paula Montgomery

Introductions

Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone.

June meeting minutes were approved.

Discussion

Akosua Dosu from the Prince George's County Department of the Environment gave a brief introduction on how the PG County EJ Commission was started and about the composition and structure of the Commission.

She talked about the community block that deals with issues in Brandywine coming from coal plant emissions and burning of fossils fuels. She said the PG County EJ Commission is the source for community when they have questions or concerns about health issues.

Akosua said at the moment she didn't have a lot to share surrounding the EJ Commission due to the fact it is just forming. Dawn Hawkins-Nixon will be the staffer.

Joe Griffiths asked if any of the sector plans have proactive plans like EJ policy for development reviews. Akosua said they are doing a summary rewrite and meeting the with the Department of Planning because of the location of some of the plants. She talked about the sector plan around Sherriff Road involving truck traffic routes and speed mitigation. She said their work at the health department could be stronger.

Akosua said one of the problems they are having is obtaining health data Camille Burke suggested that they should reach out to the Maryland Department of Health and Housing because Baltimore City has an MOU with these departments.

Camille asked Akosua why the PG County EJ Commission was necessary and if it was because of an abundance of issues in PG County? Akosua she said she did not know the answer but that their residents are extremely active and vocal in holding their Department accountable.

Camille asked Akosua what communication challenges are and if she could provide any tips to help them work smarter not harder. Akosua said the permitting process and how permits are given out.

Aksosua asked if CEJSC works with counties. Camille said we do and that the Commission has State wide-representatives on it. Robert Hackman said it would be good if the PG County EJ Commission could designate a liaison to the CEJSC to keep them informed.

Camille gave a brief introduction about the Baltimore City lead program and talked about quarterly meetings, the MOU with agencies, and the partnership with Green Healthy Homes Initiatives. She also talked about how inspections are done and lead prevention.

Paula Montgomery of the Maryland Department of the Environment gave an overview of lead in housing.

Camille asked the Commissioners what ideas they would like to talk about moving forward.

- Robert said the liaison should be coming from the legislators because they are the one's talking to their constituents. He said this is in line with the communication and outreach idea.
- Crystal said she would like to still see community representative being considered as liaisons.
- The creation of community liaisons for outreach.

The question was asked how to achieve the above bullets points.

- Camille said possibly by sending letters to all Maryland State Delegates and Senators, introducing them to the EJ Commission.
- If legislators cannot come to Commission meetings encourage them to send a constituent.
- Joe said the Commission could do mock meetings with the PG County EJ Commission.

Subha Chandar said the Commission needs to be clear about what they will be offering to the community groups as it relates to outreach. She said the Commission could offer referrals but not act as though the Commission can fix the problems.

Joe said once the Commission goes out to the communities and fields questions they can develop referrals based on those questions. A resource guide could be built from this.

Robert said the Commission should have some influence to get legislators to reach out to their constituents.

Dick Fairbanks suggested a good start would be going to the Brandywine community where he thinks there are a lot of EJ issues.

- Camille said she would rather not revisit an issue from the past and be asked by community why we are back. Dick said the Commission never went to Brandywine.
- Brandywine folks have come to Commission meetings in the past but there was never any follow up on the Commission's part.
- Janet Moyer said it might be good to gather some data on the Brandywine issues and then put it in a form to be presented to legislators for that District. Then the constituents could meet with

the legislators and say "they met with the EJ Commission and here are their findings, what are ya'll going to do about these issues?"

- It was brought up that Brandywine is in negotiations with the EPA over a claim Brandywine has filed.

Janet asked how the Commission determines what cases it supports and whether it is an EJ or a health issue. Robert said the Commission is an advisory body and not an investigative one. He said the Commission does not investigate whether or not a claim has merit.

Subha said she thinks the Commission needs to be clear about how much it can help communities and the actions they can take. Those decisions should be based on data collection. She said collaborating with the PG County EJ Commission could be beneficial to both Commissions.

Camille said the agencies have collected a lot of data and that the Commission could direct the PG County EJ Commission to those agencies.

It was decided that Camille will write a letter of support to the PG County EJ Commission to be discussed at the September meeting.

Robert said the letter should be sent to the County Executive's Office, County Council Chair and a thank you email should be sent to Adam Ortiz.

An email will be sent to legislators introducing the EJ Commission, describing what it does, and encouraging them to get their constituents involved.

Next year goals

- Camille said she wants to get ahead of the legislators on EJ matters in the coming year.
- Keep up dialogue with MACo and try to include them in the Commission's outreach plan.
- The Commission wants the legislators to recommend someone from the community to be an ambassador/liaison.
- Joint meeting with CEHPAC
- Focus on Asthma in Maryland
- Continue conversation with Legislative Black Caucus
- Meet with local jurisdictions or have listening sessions to talk about the Commission's responsibilities
- Medicaid Plan
- Eastern Shore Case study

Crystal asked how the Commission can make meetings more accessible for people who may not be able to make them in person.

Joe said survey monkey could be used or Google forms.

Robert said you need staff to do the work and asked" where is the staff going to come from?" He said this is the job of the legislators and that it may not be a good idea to make all of these great ideas and then have nobody around to carry them out.

Subha said she can see if her department can look at providing data through a 1-800 number they use to collect sewer, perk test and lead data.

Meeting adjourned