



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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CATHERINE R. McCABE
Commissioner

Environmental Justice Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2019

DEP Emergency Operations Center
401 East State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

Council Members

Present: Colandus (Kelly) Francis, Leilani Holgado, Ted Carrington, Kim Gaddy, Joann Held

On the Phone: Meredith Taylor, Andy Kricun, Phyllis Reich, Zachary Lewis, Melissa Miles

Absent: Monique Griffith, Gantry Fox, Demetrius Marlowe, Yvonne Blake, Lloyd Abdul-Raheem, Amy Tuininga

OEJ Staff: Riche Outlaw, Nadia Akbar, Heather Knizhnik

DOH Representative: Barbara Goun, Christa Fontecchio

DEP Guests: Commissioner McCabe, Kate Angarone, Michael Gordon, Allison McLeod, Peg Hanna, Jennifer Feltis Cortese, Christine Schell, Minnie Best, Julie Krause, Julia Wong, Ken Ratzman, Kim Springer

Call to Order

Vice-Chair, Kim Gaddy, opened the meeting at 10:08am.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Kelly Francis moved that the minutes from the June 11, 2019 meeting be approved. Leilani Holgado seconded the motion. All present voted yes.

Working Group Updates (Part 1)

Environmental Education and Outreach Workgroup (Riche Outlaw for Meredith Taylor)

Gov Delivery: All Council Members have been entered into Gov Delivery and are asked to update their profiles in the system. The next step will be to share the link to Gov Delivery with our community contacts. Expect a model letter from OEJ that can be used when we invite others to sign up for Gov Delivery.

Website Redesign: Review of the current EJAC website has begun.

Community Corner: DEP prepared a short video about Community Corner that they submitted to an ECOS competition. The video was shown to the Council. The next video will include more information about how to use the tool.

Air Workgroup (Kim Gaddy)

Leadership: Melissa Miles is now the Vice-Chair of the Workgroup.

Anti-Idling Enforcement Sweep: DEP conducted an Anti-Idling enforcement sweep in Newark on May 20-21, issuing 45 violations (39 for idling and 6 for excessive smoke emissions). A follow-up sweep in the Ironbound neighborhood on July 25 resulted in 22 idling violations. For both sweeps, sites were identified by community groups and local government officials. Follow-up may include the posting of Anti-Idling signs.

Significant Program Updates with Commissioner McCabe

Urban Agriculture Report

Commissioner McCabe has received the report and plans to follow up with the Secretary of Agriculture.

DEP Program Updates Document

Commissioner McCabe noted that OEJ staff are preparing a Program Update document prior to each EJAC meeting. EJAC members reported that they are finding the document helpful. If additional information is needed on any topic, Council members can follow-up with Riche Outlaw. It was suggested that some contact information in the document would be useful.

Lead in Drinking Water

Kim Gaddy shared the “Take Back the Tap! Let the Water Run” flyer that was prepared by Clean Water Action. Melissa Miles noted that in Newark they are recruiting volunteers to go door-to-door providing information about lead in drinking water.

Commissioner McCabe summarized current actions; and then mentioned some possible future actions to address the problem including: removing all lead service lines; working with ECOS to call on EPA for better guidance related to lead in drinking water; corrosion control projects; and revising the New Jersey lead in copper rules.

Senator Booker’s bill to make funds available for lead service line replacements has passed the Senate.

RGGI Update

New Jersey expects to participate in the first auction of 2020. Commissioner McCabe acknowledged that EJ groups are not comfortable with market-based programs because of possible displacement of energy projects.

TCI Update

Market-based displacements may not be as common in the TCI program, but it was noted that the new clean cars will be more expensive and less likely to be found in environmentally-burdened communities.

Asset Management Plans

The Water Quality Accountability Act requires municipalities to have Asset Management Plans for their water systems. Plans were due last April.

Black Carbon Regulation

This is a part of the Global Warming Response Act. EJAC members are anxious to hear plans for promulgating and implementing these regulations.

Penn East Pipeline

The Third Circuit Court released a decision today finding that Penn East cannot use federal authority to condemn state-owned lands.

Working Group Updates (Part 2)

Water Workgroup (Andy Kricun)

Nothing additional to report beyond the earlier discussion on Lead.

Land Workgroup (Riche Outlaw for Lloyd Abdul-Raheem)

Urban Agriculture White Paper: The document was finalized and delivered to Commissioner McCabe. The Commissioner would like to invite Department of Agriculture Commissioner Fisher to a future EJAC meeting to continue the discussion.

RGI (Christine Schell)

The Department is working to implement the 2 rules that were adopted last June so that NJ will be able to participate in the Auction next March. They are also drafting a strategic funding plan for RGI revenues. There will be 4 workshops to review the draft funding plan in the Fall.

TCI (Peg Hanna)

The Georgetown Climate Center and TCI will release documents for public input on September 30. DEP may develop a set of complementary policies.

Public Access Rules (Kim Springer)

In May Governor Murphy signed a law codifying the public's right to use and enjoy the State's tidal waters and adjacent shorelines. DEP is now reviewing their rules to see where updates are needed to make this broad public access possible. The Land Use Management Program has held 4 Stakeholder meetings to gather input on necessary amendments to the Coastal Zone Management Rules and the Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules. They hope to have a rule proposal in the Spring of 2020.

Global Warming Response Act (Christine Schell)

In June Governor Murphy signed a bill updating the Global Warming Response Act that was originally adopted in 2007. The State has already met the Greenhouse Gas goals for 2020 that were set in the original Act. A new goal of 80% reductions from 2006 levels by 2050 is now in place.

Announcements

- Kim Gaddy, as well as some DEP staff, will be attending the One Water Conference in Austin, Texas September 16-20.
- Kelly Francis will be providing a Camden City Tour for a PBS team that is doing a documentary on Environmental Justice.
- The State NAACP Convention will be held in Cherry Hill October 11-12 (Kelly Francis)
- Ironbound Community Corporation will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary with a Gala on October 24 (Melissa Miles)
- The Site Remediation Professionals Licensing Board will be holding a Stakeholder meeting on September 23 as they prepare to update the Board regulations (Joann Held)
- The NJ Connects Conference on Diversity in State Contracting will be held on September 20 (Heather Knizhnik)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Next Meeting

October 15, 2019 at 10am