

**Maryland State
Commission on Environmental Justice
and Sustainable Communities**

**Annual Report
2013-2014**

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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 2013- 2014

Dr. Calvin Ball, Commission Chair, Howard County Council (*Local Government)

Senator Bill Ferguson, State Senate (*State Legislature)

Delegate Elizabeth Bobo, House of Delegates (*State Legislature)

Secretary Dr. Robert Summers, Maryland Department of the Environment (*State Agency)

Secretary Joshua Sharfstein, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (*State Agency)

Secretary Raymond Skinner, Department of Housing and Community Development (*State Agency)

Secretary Richard Hall, Maryland Department of Planning (*State Agency)

Secretary Dominick Murray, Department of Business and Economic Development (*State Agency)

Secretary James Smith, Maryland Department of Transportation (*State Agency)

Mr. Richard Fairbanks (*Impacted Community)

Mr. Stephan Levitsky (*Impacted Community)

Mr. Andrew Fellows, Commission Vice Chair, Mayor of College Park (*Environmental Organization)

Dr. Andrea Kidd Taylor, Morgan State University (*Health Expert)

Mr. John Kotoski, River Run Development Association (*Regulated Business)- *resigned in September 2014*

Dr. Laurance Polsky, Calvert County Health Officer (*Local Government)

Mr. Scot Spencer, Annie E. Casey Foundation (*Public Interest) – *resigned in June 2014*

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

Ms. Vernice Miller-Travis, Commission Vice Chair, Miller-Travis & Associates, environmental (*Public Interest)

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

Larissa Johnson, Department of the Environment (*Environmental Organization)

Rev. Meredith Moise, Groundswell Energy (*Public Interest)- *appointed June 2014*

Rebecca Rehr, Maryland Environmental Health Network (*Health Expert)- *appointed September 2014*

3 Commission Activities October 1, 2013- September 30, 2014

Legislative Black Caucus Weekend Conference Reception

The CEJSC and Chairman Calvin Ball hosted a reception on Friday, November 1st, 2013 during the Maryland Black Caucus Foundation 2013 Legislative Weekend Conference. About 30 people attended the reception, including Commission members, state legislators, county elected officials, and members of the academic community. The CEJSC made some great connections. The Commission also distributed its EJ-101 to attendees.

Prince George's County Meeting

Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources offered to host the CEJSC's December meeting. The meeting was very productive. The Department of Environmental Resources presented an overview of various EJ and sustainability initiatives they are undertaking. The CEJSC was provided the opportunity to offer feedback and guidance on potential ways to move forward with those programs.

House Bill 1430

House Bill 1430 Health - State Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council – Composition alters the Council to include a representative from the CEJSC. It is hoped that this will encourage better communication and collaboration between both Commissions.

Title VI Letter

Several members have had a longtime interest in the connection between Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and EJ. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in all programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. The Commission stresses the importance of state agencies complying with the law in order to work toward the goal of the fair and equitable distribution of government resources. The Commission signed a letter to each of the state agencies directed to the Fair Practice Officer referencing these responsibilities and the importance of compliance. See Appendix D.

Domino Sugar Meeting

Domino Sugar hosted the CEJSC's April Meeting. In addition to regular CEJSC business, the Commission participated in some new initiatives to make Domino Sugar more environmentally sustainable, including the press launch of new solar panels that provide power to the Domino Sugar sign. A few employees from Domino Sugar gave speeches on the new solar panels, including CEJSC Commission member Stephan Levitsky, who is Domino's Director of Corporate Sustainability.

Joint CEHPAC Meeting

The Commission held a joint meeting with the Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council on May 27, 2014 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. It was suggested that the two groups work together to create a document that would describe how the siting of a permitted facility takes place from the local zoning process to the opening of the facility. The document would highlight opportunities for community involvement.

State EJ 101 and Spanish Versions

In 2012, the Commission suggested the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) began drafting outreach documents for various EJ stakeholders. These “EJ 101” documents define EJ, describe the history of EJ, and explain how the stakeholders can be involved in issues surrounding EJ. In the past year, the Commission suggested the Department draft a State level 101, which was completed in October. Additionally, MDE created Spanish language versions of the general EJ 101 document and the EJ for communities one pager. In addition to the new documents the general 101 document and documents for local governments, businesses, and communities are now available on MDE’s website. *See Appendix D for the EJ 101 Documents.*

4 Planned Commission Objectives for 2014- 2015

1. Connect with the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus perhaps by hosting another reception at the annual LBC conference.
2. Propose a briefing to the General Assembly's environmental committees to discuss EJ.
3. Follow and Support for the work of the Cumulative Impact Workgroup being hosted by MDE.
4. Identify relevant EJ data sets that would be useful to policy makers in MD.
5. Identify a legislator to be an Environmental Justice Champion.
6. Focus on addressing EJ’s connection to rising sea levels on the Eastern Shore

5 Appendix A- July 2014 Retreat Summary

July 2014 Retreat Summary

Retreat Goal: To update and prioritize the Commission’s action oriented goals and objectives to conform to the CEJSC charge of advising the Governor and the Administration in a manner that is achievable.

Introductions: Calvin Ball started the meeting by welcoming everyone and inviting everyone to introduce themselves. All persons in attendance introduced themselves with their names and their relevant professional positions. Calvin then thanked everyone for introducing themselves and briefly explained what the meeting would be focused on.

Presentations on EJ-related work at UMBC: Dr. Matthew Baker, associate professor in the Geography and Environmental Systems Department, presented on urban sustainability research being done at UMBC. He discussed how his research has focused on the relationship between water quality and urbanization and that there are strong natural indicators for that relationship. He then concluded his presentation with the current findings of his research.

Dr. Christopher Swan, another associate professor with the UMBC Department of Geography and Environmental Systems, began his ecological presentation on plant work and “greening” vacant land in Baltimore City as the second presentation. He emphasized the point that greening vacant lots is directly beneficial to nearby residents and the people who helped pay for the projects.

Update on MDE’s Cumulative Impact Workgroup: Lisa Nissley stated why the Cumulative Impact Workgroup was formed. She then summarized what the Workgroup has done since its inception and what it plans to do in the near future.

An internal look at the CEJSC: Cheryl Jamison and Nick White, employees from MACRO, guided the remainder of the CEJSC retreat and used various activities to try to gauge how CEJSC members work together and where some conflicts may be present.

Lunch

An internal look at the CEJSC cont.: Cheryl Jamison and Nick White continued their examination of the CEJSC and pursued further activities and discussions. They then formed a list of 12 broad goals that the CEJSC expressed interest in pursuing.

Goals and Priorities for 2014-2015: Cheryl Jamison and Nick White created a smaller list of more general goals that the CEJSC has expressed interest in. They also formed a list of future goals. They ended the retreat by forming a final list of goals and what members will be responsible for furthering those goals and projects.

Adjourned at 3:30 pm

6 Appendix B- Legislative Testimonies

STATE OF MARYLAND

Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

February 11, 2014

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Members, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Senate Office Building, Suite 2W
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 56– *Environment – Solid Waste Management Practices – Maryland Recycling and Landfill Diversion Task Force*

Dear Chairwoman Conway and Committee Members:

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities has reviewed Senate Bill 56 entitled *Environment – Solid Waste Management Practices – Maryland Recycling and Landfill Diversion Task Force*. We would like to provide some information on the bill.

This bill calls for the creation of a Task Force to look at solid waste management practices in Maryland. While the Commission supports recycling and landfill diversion efforts, we are concerned that waste-to-energy incinerators may be used to meet some of the landfill diversion goals.

The concept behind the term "environmental justice" is that all people– regardless of their race, color, national origin or income– are able to enjoy equally high levels of environmental protection. Waste-to-energy incinerators can be an environmental justice issue because incinerators for trash, hazardous waste, sewage sludge and other types of waste are typically located in minority and low-income communities. When waste-to-energy plants are located in these communities, it creates disproportionate environmental and health impacts on the local residents. According to studies, some of these health impacts include, increases in cancers and increases in pre-term births. The environmental impacts include increased air emissions that can include emissions of toxic lead and mercury.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor Senate Bill 56 during the Committee’s deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-313-2001 or by e-mail at cball@howardcountymd.gov.

Sincerely,
Dr. Calvin Ball, Chair, CEJSC

STATE OF MARYLAND
Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable
Communities

February 25, 2014

The Honorable Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Members, Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee
Senate Office Building, Suite 2W
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 706– *Environment - Permit Determinations - Cumulative Impact Assessments*

Dear Chairwoman Conway and Committee Members:

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) has reviewed Senate Bill 706– *Environment - Permit Determinations - Cumulative Impact Assessments*. We would like to provide some information on the bill.

SB 706 would require the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to conduct a cumulative impact assessment before preparing a tentative determination on certain permit applications. The permits that would be affected by this legislation are permits related to the following: air quality control, landfills, incinerators, water discharge, sewage sludge storage or distribution, controlled hazardous substances, hazardous materials, and low level nuclear waste. This cumulative impact assessment would address the impact on the environment and on human health that could potentially result under the permitted project when it is added to the other present and reasonably foreseeable sources of pollution in the area. Based on the cumulative impact assessment results, MDE could then make a determination to issue or deny the permit or create mitigating conditions in the permit.

The CEJSC has been working on this issue with the Department of the Environment for many years. It is a complex issue and while gains have been made, we all share frustration that there has not been a clearer answer or mechanism to assure that these issues are addressed in the permitting process. The CEJSC will continue to work on this issue and is happy to meet with interested parties to discuss the legislation and potential ways to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor Senate Bill 706 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-313-2001 or by e-mail at cball@howardcountymd.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. Calvin Ball, Chair, CEJSC

**STATE OF MARYLAND
Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable
Communities**

March 5, 2014

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Members of the Environmental Matters Committee

Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information, House Bill 1210: *Environment – Permit Determinations – Cumulative Impact*

Dear Delegate McIntosh and Committee Members:

The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) has reviewed House Bill 1210 (HB 1210). We would like to provide some information on the bill.

HB 1210 would require the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to conduct a cumulative impact assessment before preparing a tentative determination on certain permit applications. The permits that would be affected by this legislation are permits related to the following: air quality control, landfills, incinerators, water discharge, sewage sludge storage or distribution, controlled hazardous substances, hazardous materials, and low level nuclear waste. This cumulative impact assessment would address the impact on the environment and on human health that could potentially result under the permitted project when it is added to the other present and reasonably foreseeable sources of pollution in the area. Based on the cumulative impact assessment results, MDE could then make a determination to issue or deny the permit or create mitigating conditions in the permit.

The CEJSC has been working on this issue with the Department of the Environment for many years. It is a complex issue and while gains have been made, we all share frustration that there has not been a clearer answer or mechanism to assure that these issues are addressed in the permitting process. The CEJSC will continue to work on this issue and is happy to meet with interested parties to discuss the legislation and potential ways to move forward.

Thank you for your consideration. We will continue to monitor HB 1210 during the Committee's deliberations, and I am available to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact me at 410-313-2001 or by e-mail at cball@howardcountymd.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. Calvin Ball, Chair, CEJSC

7 Appendix C- 2013- 2014 Meeting Agendas/Minutes

Agendas

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
October 22, 2013
Montgomery Park
Baltimore, MD 21230**

AGENDA

9:30 am Introductions

9:45 am Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps

Business Outreach – John Q, John K, Dick, and Elaine

- Next Steps: John Quinn and MDE discussing draft language for EJ permitting documents; Elaine will develop a workplan for blog outreach (pending because of changes in DBED's IT Department).

Academic Community – Caroline, Karen, and Scot (with Rebecca Rehr & Dr. Wilson)

- Next Steps: Follow up and provide a summary of our retreat discussion to Dr. Wilson;
Dr. Taylor and Lisa to discuss the details of a possible internship program with Morgan State School of Public Health students.

Legislative Outreach – Chris, Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: Chris, Calvin and Lisa are planning the LBC reception; Lisa is continuing to update the Governor's Office after each monthly CEJSC meeting.

County Outreach- Arabia, Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: Calvin will target certain County Planning Directors for their comments on the EJ 101 County Outreach handout; Arabia/Lisa following up on possible discussion of the EJ 101 County Outreach handout at the Planning Directors meeting at MDP; Lisa/Megan in contact with Adam Ortiz to discuss his ideas for EJ December meeting; Chris will develop a workplan for blog outreach.

Title VI – Vernice and Robin:

- Next Steps: Vernice to share NEJAC's comments on the Title VI Federal guidance to distribute to the group and appropriate people at MDE; Vernice to send dates she is available to meet with Deputy Secretary Kathy Kinsey regarding Title VI concerns she has about MDE; Project - Organize a roundtable with agency representatives from DNR, MDE, MDOT, and Housing to discuss Title VI. Vernice spoke to Robin- they plan to meet and will provide an update at the October meeting.

CEHPAC Report- Nancy/Cliff

- Next Steps: Nancy continues updates to each group

11:00 am Other Business
 Retreat
 Minutes

11:30 am Adjourn

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
November 19, 2013
Montgomery Park
Baltimore, MD 21230

AGENDA

9:30 am Introductions

9:45 am Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps

Business Outreach – John Q, John K, Dick, and Elaine

- Next Steps: John Quinn and MDE discussing draft language for EJ permitting documents; Elaine will develop a workplan for blog outreach.

Academic Community – Caroline, Karen, and Scot (with Rebecca Rehr & Dr. Wilson)

- Next Steps: Caroline is creating a matrix for the internships; Caroline creating proposal for internship on smoking in housing; Nancy following up with Cliff to see if the pesticides intern can be housed at DHMH; Lisa/Megan are creating an EJ internship proposal for MDE and will share it with Dr. Taylor.

Legislative Outreach – Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: Summary of the LBC reception; Lisa is continuing to update the Governor's Office after each monthly CEJSC meeting.

County Outreach- Arabia, Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: EJ-101s are being printed by MDE's Communications Department; Lisa/Megan continuing discussions regarding Planning Directors meeting at MDP; Lisa/Megan in contact with Adam Ortiz to discuss his ideas for EJ December meeting; Discuss who will develop a workplan for blog outreach now that Chris Hill is no longer a Commissioner.

Title VI – Vernice and Robin:

- Next Steps: Vernice to send dates she is available to meet with Deputy Secretary Kathy Kinsey regarding Title VI concerns she has about MDE; Project - Organize a roundtable for Spring 2014 with agency representatives from DNR, MDE, MDOT, and Housing to discuss Title VI.

CEHPAC Report- Nancy/Cliff

- Next Steps: Nancy continues updates to each group

11:00 am Other Business-

- Conference call with MDA regarding pesticides and public health

11:30 am Adjourn

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
December 17, 2013
1400 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774
3rd Floor, Conference Room 308

AGENDA

- 10:30 am Introductions
- 10:45 am Presentation from staff of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources on:
- The status of their Department's EJ initiative
 - initiatives for environmental sustainability
 - issues that other jurisdictions are experiencing with respect to EJ and how such jurisdictions are handling these issues
- 11:30 am Question and Answer session
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 12:30 pm Adjourn

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
January 28th
Howard County Delegation Room 218
House Office Building (HOB)
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

AGENDA

9:30 am Introductions

9:45 am Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps

Business Outreach – John Q, John K, Dick, and Elaine

- Next Steps: MDE working on implementing draft language for EJ permitting documents; Elaine will develop a workplan for blog outreach.

Academic Community – Caroline, Karen, and Scot (with Rebecca Rehr & Dr. Wilson)

- Next Steps: Caroline creating proposal for internship on smoking in housing; Nancy following up with Cliff to see if the pesticides intern can be housed at DHMH; Lisa/Megan submitted EJ Internship proposal.

Legislative Outreach – Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: Lisa/Megan continuing to update the Governor’s Office after each monthly CEJSC meeting; Megan tracking any potential EJ legislation.

County Outreach- Arabia, Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: EJ-101s printed by MDE’s Communications Department and posted on MDE’s website.

Title VI – Vernice and Robin:

- Next Steps: Vernice to send dates she is available to meet with Deputy Secretary Kathy Kinsey regarding Title VI concerns she has about state agencies implementation from Title VI; Project - Organize a roundtable for Spring 2014 with agency representatives from DNR, MDE, MDOT, and Housing to discuss Title VI; Review of Robin’s Title VI letter.

CEHPAC Report- Nancy/Cliff

- Next Steps: Nancy continues updates to each group

11:00 am Other Business- EJ-101 for state legislators

11:30 am Adjourn

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
February 25th
Howard County Delegation Room 218
House Office Building (HOB)
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

AGENDA

9:30 am Introductions

9:45 am Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps

Business Outreach – John Q, John K, Dick, and Elaine

- Next Steps: MDE update on EJ language for permitting documents; Elaine update on blog outreach.

Academic Community – Caroline, Karen, and Scot (with Rebecca Rehr & Dr. Wilson)

- Next Steps: Caroline creating proposal for internship on smoking in housing; Nancy following up with Cliff to see if the pesticides intern can be housed at DHMH.

Legislative Outreach – Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: Lisa/Megan continuing to update the Governor’s Office after each monthly CEJSC meeting; Megan tracking potential EJ legislation; CEJSC submitted a letter of information on SB 56; Letters of Information: SB 706, HB 1430.

County Outreach- Arabia, Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: Arabia/Lisa/Megan coordinating on an EJ presentation at an upcoming Planning Director’s meeting.

Title VI – Vernice and Robin:

- Next Steps: Vernice to send dates she is available to meet with Deputy Secretary Kathy Kinsey regarding Title VI concerns she has about MDE; Project - Organize a roundtable for Spring 2014 with agency representatives from DNR, MDE, MDOT, and Housing to discuss Title VI; Review of Robin’s Title VI letter.

CEHPAC Report- Nancy/Cliff

- Next Steps: Nancy continues updates to each group

11:00 am Other Business

- Conference call on SB 56/HB 240- Solid Waste Management Practices - Maryland Recycling and Landfill Diversion Task Force

11:30 am Adjourn

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
March 25th
Howard County Delegation Room 218
House Office Building (HOB)
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

AGENDA

9:30 am Introductions

9:45 am Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps

Business Outreach – John Q, John K, Dick, and Elaine

- Next Steps: MDE update on EJ language for permitting documents; Elaine update on blog outreach.

Academic Community – Caroline, Karen, and Scot (with Rebecca Rehr & Dr. Wilson)

- Next Steps: Caroline coordinating proposal for internship on smoking in housing with DHMH; Nancy update on status of pesticides intern housed at DHMH.

Legislative Outreach – Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: Lisa/Megan continuing to update the Governor’s Office after each monthly CEJSC meeting; Megan tracking potential EJ legislation; MDE working on EJ-101 for State Legislators.

County Outreach- Arabia, Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: Arabia/Lisa/Megan coordinating on an EJ presentation at an upcoming Planning Directors’ meeting.

Title VI – Vernice and Robin:

- Next Steps: Vernice to send dates she is available to meet with Deputy Secretary Kathy Kinsey regarding Title VI concerns she has about MDE; Project - Organize a roundtable for Spring 2014 with agency representatives from DNR, MDE, MDOT, and Housing to discuss Title VI; Review of Robin’s Title VI letter.

CEHPAC Report- Nancy/Cliff

- Next Steps: Nancy continues updates to each group

11:00 am Other Business

11:30 am Adjourn

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
April 22nd
Domino Sugar Baltimore Refinery
New Administration Building
Main Conference Room
1100 Key Highway East
Baltimore, MD 21230

AGENDA

9:30 am Introductions

9:45 am Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps

Business Outreach – John Q, John K, Dick, and Elaine

- Next Steps: MDE update on EJ language for permitting documents; Elaine update on blog outreach.

Academic Community – Caroline, Karen, and Scot (with Rebecca Rehr & Dr. Wilson)

- Next Steps: Caroline coordinating proposal for internship on smoking in housing with DHMH; Nancy update on status of pesticides intern housed at DHMH.

Legislative Outreach – Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: Recap of EJ related bills; Impact of HB 1430; Lisa/Megan continuing to update the Governor's Office after each monthly CEJSC meeting; MDE working on EJ-101 for State Legislators.

County Outreach- Arabia, Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: EJ presentation at an upcoming Planning Directors' meeting; conference call with the Smart Growth Commission; MDE drafting county outreach document.

Title VI – Vernice and Robin:

- Next Steps: Update on Title VI letter; Vernice to send dates she is available to meet with Deputy Secretary Kathy Kinsey regarding Title VI concerns she has about MDE; Project - Organize a roundtable for Spring 2014 with agency representatives from DNR, MDE, MDOT, and Housing to discuss Title VI.

CEHPAC Report- Nancy/Cliff

- Next Steps: Nancy continues updates to each group

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC)
Annual Joint Meeting
May 27, 2014**

**Aeris Conference Room, Montgomery Park
Baltimore, MD**

AGENDA

- 9:30 am Introductions of all attendees
- 9:45 am Greetings from Chairman Calvin Ball and Chairman Clifford Mitchell
- 10:00 am Shared Issues of Interest & Legislation
- Implementation of HB 1430 (Joint CEHPAC/CEJSC Representative)
 - Children, environmental justice, sustainability, and climate change
 - Children, environmental justice and facility siting
- 11:15 am Other Business & Announcements
- 11:30 am Adjourn

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Patuxent Conference Room, Montgomery Park
Baltimore, MD
June 24, 2014**

AGENDA

Introductions

Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps

Business Outreach – John Q, John K, Dick, and Elaine

- Next Steps: MDE update on EJ language for permitting documents

Academic/Community – Caroline, Karen, and Scot (with Rebecca Rehr & Dr. Wilson)

- Next Steps: Discussion of idea for the one pager on zoning/permitting; Caroline coordinating proposal for internship on smoking in housing with DHMH; Nancy update on status of pesticides intern housed at DHMH.

Legislative Outreach – Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: MDE working on EJ-101 for State Legislators; MDE Cumulative Impact Workgroup

County Outreach- Arabia, Calvin, & Lisa

- Next Steps: EJ presentation at an upcoming Planning Directors' meeting; conference call with the Smart Growth Commission; MDE update on county outreach document.

Title VI – Vernice and Robin:

- Next Steps: Update on Title VI letter

CEHPAC Report- Nancy/Cliff

- Next Steps: update on joint meeting; Appointment of joint CEHPAC/CEJSC member; CEHPAC will report back on the health impacts/CBAs and the ACA.

Other Business

- Discussion of CEJSC Annual Report; Discussion of CEJSC Retreat
- Approval of May Minutes

Adjourn

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Commissioner's Retreat
Tuesday, July 22, 2014
University of Maryland Baltimore County**

**USGS Building, A& B Conference Rooms
5522 Research Park Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228
9:15 am to 3:30 pm**

AGENDA

- 9:15 am Introductions
- 9:30 am Presentations on EJ Related work at UMBC:
Dr. Chris Swan and Dr. Matthew Baker, Associate Professors of
Geography and Environmental Systems
- 10:10 am Update on MDE's Cumulative Impact Workgroup
- 10:30 am An internal look at the CEJSC: Moving the issues forward, Session One:
Facilitated by Nick White & Cheryl Jamison, Maryland Mediation and
Conflict Resolution Office
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 1:15 pm An internal look at the CEJSC: Moving the issues forward, Session One:
Facilitated by Nick White & Cheryl Jamison, Maryland Mediation and
Conflict Resolution Office
- 2:45 pm Goals and Priorities for 2014-2015
- 3:30 pm Adjourn

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Baltimore City Community College (BCCC)
South Pavilion-Conference Room D
2600 Liberty Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21215
September 23, 2014

AGENDA

Introductions

Welcoming Remarks

Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps (As determined at July Retreat)

Legislative Outreach

1. Black Caucus Reception:
 - a. *Leading:* Vernice, Larissa
 - b. *Supporting:* Rev. Meredith Moise

2. Joint Hearing:
 - a. *Leading:* Lisa

3. Identify Relevant Data Sets and an Environmental Champion
 - a. *Leading:* Scot, Calvin, Stephan

Academic/Community

- Sea Level Rise
 - b. *Leading:* Arabia
 - c. *Supporting:* Dick

Cumulative Impact Workgroup

- *Proposed Leading:* John Quinn (John was nominated without his knowledge)

CEHPAC Report- Nancy/Cliff

- Next Steps: update on Appointment of joint CEHPAC/CEJSC member; CEHPAC report on the health impacts/CBAs and the ACA; Discussion of idea for the one pager on zoning/permitting.

Other Business

- Approval of May, June and July Minutes

Adjourn

Minutes

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

**Tuesday, October 22, 2013
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Vernice Miller-Travis, Andy Fellows, Benoy Thomas, Dick Fairbanks, Nancy Servatius, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Andrea K. Taylor, John Quinn, Lisa Nissley
- Participants: Megan Ulrich, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Angelo Bianca, Crystal Heide, Yvette Williams, Rebecca Rehr (via phone)

Introductions

Each member and guest introduced themselves and their relationship to the Commission.

Lisa told everyone that Calvin had an unexpected scheduling conflict today and Vernice offered to run the meeting.

Title VI

Vernice said that she has been trying to coordinate with Robin on Title VI, but she had not been able to get a hold of Robin. Vernice gave a brief background on Title VI and efforts that EPA is making to implement it.

Lisa said MDE has commented on EPA's Title VI plan.

Vernice said we need to move forward with the Title VI roundtable with representatives of each state agency participating. She suggested late April/early May as a target date. Vernice will give Lisa dates she is available in November to meet with Kathy Kinsey on EJ and Title VI issues.

County Outreach

We are potentially presenting at the December Planning Director's Roundtable meeting. Also, Lisa contacted Adam Ortiz about presenting and hosting the December CEJSC meeting. He agreed, but she has not heard back from him about working out details. Lisa asked Vernice and Andy to follow up with Adam. Megan will also follow up with Shirley Posten, Adam's aide, regarding scheduling logistics.

Business Outreach

Lisa updated the Commission on the status of incorporating EJ language into existing permit applications paperwork. MDE added draft language to an existing air quality permit application and instructions. Lisa sent the language to John Quinn and is waiting for his feedback on it.

Andy asked if the Commissioners could see the language when it is finalized.

Lisa said she will share the finalized language with the Commissioners.

Rebecca asked if MDE will be sharing the language with other states when it is finalized.

Angelo said that this is a pilot and MDE will need some time to figure out if it is successful.

Vernice said that Connecticut has a whole EJ permitting process that is based in law.

CEHPAC

Nancy said CEHPAC will be keeping an eye on the new Baltimore City School construction and making sure that the construction practices are actually green.

Academic Outreach

Lisa said she had a conversation with Dr. Taylor regarding an intern program at MDE. Lisa and Megan will work to outline the program and discuss it further with Dr. Taylor.

Vernice suggested building a sustainable communities intern at DHCD.

Caroline said that while the CEJSC waits for Dr. Wilson to develop research/academic requirements for an internship, the Commission can move ahead with other opportunities.

Dr. Taylor said that the CEJSC should have the internship requirements out by January for a summer/fall internship. Dr. Taylor said that if the Commission makes an announcement for an internship, then she can send it to her students.

Vernice said that Dr. Wilson's program is expanding while Dr. Taylor's program is established. The Commission can reach out to both programs, but use Dr. Taylor's as an example of how the internship will work.

Caroline asked how the Commission will follow up with the internship idea.

Lisa clarified that there were initially two proposals for academic outreach: one was to create multiple different EJ research topics so that the students could pick from them and do an independent research topic on the issue of their choice; the other proposal was to create EJ internships.

Dr. Taylor said one internship could focus on pesticides. The student could have an advisor at a state agency.

Caroline asked which state agency would house the pesticides intern.

Nancy will talk to Cliff about possibly housing the pesticides Intern at DHMH. The intern could also interact with people at other state agencies and the CEJSC.

Caroline will write up a matrix on the three EJ intern ideas before the next meeting.

Rebecca is also willing to contribute on this effort.

Legislative Outreach

Lisa reminded the Commissioners that the Legislative Black Caucus (LBC) reception is occurring Friday November 1, in Annapolis. She asked which Commissioners are able to attend.

John Quinn, Vernice, Calvin and Lisa will be in attendance.

Lisa said it would be a good idea for the Commission to make calls to the LBC invitees.

Calvin's staff is reaching out to Congressman Cummings.

Andy and Dr. Taylor also volunteered to make calls to LBC members.

Lisa said the invitations were sent and the food order has been placed.

Vernice said that the Commissioners need to make sure to reach out to all the LBC members at the reception. It is a great opportunity to get an EJ champion in the legislature. Vernice asked what issues the CEJSC should raise to the legislators. What does the Commission want them to do? She asked that people think of topics to discuss with the legislators at the LBC reception. She also asked every Commissioner to call their own legislators and ask them to attend the reception.

Lisa will email the LBC list and invitation to all the Commissioners.

Lisa said she is continuing to update the Governor's Legislative Office after each CEJSC meeting.

Other News:

Andy said that the Pesticide Workgroup will be putting out an interim report at the end of December and a final report at the end of July. There is an EJ concern that migrant workers are very exposed to pesticides. There are also potential information gaps on the issue.

Lisa said that since the Pesticide Workgroup is still in progress, it is not likely that any legislation would pass during the 2014 session. The legislature would likely wait until the 2015 legislative session, when the Pesticide Workgroup is complete, to pass anything.

Vernice asked what action the Commission could take on a pesticides bill, would it be a letter of support?

Lisa said previously the CEJSC has outlined EJ issues in the bill and pointed out EJ issues that are not considered in the bill.

Dr. Taylor said that the CEJSC can look at the Pesticides Workgroup report and address EJ issues in that too.

Vernice asked how many migrant workers there are in Maryland.

Andy said it is a large, but mostly invisible population concentrated on the Eastern Shore.

Dick said he doesn't see a lot of farm workers picking corn/soy crops, but the workers are possibly picking other crops.

Andy asked if the Commission could have someone from the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) speak to them regarding the EJ/public health aspects of pesticides.

Lisa said she will work on setting up a call before session. She asked Andy to give her some specific issues to have MDA discuss. Lisa also asked Nancy to follow up and see if CEHPAC may be interested in participating in the call as well.

Caroline said there may also be a sustainable communities aspect to the issue; she will participate on the call.

Caroline also mentioned that the Governor is hosting a Better Choices/Better Sustainability forum on October 31st.

Dick presented information on Second Sundays in the park at Gwynn Falls/Leakin Park and encouraged everyone to attend. He also shared an article on European energy policies with the Commission.

Andy said that it might be worth it to talk about water/utility costs to communities.

Rebecca said that the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning has been awarded an EJ small grant by the EPA. She will circulate the information for Lisa to pass on to the Commissioners.

Vernice said maybe someone from the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning can come speak to the CEJSC at some point.

Vernice asked if there was a quorum for minutes. Lisa said they are one person short of a quorum.

Vernice asked everyone to give any comments they have on minutes before the next meeting.

Adjourn

The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2013 at 9:30am at Montgomery Park.

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

November 19, 2013

Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD 21230

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Calvin Ball, Andy Fellows, Benoy Thomas, Karen Forbes, Andrea K. Taylor, Lisa Nissley, Robin Underwood
- Participants: Megan Ulrich, Crystal Heide, Richard Allen

Introductions

Each participant introduced themselves.

Legislative Outreach

Calvin gave a summary of the LBC reception. He said that the reception went pretty well. The Commission emailed all the participants to thank them for attending. He said that the Commissioners made some good connections with State legislators.

Megan said that the following legislators were in attendance: Delegate Washington, Delegate Jones, Delegate Pena-Melnyk, Delegate Cardin, and Delegate Braveboy. Additional attendees included: Ken Ulman, Frank Turner, Dr. Wilson, from Morgan State University, and several interested community members. Commissioners Calvin Ball, John Quinn, Scot Spencer, and Vernice Miller-Travis were also in attendance.

County Outreach

Megan said that she and Lisa were in contact with staff at MDP about the possibility of making an EJ presentation at the December Planning Directors' meeting. The Planning Directors' had a scheduling mix-up at their October meeting and therefore had to rearrange the December meeting as well. Lisa and Megan will follow-up about future opportunities to present at a Planning Director's meeting.

Lisa and Megan contacted Adam Ortiz and his staff to discuss his ideas for the December meeting. Megan said that Prince George's County confirmed that they will host the meeting on December 17th, 2013. Megan asked them to send the details of the time and place by today's meeting but has not heard from them yet regarding those details. She will follow-up with them again and send the meeting details out to the Commissioners. Prince George's County provided a summary of the topics that they plan to discuss. They will be discussing: the status of their EJ initiative and issues they are encountering with implementation; their initiatives for environmental sustainability; and issues that other jurisdictions are experiencing with respect to EJ.

Andrea suggested that the CEJSC invite all of the state/county elected officials from Prince George's County to the December meeting.

Megan said she would check-in with Prince George's County on how many people the conference room can hold.

Robin said she lives in Prince George's County and she is happy to help with the meeting.

Title VI

Robin said that she drafted a letter to send to different agencies that gives a background on Title VI and discusses Title VI obligations. Robin will send the letter to Calvin, Lisa, and Megan after the meeting. Robin also suggested that the state pass a Title VI law.

Richard Allen said that there is a Statewide Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Coordinator under DBM. This coordinator is in charge of all the Fair Practice Officers at the various state agencies. Richard will send Megan information on the EEO Coordinator and Fair Practices Officers.

Andy suggested that looping MDA in on Title VI would be a good idea.

Other Business- Conference call with MDA regarding pesticides and public health

Andy discussed the conference call with MDA. Andy said that he was impressed overall with how MDA works to protect communities from pesticides. He said that MDA corresponds complaints to pesticides issues. MDA discussed day labors and how often enforcement is taking place. He said some of his questions related to issues that are being discussed at the Pesticide Workgroup. Another issue that was discussed on the call was the effect of pesticides on children who attend schools that are in poor communities. It was discussed that pesticides use at schools is not the concern, but rather housing issues are the concern.

Andy also said that MDA has a phone system that can translate Spanish, Vietnamese, and Creole so native speakers of these languages can obtain information from MDA. Andy said he thinks that these are all good efforts and the Commission should follow-up to make sure that MDA is protecting the most vulnerable populations from pesticides. Andy said the CEJSC should also follow up on food sustainability practices, such as encouraging MDA to create initiatives on alleviating food deserts.

Lisa said that she spoke with someone from the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) and he said that, based on surveys, there are about 2,000 undocumented migrant workers in the state. He said there are 673 workers with an H2 visa.

Andrea said that the Pesticide Workgroup is releasing a report. After the report is released the CEJSC should send a support letter to legislators or the Governor about it.

Business Outreach

Lisa gave an update on inserting language into the EJ permitting documents. She said that MDE reviewed John Quinn's suggested edits to the language and liked them. MDE will start by putting this EJ language into its air permits. MDE is possibly getting an intern this winter. If they get the intern, that person can look at the EJ draft language and insert it into other selected permits at MDE.

Andrea asked if the CEJSC can include links to its meeting minutes when it does blog posts.

Lisa said that can be done.

Academic Community

Karen went over the internship matrix that Caroline created. She said that she and Caroline are creating the proposal for the smoking internship at housing.

Andrea and Richard Allen gave suggestions for potential academic organization partners at Morgan State University.

Lisa gave an update on MDE's internship proposal that she and Megan created. MDE would like an intern to research and develop a community outreach tool for communities affected by various environmental issues. This will be a pilot project implemented in a few communities. The first phase of this project will be to research how different communities prefer to receive information, i.e. community meetings, community newsletters, etc. The second stage of the project will focus on consolidating and analyzing this research while developing a tool for surveying communities about their interests and preferred methods of communication. In the third stage of the project, the student will implement the survey tool to determine the preferences of the various pilot communities and then analyze the results. Ultimately, the Department would like to be able to use this tool repeatedly as communities express interest in projects and/or issues of concern.

Lisa and Megan have been talking to Andrea about the proposal. MDE is going to submit this proposal to Morgan State University and Dr. Wilson at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Andrea said that the proposal should be submitted by January 1st for a summer of 2014 internship.

Other Business

Lisa said that she and Megan have been making updates to the website. Once the changes are completed Megan will send a link to the Commissioners.

Lisa also said that there has been some discussion from Commissioners about changing the time of the Annapolis meetings to 9:30 a.m. She asked if anyone had an opinion on moving the meeting to 9:30 a.m. or keeping the meeting time at 8:30 a.m. The Commissioners expressed support for moving the meeting time to 9:30 a.m. in Annapolis. Lisa will confirm the conference rooms and new time with Delegate Bobo's aide.

Adjourn

The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for December 17th in Prince George's County.

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Special Meeting at the Prince George's County Department of Environmental
Resources**

December 17, 2013

**1400 McCormick Drive, Largo, MD 20774
3rd Floor, Conference Room 308**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Calvin Ball, Dick Fairbanks, Andrew Fellows, John Quinn, Nancy Servatius, Benoy Thomas, Stephan Levitsky, Megan Ulrich
- Participants: Delegate Aisha Braveboy, Adam Ortiz, Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Debbie Weller, Carole Ann Barth, Larry Coffman, Crystal Heide, Darlene Mitchell

Introductions

Calvin introduced Delegate Aisha Braveboy.

Delegate Braveboy discussed Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and her work for the Legislative Black Caucus.

Overview: Adam Ortiz

Adam gave an overview of the work of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (the Department).

The first area the Department is focusing on is waste management. They are practicing resource recovery and are finding items of value in the landfills. They currently have a 43% recycling rate in the county and they hope to increase that to 50%. Two years ago the County Council passed a bill to require condominiums and apartments in the county to recycle.

Darlene asked if the 50% disparity was due to the fact that condominiums previously could not participate.

Adam said yes, that is part of it.

Adam said another part of waste management that they are focusing on is a composting pilot program. The Department collects food waste from the University of Maryland and Whole Foods. They partnered with a company to use GORE cover technology, which acts like a big jacket going over the food scraps and cuts down the composting time by 80%. The compost product is being sold by the county and Maryland Environmental

Service (MES) to organic gardeners. They are currently selling 300 tons a day and are selling out. They would like to expand the program countywide and include restaurants.

The second area that they are focusing on is improving water quality. They are working on retrofitting 800,000 acres of urban areas to control stormwater by utilizing 46,000 stormwater devices, such as rain gardens and pervious pavement. Adam said that this is a job creation issue. 60% of Prince George's County's residents commute out of the county for work. This work will bring a series of jobs and local hire initiatives. This is a long term investment. They are focusing on black top areas and they are coordinating with the Department of Public Works to create bike lanes to blighted urban communities.

Dick asked about the effectiveness of single stream recycling in Prince George's County.

Adam said that they have been very successful using single stream recycling.

Calvin said it has been very successful in Howard County too.

The Department is also using methane from a landfill to provide power to the county jail and they are looking at installing the largest solar array in Maryland at the landfill.

Delegate Braveboy said that is good news because currently most RPS credits are currently bought from out of state. So companies from out of state are the ones benefitting.

Darlene asked if Prince George's County is doing anything with scrap tires.

Adam said they are not currently doing anything with scrap tires.

Darlene suggested looking into covering the ground at school playgrounds with scrap tire pieces.

Adam said the last area that they are focusing on is cleaning up trash. Trash impacts older communities especially hard. There is a special focus on cleaning up the Anacostia River. The County Council is currently working on legislation geared towards plastic bottles and bags.

EJ and Sustainability Initiatives Presentation: Dawn Hawkins-Nixon

Dawn said that there is no EJ program yet; however, it is one of the proposed sustainability initiatives in T.W.E.E.T.S. (trees, water, energy, EJ, trash, sustainability).

They are working on increasing the tree canopy. They planted trees for Arbor Day at various schools around the county.

They are also working on increasing water conservation and reuse. They are looking into water reuse systems and are in discussions with the University of Maryland about a pilot project.

They are also promoting investment in renewable energy. They have set up electric vehicle charging stations and submitted a smart energy community application.

They are currently looking at setting up an EJ program. They are also working to reduce trash and litter. 21 communities are picked every year to participate in a county cleanup program.

They also have a transforming neighborhoods initiative (TNI) that is meant to achieve a thriving economy, great schools, and safe neighborhoods. They looked at Environmental Benefits Districts (EBDs) to get an idea of areas. There is some overlap between the Bladensburg and Hillcrest Heights TNIs and EBDs. They are hoping the TNIs can be a springboard into EJ. They are trying to promote education and outreach. The key TNI indicators are the reading/math level in schools, the crime rate, and trash in the neighborhood. They are initiating a dialogue and reaching out to stakeholders. The target areas they are looking at are Langley Park, East Riverdale, Palmer Park, etc.

Darlene said that some of these target areas sit on waterways.

Dawn said yes, a lot of it goes back to the fact that these are older communities that were left behind. The waterways in this area are impaired.

Darlene asked if the waterways are still used for commerce.

Dawn said no, the waterways are too shallow to get ships up now.

Andy said that Prince George's County is a good model for dealing with water sustainability in the state and county.

Dick said that historically big ships came all the way up the Patapsco River to Ellicott City, but the Patapsco is very shallow now.

Andy said that the colonial agricultural practices added to the sediment runoff that filled in the rivers.

The meeting adjourned and lunch was provided.

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC) Meeting
January 28th, 2014
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Howard County Delegation Room 218
House Office Building (HOB)
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Arabia Davis, Steve Levitsky, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Nancy Servatius, Cliff Mitchell, Vernice Miller Travis, Andy Fellows, Elaine McCubbin, John Quinn, Andrea Kidd-Taylor, Megan Ulrich

- Participants: Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Richard Allen, Darlene Mitchell

Introductions: Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

Megan Ulrich summarized the December meeting in Prince George's County.

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon discussed the County's TWEETS initiative, the sustainability program and their EJ initiative.

Andy Fellows said that he is proud of the work that is going on in Prince George's County and he thinks that Prince George's initiatives could serve as a pilot program for the rest of the State. Andy also mentioned that there was a pilot project on Sheriff Road.

Dawn asked for a summary of the Sheriff Road pilot project.

Richard Allen said that he wants to do an EJ plan at DNR and he would like input from the CEJSC.

Business Outreach

Megan said that the Air and Radiation Management Administration at MDE is in the process of making a change to MDE's permit guide to implement environmental justice language. The language was created with input from the CEJSC and the changes are being coupled with language changes to MDE permit forms. It is the same language that was previously circulated to all Commissioners.

Vernice Miller-Travis said this is a big step for MDE and is great news. She asked Megan to re-circulate the language to the CEJSC.

Elaine McCubbin said that she reached out to her co-worker on the possibility of doing a DBED blog post. She subsequently found out that her article on Sustainable Maryland Certified, on ways that Maryland cities and towns can become certified as a sustainable community, will be published on the Governor's Smart Green and Growing website. Elaine will send Megan a link when the article is published.

Elaine also asked for any other input on blog outreach, specifically on ways to target businesses. She will coordinate with Laura Armstrong at MDE and will try to think of ways for businesses to be more environmentally responsible.

Vernice said that the website Triple Pundit is a good online blog. She did 10 weeks of EJ posts for that blog.

Cliff Mitchell said that the Green Building Council and the Dept. of Education would be good groups to reach out to on school siting. He said that there is a disconnect between the business world and EJ advocates.

Richard Allen said it would be helpful to stay connected with Delegate Adrienne Jones on the issue.

Academic Community

Caroline Varney-Alvarado said that DHCD and DHMH created a letter on banning smoking in public housing units that is going out to the Executive Directors of public housing authorities. The letter will also have information on resources for quitting smoking.

Vernice asked if there are any First Amendment issues with that.

Cliff said no, there is statutory authority to ban smoking in public housing.

Caroline said that the local Executive Directors can tell people not to smoke in public housing. There is a policy on not smoking in public and private places.

Andrea Kidd-Taylor asked if the quitting resources are free for residents.

Cliff said that some of the quitting resources are free.

Caroline said that she has three internship proposals that she is going to talk to Dr. Sacoby Wilson about and she asked Megan to send her MDE's internship proposal.

Cliff offered to help Caroline with the proposals.

Legislative Outreach

Megan said that she has been tracking legislation and she has not seen any EJ related legislation to date.

Cliff said he hasn't seen any either.

Andy said that he thinks stormwater is an EJ issue. He also asked if anything has been introduced on pesticides.

Megan said not yet. The interim report was just submitted in December.

Andy said that there are two bills that Senator Middleton is sponsoring that affect incineration. One promotes incineration to a Tier 1 RPS, the other penalizes waste diversion and creates a study group. He said to keep an eye out for them. He also suggested that the CEJSC may want someone to come speak to it about zero waste. He said Andy Galli from Clean Water Action could come speak.

Vernice asked John Quinn if someone from the Chamber could come speak about it at the February meeting.

John Quinn said yes.

Vernice asked if someone from MDE can come speak about it as well.

Megan said she would look into that, but that typically we have been scheduling conference calls for speakers instead of scheduling speakers at monthly meetings.

John Quinn said that if the CEJSC wants to get involved in the bill they will have to move fast because the bill will be scheduled in the next few weeks once it comes out. He suggested the CEJSC provide a letter of information on how the issue affects EJ.

Megan asked if the Commission still wants to have people come speak about the bill since the hearing will likely be before the February meeting.

Andy and Vernice said yes.

County Outreach

Arabia will follow up with Megan about having an EJ-101 presentation at an upcoming Planner's meeting.

Cliff said some other ideas for county outreach are to speak at MACo.

Vernice said that the CEJSC did that a few years ago, but it would be good to do again.

Title VI

Vernice summarized Robin's letter for the group. She said that Robin would like to have scheduled interdisciplinary meetings on Title VI implementation with the state agencies that serve on the CEJSC.

Vernice would like to meet with MDE Deputy Secretary Kathy Kinsey on what MDE is doing to implement Title VI. EPA is just now starting a new list of recommendations on how to implement Title VI. You don't have to prove outright discrimination under Title VI, you just have to prove that the dollars/permits have a discriminatory impact. She said that state agencies have probably struggled with this because EPA has not been clear previously.

Darlene Mitchell said that there is a newly formed Multicultural Committee at MDE. She also asked if there is clarification for state agencies on Title VI and how Vernice would like to move forward.

Vernice said the plan is to meet with EPA and then meet with state agencies. Vernice will send Megan dates she is available to meet with Kathy Kinsey. Megan will also include Darlene on future emails.

Richard Allen said it would be good to elevate Title VI concerns to the Governor's office.

Vernice said MDOT does a really good job on Title VI because they have been sued a bunch of times.

CEHPAC Report

Cliff said that CEHPAC continues to have their annual meeting with the CEJSC that focuses on a specific issue. Currently CEHPAC is looking at the following issues: indoor environmental issues, such as smoking in public housing; DHCD's weatherization program; and the new CDC recommendations for the level of lead in housing.

Cliff also discussed indoor air quality and how there is a gap between LEED standards and indoor air quality standards for school construction.

Andrea Kidd-Taylor said she is working on these issues as well.

Elaine asked what LEED standards are not good from a child health standpoint.

Cliff said there is a lot of green washing and that it is not that LEED standards are bad, but there is a need to think beyond LEED certification.

Steve Levitsky said one of the potential issues with LEED is that you must meet certain minimum standards within each section of the LEED standard you are following, but they allow the user to decide on what other points they want to obtain from that section. So, if

you decide to only go for LEED certification and not silver, gold or platinum then you can leave certain initiatives out. So, just because an organization has a LEED Certified building does not mean all green building issues are addressed.

Caroline said that the DGS standard is that buildings have to be LEED Silver. She also said that the Green Buildings Council is looking at adopting IGCC code language which would better address indoor air quality. Also LEED version four is coming out soon.

Andrea Kidd-Taylor said that 133 schools in Baltimore are starting construction soon. Would there be an opportunity for the CEJSC to have input on this?

Cliff said that the CEJSC might not be the right vehicle for that. People from Hopkins or Morgan State might be the better people to follow-up with this issue.

Andrea said that she would go back and talk to people at Morgan State about it.

Vernice said there needs to be more linkage between the children's environmental health networks and EJ advocates.

Cliff said that some should really be engaged with this issue on a daily basis.

Vernice said that the PTAs/Nursing Associations do a really good job working together on this.

Other Business

Cliff said he had three notes on what DHMH is doing on EJ. First, in regard to climate change, four counties are looking into the utility/value of incorporating health issues in their climate action plans. Secondly, the University of Maryland is working on a Marcellus Shale Safe Drilling Initiative which looks at the potential health impacts of fracking. Thirdly, DHMH is looking at occupational exposure to pesticides. The CEJSC should have a conversation on the racial/socio-economic impacts of pesticides exposure.

Vernice asked everyone to give updates on what their group is doing.

Arabia said that she is coordinating the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commissions' Second Annual Forum and Awards. She asked Megan to re-circulate the registration information.

Steve said that Domino Sugar is continuing to work on sustainability initiatives.

Megan said MDE is working on implementing the EJ language into permits.

Vernice said that she is attending the NEJAC Conference in Denver. She will send Megan information about it.

Andy said that the 20th Anniversary of the Executive Order on EJ is coming up. Maybe we can get either Senator Ferguson or Delegate Bobo to announce that on the floor.

Andrea said that she circulated MDE's internship proposal to students and she is happy to circulate the other proposals when they are finished.

John Quinn said that the state has been experiencing record cold this winter. People's electricity bills have doubled and low income people are affected by this more than others. Everyone should be prepared for a higher bill and think about conserving electricity.

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon said that she would like to continue working with the CEJSC and plans to attend future meetings.

Richard Allen said he hopes to have someone from the CEJSC come speak to DNR.

Elaine brought up that WTE incinerators are tied to the Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) at DNR. Every energy generation project has to go through the PPRP. We could possibly have someone from the PPRP come into speak to the CEJSC.

Richard Allen said that Pete Dunbar is the Director of the PPRP. We can contact him.

Elaine said she will follow-up with someone from the PPRP and copy Megan on the emails.

Andy said he thinks it is a good idea to have a list of EJ internship ideas for the future.

Adjourn

The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for February 25th, 2014 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Howard County Delegation Room 218, Annapolis, MD 21401.

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC) Meeting
February 25th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Howard County Delegation Room 218
House Office Building (HOB)
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Nancy Servatius, John Quinn, Lisa Nissley, Calvin Ball, Larissa Johnson, Ann Goldscher (for Delegate Bobo)
- Participants: Darlene Mitchell, Megan Ulrich, Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Delegate Cardin, Tim Lawrence (for Delegate Pena-Melnyk)

Introductions: Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

CEHPAC Report

Nancy gave a brief overview of CEHPAC. She said that Cliff Mitchell will be sending a letter about EJ for the Commission's review, but she did not know the specifics of the letter's contents.

Lisa asked Nancy if CEHPAC had said anything about HB 1430.

Nancy said she would check.

Lisa said that HB 1430 is okay in spirit, but that it is hard to fill spaces on the CEJSC, so she thinks it might be hard to fill a spot that would serve on two Commissions simultaneously.

Legislative Outreach

Calvin said that the letter of information on SB 706 was circulated and no input was received on it, so it seems like everyone was happy with it. The letter will be turned in after the meeting. He also explained that the CEJSC takes the tack of providing informative testimony and that it is important to consider the Governor's position on the legislation since the CEJSC is a Governor's Commission.

Calvin also said that it is easy to wade in on environmental issues generally, the Commission should focus on legislation that directly relates to its charge. Calvin asked

Megan if Ashley Valis from the Governor's Office had any input on the legislation that the CEJSC is tracking.

Megan said she emailed Ashley and sent her the Commission's EJ legislation tracking sheet. Ashley said that she did not see any other EJ bills that the CEJSC should be looking at, but that she would let Megan know if she sees any in the future.

Calvin said that he thinks we should create an EJ-101 for State legislators and that he had previously spoken to MDE about it.

Lisa said that she is going to start working on it and should be able to draft something in a few weeks. It will focus on MDE's role and State government's role in EJ issues.

Calvin asked the CEJSC to send Lisa feedback and initial thoughts on the EJ-101 for State Legislators once she sends it out.

Larissa asked for more details about the EJ-101s.

Calvin gave a description of the EJ-101s and asked Lisa or Megan to send the other three to Larissa.

Lisa said that she and Megan are continuing to update the Governor's Legislative Office after the monthly meetings.

Calvin asked Ann Goldscher to let us know if she or Delegate Bobo sees any legislation that is directly related to EJ.

Ann said that she will let the CEJSC know if she sees any EJ related legislation and she will also continue to book the rooms in Annapolis.

Academic Community

Nancy asked when the EJ interns are supposed to start.

Lisa said that MDE would like its intern to start in the summer, but that the internships can be open ended. It depends on the need of the state agency hiring the intern.

Calvin asked Caroline for an update on academic outreach.

Caroline said that she did a draft of the DHCH/DHMH internship proposal and she is going to send it to DHMH for feedback.

County Outreach

Calvin said that Lisa and Megan are coordinating with MDP about presenting on EJ at the Planning Directors Roundtable in June.

Title VI

Darlene asked if there was any update on Title VI or the meeting between Vernice and MDE about Title VI compliance.

Megan said that she and Lisa discussed having Darlene follow-up with Vernice to set up the Title VI meeting.

Calvin asked Megan to touch base with Robin about the status of the Title VI letter.

Other Business

Darlene asked if there is an opportunity for apartment complexes to be educated about EJ and if there is any task force that looks at apartment complexes and recycling?

Calvin said he is not aware of any task force. He asked Lisa and Megan to work on a group letter to apartment complexes about recycling and EJ.

Lisa said she would check with MDE. MDE probably sent a letter to apartment complexes about recycling, but that letter might not have included anything on EJ.

Nancy said she has a multi-family housing email list that she can send to Lisa.

Calvin asked if there was any other business.

Megan said that at the last meeting some Commission members requested that people come speak at the February meeting on SB 56. She thought given the normal format of scheduling a conference call between meetings, the Commission may want to do that instead.

Calvin said yes, the Commission should keep using monthly meetings to move ahead on agenda items and continue to provide a conference call format for issues that are related, but might only be interesting to some Commissioners. He asked Megan to follow-up with interested Commissioners to schedule the conference call.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for March 25th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Howard County Delegation Room 218, Annapolis, MD 21401

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC) Meeting
March 25th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Howard County Delegation Room 218
House Office Building (HOB)
6 Bladen St.
Annapolis, MD 21401**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Cliff Mitchell, John Quinn, Lisa Nissley, Calvin Ball, Larissa Johnson, Ann Goldscher (for Delegate Bobo), Laurence Polsky, Andy Fellows, Vernice Miller-Travis, Arabia Davis, Benoy Thomas
- Participants: Megan Ulrich, Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Richard Allen

Introductions: Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

Business Outreach Update

John Quinn said he did not have any updates.

Lisa Nissley said that the EJ language has been inserted into MDE's air permits. MDE previously surveyed other permits that could include EJ language on community outreach. MDE is currently reviewing the other Administrations' permitting forms to assess where EJ language might be added to those permitting forms.

John recommended holding conference calls related to legislation, such as the one that was scheduled on SB 56/HB 240, closer to the beginning of the Legislative Session.

Academic Community

Benoy Thomas asked if he could get a copy of the MDE EJ internship proposal.

Megan Ulrich said she would send it to him.

Legislative Outreach

Calvin Ball asked if anyone had any legislative outreach updates.

Vernice Miller-Travis asked why the CEJSC was not informed of MDE's position on HB 1210. She said that in the ten years since she has been on the CEJSC, MDE has not supported any environmental legislation.

Lisa Nissley explained the legislative process for executive agencies and said that MDE didn't oppose HB 1210, but that the Department is not allowed to support any bill with a fiscal note. She noted that the bill has been introduced 3 other times and this position was consistent with previous years. Lisa also asked Stephanie Cobb-Williams to explain the legal process that MDE undertakes on every bill.

Stephanie said that there is no legal obligation for MDE to discuss its position on legislation with the CEJSC. She also asked if Vernice meant that the Department had not supported any environmental justice legislation in the past ten years, because the Department has supported a lot of environmental legislation over the past ten years.

Vernice said that Stephanie was correct; she meant to say environmental justice legislation.

Stephanie said that there are many reasons why MDE may not be able to support certain legislation, such as the bill may not be legally sufficient or there may not be adequate agency resources to implement the legislation.

Calvin said maybe we can find ways to improve communication between the CEJSC and MDE. MDE can send the CEJSC its position statements.

Vernice said that she feels like the CEJSC has no impact on what MDE does.

Stephanie said that the perception of the public and the legislature of the CEJSC's duties may be different than what is actually listed in the CEJSC's statutory charge.

Larry Polsky said that a more fruitful approach may be for the CEJSC to give information to a few key people at each agency who make the legislative decisions for the agency.

Larissa said it might also make sense for the Commissioners to reach out to MDE to ask for MDE's thoughts on the legislation and notify them if they intend on testifying. This would encourage open communication. Lisa mentioned that sometimes the Department's testimony or position is not final until the day of, but that she can share past position statements as a good indication of what to expect.

Andy Fellows asked if the CEJSC was discussing SB 706 and said that the environmental community supports the bill and wants to expand it and make it a priority for next year.

Vernice asked to discuss SB 706 in the interim so that legislation could possibly be introduced again next year.

Andy said that the pesticides bill is moving forward and that it might address some EJ concerns.

County Outreach

Arabia Davis said that she and Lisa and Megan have been discussing the Planning Director's Meeting. She said that they are waiting to hear back from Calvin on what dates in June he is available to speak at the meeting. She also said that she thought that the CEJSC could potentially coordinate an event with the Smart Growth Commission.

Calvin said maybe we can set-up a conference call.

Arabia also mentioned that MDP is doing a staff educational series on homeless youth. She said that David Whitaker may be contacting Calvin in the next few weeks about it.

Richard Allen asked Calvin or Andy or Vernice to come speak about EJ at DNR.

Andy asked if the CEJSC had done any follow-up with Prince George's County after the December meeting.

Calvin asked Megan if she had done anything.

Megan said she has been corresponding with Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, the Acting Associate Director of the Sustainable Initiatives Division of the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources who gave the presentation in December. She said that Dawn has also been attending CEJSC meetings.

Calvin said it would be a good idea to reach out to the other counties who have Departments of the Environment. He said the CEJSC could draft something and send it out to them. The CEJSC could build on its EJ-101 document, include information on other recent efforts, explain what the CEJSC does and what goals the Commission has.

Cliff said it might also make sense to reach out to the Environmental Health Directors.

Calvin said that since we have a quorum he would like to discuss approval of the minutes from October-February.

Andy Fellows had a change to the November minutes.

John Quinn made a motion to accept all of the minutes.

Andy Fellows seconded the approval of the minutes.

Title VI

Calvin asked Megan to give an update on the Title VI letter.

Megan said that Robin has done a lot of work on the letter. Robin also addressed some comments and questions via email; however, those comments were not incorporated into the letter itself. The last paragraph of the letter is still unclear regarding the intent of the Title VI interdisciplinary team.

Vernice said she will work on tightening up the last paragraph of the letter.

Calvin asked Megan if she could organize a call with the relevant people to discuss the letter before the next meeting.

Stephanie said that the letter needs more background information on Title VI in case people who are reading it are not familiar with the law.

Lisa said MDE could schedule something after April 7th when Session is over.

Richard Allen said he thought it made sense to reach out to the Fair Practice Officers at each State agency.

Stephanie said that she thought it made sense to send it to all State agencies and the assumption is that the Fair Practice Officer is the person that would know about Title VI. She said it was important to get the word out to every state agency, not just MDE.

Vernice said that she agreed that the letter should go to all state agencies, not just MDE. She said that the reason she had previously focused on MDE is because state environmental agencies around the country do not understand how to handle Title VI because EPA has not historically given guidance to the states on Title VI. She agreed that the CEJSC needs to focus energy on other state agencies as well.

Stephanie said that she recently read about a settlement involving the DOJ and a community in Texas that had experienced many EJ concerns. It is an interesting example of how to incorporate EJ into settlement agreements.

CEHPAC Report

Cliff Mitchell said that he is trying to get CEHPAC more engaged in the regulatory process. He wanted to add someone from the CEJSC to CEHPAC to help analyze regulations. Cliff said that this session the CEHPAC is looking at indoor air quality issues in housing.

Vernice asked Stephanie if the CEJSC can get involved with the regulatory process.

Stephanie said yes, reviewing state laws and regulations and then advising State agencies is something that is listed in the statutory charge of the Commission.

Vernice asked if Stephanie could give a presentation at the retreat on the CEJSC's charge and explain what the CEJSC can and cannot do.

Calvin said that there was a presentation on the CEJSC charge at CEJSC retreat at Howard Community College in 2011. Maybe we can re-circulate the presentation to everyone.

Lisa said that in the past the Commission has been most effective when it focuses on narrow issues within the CEJSC charge.

Other Business

Calvin asked if there were any agency updates.

Cliff said that they have been trying to deal with the issue of non-fixed/non-permanent housing. There is no ability in the state to deal with temporary housing. A lot of the issues deal with environmental compliance and Cliff is trying to think about ways to deal with it.

Larry said that looking at the livability code may be a way to try to narrow down the issue.

Vernice said that she is speaking at Howard University Law School about EJ. EPA is conducting Clean Air Act rulemaking and offering training for states across the country on the Clean Air Act permitting process.

The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for April 22nd, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Patuxent Conference Room, at the Montgomery Park Building in Baltimore, MD.

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC) Meeting
April 22nd
Domino Sugar Baltimore Refinery
New Administration Building
Main Conference Room
1100 Key Highway East
Baltimore, MD 21230**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Larissa Johnson, Arabia Davis, Benoy Thomas, Stephan Levitsky, Dick Fairbanks, Andrew Fellows, Lisa Nissley, Calvin Ball, John Quinn, Molly Mckee (for Senator Bill Ferguson)
- Participants: Megan Ulrich, Darlene Mitchell, Crystal Lemieux, Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Angelo Bianca

Introductions:

Business Outreach

Lisa Nissley said that MDE's intern gathered permit documents for permits with a public review process and suggested placement of EJ language in those documents. Lisa and Megan are currently reviewing the location of the EJ language.

Angelo Bianca said that the Air permit is already on-line with the EJ language. The permit guide has the EJ language, as well as the application itself. He said that companies that deal with MDE all the time might not see the new language because they just continue to use the same forms, but new companies will get these forms from now on. He said that the application asks the company to give MDE its plans for outreach.

Academic Community

Lisa said MDE gave its EJ internship application to UMBC, Morgan State, University of Maryland College Park, fellow CEJSC Commissioners and posted it on MDE's website. MDE has received some interest in the position. Lisa asked Larissa Johnson if she wanted to discuss her internship idea as well.

Larissa said that she was thinking of creating an internship to focus on making low income housing more energy efficient, including ways to reach out to the community about energy efficiency. Energy is an EJ issue, so maybe the CEJSC could work on it.

Benoy asked if there was any funding to pay interns or if the interns were eligible to receive credit.

Lisa said that MDE has worked with the students to get them school credit in the past. There is also potentially funding for summer student positions at MDE; however, typically internships are unpaid.

Steve Levitsky asked who at MEA is working on energy efficiency in low income housing units.

John Quinn said Matt Brucher is working on it for BGE.

Steve said West Virginia University did an energy audit at the Domino Sugar Plant, maybe they would be willing to do an audit for the state as well.

John Quinn said that someone from MEA could possibly come speak to the CEJSC about the issue.

Legislative Outreach

Lisa said that we can discuss legislation action items at the CEJSC July retreat. We can ID legislators to talk to about EJ and create a plan for moving forward. The June primaries are right before the retreat.

Andy agreed that it would be best to do outreach to legislators after the primaries.

Calvin said that the General Assembly will be getting anywhere between 50-60 new members.

Lisa said that EHE/ENV will have new committee members as well. The Speaker and President will have to move people around.

Andy said we should talk to the President and Speaker in the interim. He said that the cumulative impacts bill will likely be back next session. The environmental advocates did not find out about the bill until it had already moved along this past session and therefore they were not well organized on the bill. The idea came from someone in Senator Benson's district and the bill was seemingly still alive until the last week of Session. The environmental community is already working on a bill for next year.

Calvin said that once the primary is over, we can talk to the Speaker and the President about committee assignments, talk to new members about the EJ-101 and talk about legislative priorities for next Session.

Megan said that HB 1430 that passed during the 2014 Session affects the CEJSC directly because it requires one member of the CEJSC to serve on CEHPAC. The CEJSC will

need to consider who is going to serve in the dual-role. The bill takes effect on October 1st.

Calvin asked that any Commissioner who is interested in serving as the joint representative for CEJSC/CEHPAC let Lisa and Megan know by June 1st, 2014.

County Outreach

Calvin asked Megan for any updates on county outreach.

Megan said that she drafted an email to go out to the counties that have an environmental department or office of sustainability. She will circulate the draft.

Dick said that he got contact information from Prince George's County at the CEJSC December meeting and would like to follow-up with them.

Larissa asked if all the Environmental Directors in Maryland meet regularly?

Lisa said that the Environmental Health Directors meet quarterly at MDE. She said that it takes a lot of time between meetings to organize new events, but that presenting at meetings that are already scheduled for various groups is a feasible option.

Calvin agreed that the CEJSSC has tried to schedule meetings with various groups before and that it seems to work out better when we go to a meeting that is already organized and present at those meetings. He also said that maybe we should organize something at MACo's summer conference.

Larissa said that maybe the energy efficiency could tie into county outreach as well.

Calvin said that he is glad Larissa brought that up, because it aligns with the CEJSC's charge of EJ and sustainability issues.

Andy said that there is a lot of potential to create jobs in energy efficiency.

Calvin said that he reached out to the Smart Growth Commission and he should be able to report back at the next meeting.

Arabia said that she is working on having the Calvin speak as CEJSC Chair at the September Planning Director's meeting. She would also like to invite county environmental departments and DHCD to attend. Also, she would like to schedule a meeting with Chuck Boyd about PlanMaryland and how to incorporate EJ into it.

Calvin said it would be good for the CEJSC to comment on how to include EJ in PlanMaryland. He asked Arabia to send the link to PlanMaryland to Lisa/Megan, then they can distribute it to the Commissioners. He asked each Commissioner to send any

comments to Lisa and Megan before the next meeting on how to incorporate EJ into PlanMaryland.

Stephanie said that is also something that is consistent with the CEJSC's charge because PlanMaryland is a state policy. It would be a good opportunity for the CEJSC to comment.

Title VI

Lisa said we have been working on moving the Title VI letter forward.

Darlene said that we discussed the letter, and asked Robin to make some changes. We are at a place where we would like some feedback from the CEJSC. MDE also has a meeting scheduled with MTA to discuss their Title VI programs and MDE's EJ initiatives.

Calvin said he would like the Title VI letter to go out soon.

Stephanie Cobb-Williams said that the letter should go out to all State agencies because advising all State agencies on EJ is part of the CEJSC's charge.

Andy said that it would be good to see how Title VI is applied across all state agencies.

Lisa asked that since we are close to getting the Title VI letter out to the agencies, should we table the other Title VI items until after the letter goes out. That way people have time to ask us questions and we can get an idea of further initiatives that may or may not be needed.

Calvin said that makes sense to start with the letter and then see what else we might want to do as follow-up to the letter.

Other Business:

Calvin asked if we could get a motion to approve the March minutes.

John Quinn motioned to accept the minutes.

Andy seconded the motion.

The March minutes were approved.

Dick asked if he can pursue looking into a location for the CEJSC July Retreat. He said that Leakin Park has a great new facility with air conditioning and a conference room. He will check if the facility rental is free.

Calvin said that it was a great idea for Dick to do some preliminary research on a Retreat location.

Lisa said that the Retreat location will need to be booked pretty soon, so she would need the information within a few weeks.

Andy said that the Gwynn Falls watershed is a good place to highlight because of what has been accomplished there, what they learned about the tree canopy, and what needs work.

Adjourn

The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for May 27th at Montgomery Park.

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
 Children’s Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC)
 Annual Joint Meeting
 May 27, 2014
 Aeris Conference Room, Montgomery Park
 Baltimore, MD**

<u>Present:</u>	Commissioners: Dick Fairbanks, Benoy Thomas, Arabia Davis, Cliff Mitchell, John Quinn, Calvin Ball, Lisa Nissley, Vernice Miller-Travis (by phone), Steve Levitsky (by phone), Larry Polsky (by phone), Molly McKee (for Senator Ferguson, by phone).
	Participants: Veronika Corella, Megan Latshaw, Wes Queen, Tommy Landers, Chris Clark, Robbyn Lewis, Elizabeth Young, Ed Crow, Crystal Heide, Megan Ulrich, Darlene Mitchell, Julian Levy, Stephanie Cobb-Williams (by phone)
<u>Next meeting:</u>	June 24 th at Montgomery Park

Introductions

All Commissioners and Participants present introduced themselves.

Discussion

Cliff stated that coordination between the CEJSC/CEHPAC is really important.

Calvin agreed that EJ is important and is a children’s health issue.

Megan Latshaw inquired about an update on what CEJSC does.

Lisa announced that there are 20 members on CEJSC and named the different types of members:

MD Senator	The Honorable Bill Ferguson
MD Delegate	The Honorable Elizabeth Bobo
MDE	Robert M. Summers (Lisa Nissley, Designee)
DHMH	Joshua Sharfstein (Cliff Mitchell, Designee)
MDP	Richard E. Hall (Arabia Davis, Designee)
DHCD	Raymond Skinner (Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Designee, Karen Forbes, Designee)
DBED	Dominick Murray (Elaine McCubbin, Designee)
MDOT	James Smith (Robin Underwood, Designee)

Business Organizations	John Quinn
Business Organizations	John Kotoski
Environmental Organizations	Vacancy
Environmental Organizations	The Honorable Andy Fellows, CEJSC Vice-Chair
Health Experts	Dr. Andrea Kidd-Taylor, Morgan State University
Local Government	The Honorable Calvin Ball, Howard County Council, CEJSC Chair
Local Government	Dr. Laurance Polsky, Calvert County Health Officer
General Public with Interest/Experience	Scot Spencer
General Public with Interest/Experience	Benoy Thomas
General Public with Interest/Experience	Vernice Miller-Travis, CEJSC Vice-Chair
Affected Communities with EJ Concern	Richard Fairbanks
Affected Communities with EJ Concern	Steve Levitsky

Lisa also went over the CEJSC charge.

Calvin stated that the CEJSC has taken an informational approach to providing testimony to the General Assembly.

Lisa recapped what the CEJSC has been doing recently. Discussion included the EJ MDE permitting documents, county outreach, academic outreach, and the EJ-101 documents.

Julian Levy inquired about whether or not there was a budget for CEJSC.

Calvin responded that there is not, therefore the CEJSC tries to focus on things directly related to the charge.

Veronica asked if the EJ-101 documents could be shared. Calvin responded that they could be.

In relation to HB 1430, Cliff said that CEHPAC needs to have more contact with people and with EJ communities. He wanted to connect more with CEJSC on the issue to get help and to get more information on EJ. He wanted to acknowledge that CEJSC has the expertise in EJ.

Cliff announced that he wished to talk about climate change. The effects of climate change will be felt most acutely in vulnerable communities and this could incorporate issues related to sea level rise.

Calvin said that he works on the Smart Growth Commission and they go to colleges, etc. and do a sustainable growth challenge for the students. One of the top winners this year dealt with this exact issue: They worked with a community on the Eastern Shore and modeled that it will be gone in 50 years. The student studied and modeled how to remediate the problem, move the community, etc.

On the topic of relocation, Cliff asked what it means in terms of EJ. Cliff wants to discuss facility siting and EJ issues. He also wants to discuss school, in terms of children's environmental health, permitting for facilities, etc. and how to incorporate that.

Veronica discussed the legislative process. She does not believe that interjecting during the 90 day legislative process works. She discussed CEHPAC's charge (policy shaping, identifying and supporting new proposed legislation). She broke this down by a timeline of how to address CEHPAC issues and how to be more effective. She also discussed the fact that CEHPAC needs to monitor the bills that come up during the legislature.

Cliff said he asked Veronica to do this because the CEJSC has done some legislative briefings in the past. Cliff said that he would like to think about doing a legislative briefing on certain EJ/joint bills.

Calvin asked if the CEJSC has legislators that serve on their Council. Cliff responded that they do: Delegate Hubbard and Senator Jacobs.

Calvin asked how the CEJSC can better engage the members that are legislators. He said that having things come from members is more effective than when they come from other legislators. They can promote EJ-101, which is one of the top priorities this year. He believes the Commission should explore which of our shared issues we should share with the legislators.

In terms of briefing, Lisa said that they usually put CEJSC off until the second year for a briefing because they may be covering things like the difference between MDE vs. DNR. She proposed that CEJSC could testify during the second term, and could also identify legislators to build a relationship with.

Calvin agreed and pointed out that they are more apt to sponsor bills if they have a connection to the CEJSC.

Julian Levy asked if CEJSC could lobby for certain legislators to be appointed to our commissions, to which Calvin answered yes, we can lobby the legislature.

Lisa said that sometimes they are receptive to suggestions, but sometimes not.

Cliff said that given the new legislators in January, it is necessary to identify legislators and opportunities for outreach.

Tommy Landers noted that new legislators sometimes go on tours to see different parts of the state. Therefore, another possible approach is to do an EJ tour or an EJ stop on the tour that they are already doing.

Lisa said that DLS typically coordinates that through the committees. Lisa said that the CEJSC has already briefed caucuses.

Calvin asked if the green caucus is still active.

Tommy responded maybe, but not at this time.

Calvin suggested a holding pattern for now, at least until after the June 24th primary.

Cliff said that the CEJSC has been trying to wrap its head around permitting and siting facilities for a long time. Baltimore City is going to have a lot of new school construction.

Cliff asked if we can do a flowchart or a diagram on how permitting actually works and include text on 101/EJ-101 for the permitting process on siting for permits. Cliff talked about siting of a source of pollution as well as environmental permitting for local zoning and the state aspect of it. All of those have EJ/children's environmental issues associated with them. He believes having a handout would be beneficial and that it would be a project for the group, as a one pager.

Lisa said that MDE is currently developing a WG related to environmental permitting. Details are still being worked out and more specifics will be shared next month.

John Quinn noted that environmental permitting is separate from zoning.

Cliff acknowledged that they are separate, but that he would like to try and incorporate them together on a one pager to show the difference and to show the ultimate outcome.

Megan Latshaw inquired about how often health impact assessments are used in Maryland.

Cliff responded that the HIA is used to develop a baseline quantitative/qualitative impact and then to look at if there is an impact and how those impacts can be mitigated or offset. He said that Montgomery County is starting to do it and the CSX terminal went through one.

Calvin said that the impacted public does not know who is in charge of what impact. He also noted that there is a lot of energy wasted on advocating to the wrong individuals at the wrong time. It is necessary to educate the general public about impacts, as well as on whom to advocate to and when.

Cliff said that he has a grant that is up for renewal for the environmental public health tracking and that he can give some money in order to get those materials distributed to the general public.

Calvin suggested that the goals for the year be set up at the July retreat, where they can be built and worked upon collaboratively by the group.

Stephanie Cobb-Williams pointed out that the state cannot encroach on the county's ability to zone. She wants to make sure that the expectations of the public are not raised.

Cliff noted that the 101 says it must be made clear what part of it is zoning and what part is permitting.

Stephanie Cobb-Williams noted that it is important to be cautious. Things must be worded carefully because anytime there is a perspective polluter; there is a potential EJ issue.

Vernice said that EJ communities understand pretty clearly that we are unable to help them at the local level.

Calvin noted that the CEJSC will continue discussing the issue.

Cliff said that the one-pager could also lead to a briefing in the future. Currently, CEHPAC is working on indoor environments this year.

Calvin asked for more information on construction projects in Baltimore City.

Cliff listed and discussed several construction projects:

- A one billion dollar bond approved by the General Assembly to do renovation on Baltimore city schools and to construct 14 new schools.
- CEHPAC met with the public school construction program on how they are trying to assure that children are protected during and after construction.
- CEHPAC will end up being a resource for the program.

Calvin asked that Cliff keep us informed.

Cliff said that CEHPAC will be focused on the indoor environment. Currently, MDE is in the process of implementing the RRP rule for lead. DHMH is going to be issuing new guidelines for clinical testing of children with lead exposures. He also noted that the most pressing environmental health issues for kids today are lead and asthma. These are two issues that implicate where people live. In discussing the Affordable Care Act, he asked if there were ways of integrating environment assessments into how people are affected. Cliff also asked what the ACA means in terms of EJ.

Greg noted that one of the big issues is asthma, which is perpetuated by many factors in the environment. However, there is very little built into the medical care system for

environmental control. From a clinician's standpoint, it is hard to integrate environmental control into the treatment process.

Cliff has grants in for asthma on how to try and align reimbursement for environmental control precautions/treatment.

Diana mentioned that asthma is a difficult topic to address for the local health department. However, now that they are aware of the issue, they can better plan on how to address it and how to acquire funds to remedy it.

Larry Polsky noted that one possibility going forward is to do community outreach efforts to the communities with one hospital as there may be enough concentrated need for the efforts. This may reduce ER admissions and length of hospital stays.

Cliff said that the community benefits agreements are supposed to look at the health needs of the community in the community benefits assessment.

Greg brought up the project with Baltimore City Health Department, a government affairs group at Hopkins, and B'more for Healthy Babies. Air cleaners may be a partial solution. These groups did a pilot for air cleaners with homes with pregnant moms and newborns. It is a current ongoing program.

Calvin asked to follow up on the hospital issues that Cliff, Wes Queen, and Greg discussed.

Wes suggested looking at the MIHC website to see the requirements of the CBA and to see what they have to do.

Larry Polsky noted that Calvert County is doing the community health needs assessment, but each County is going to decide how to set things up. There will be standardized questions from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Three standardized questions should be generated that get the most information in a relatively standardized way.

Cliff agreed that this was a great idea.

Larry Polsky said the hospitals have to do the agreements with the hospitals and the local health department, but the hospitals have to fund them.

Calvin said it is necessary to figure out where the opportunity is and then decide on the next steps on how to address it. He asked if it is possible to figure out if there is an EJ issue in communities in three questions.

Larry Polsky asked if there are questions that can be asked to members of the community.

Calvin noted that they are not mutually exclusive due to the hospital/county issue.

Cliff discussed the one pager on zoning/permitting, the joint CEHPAC/CEJSC members. CEHPAC will report back on the health impact/CBA/ACA/update.

Veronica inquired about having another joint meeting in the fall. Calvin said that is an option that could be explored.

Dick said that we can take the long view and reach out to the legislators, and work with the minority party in the legislature. He would be happy to take a lead role on reaching out to legislators. Dick said that there is a good man running for Sheriff in the Baltimore City and he has handout materials for his campaign. He also had handouts for Leakin Park about the second Sundays for April through November.

Dick moved to approve the April minutes.

Cliff Seconded.

Adjourn

The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for June 24th at Montgomery Park.

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC) Meeting
June 24, 9:50 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Maryland Department of the Environment
Potomac Conference Room
1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore 21230**

In Attendance:

- Commissioners: Stephan Levitsky, Andrew Fellows, Benoy Thomas, Larry Polsky, Lisa Nissley, Vernice Miller-Travis, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, John Quinn
- Participants: Kristen Weiss, Crystal Lemieux, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Vanessa Barksdale, Ben Campbell, Megan Ulrich

Introductions

Business Outreach

Lisa Nissley said that text on environmental justice (EJ) has been added to MDE air permits and is in the process of being added to MDE land and water permits.

Academic Community

Lisa said that an internship opportunity was created, but most of the applicants had an environmental focus and were not as experienced in communications. That, coupled with the fact that there is a new workgroup focusing on cumulative impact, caused the Department to hire someone that could help with that effort and put the community outreach position on hold. She said that new attempts will be made in the fall to attract an intern. The new focus will be on attracting a communications graduate student with an interest in environmental matters.

Lisa said that since the Commission is holding off with legislative work until after the elections, it is a good time to talk about the Cumulative Impacts Workgroup. She explained the premise of the Workgroup, stating that SB 706 in the past legislative session proposed the use of cumulative impacts in permitting. She closed by stating that the Workgroup is going to try to lay a foundation for future policies concerning cumulative impacts.

Andy Fellows asked if anyone knows how many Commission members are going to the Workgroup meeting.

Lisa said that she is not sure, but that everyone is invited to attend and several members have been asked to serve in an official capacity.

County Outreach

Megan said a document was created that outlined what the Commission has done on EJ and highlighted ways for the local government to become involved in EJ. Calvin emailed the document to counties that have a Department of the Environment or Department of Sustainability.

Title VI

Andy asked if there are any questions regarding Title VI.

Vernice Miller-Travis said that the Commission should try to set up a conversation with all civil rights coordinators at once, instead of communicating with a single coordinator at a time.

Lisa said that progress is being made to include all civil rights coordinators in the same conversation and that the letter to fair practice officers had been finalized to be sent this week.

CEHPAC

Andy asked if the joint CEHPAC/CEJSC member was appointed yet.

Lisa said that DHMH has the authority to appoint the CEHPAC/CEJSC member and that they have yet to do so.

Other Business

Andy asked if the Commission will produce an annual report.

Lisa said that there will be an annual report. She then said that the report is in template form, but that work is being done to the body of the report. Lisa listed several things that are included in the body of the report and then asked if there should be anything else included.

Andy mentioned the Commission's visit to Domino Sugar.

Lisa said that the visit would be a good addition to the report.

Andy said that the Commission should discuss the upcoming retreat.

Lisa said that she was able to secure a meeting place in the United States Geological Service Building at University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). She then said that Dr. Freeman Habrowski, the president of UMBC, originally planned to come to the retreat, but had to cancel and is sending one of his staff members in his place.

Andy asked what the date of the retreat is.

Lisa said that the date of the retreat is July 22, 2014. The schedule for the retreat has not been finalized yet, but typically it is from 9:30 to 3:30 or 4pm. She said that MDE has been working with MACRO, which has trained MDE staff to appropriately communicate with one another and that MACRO will be attending the retreat to briefly train the Commission. Lisa said that everyone on the Commission will be receiving an email from MACRO.

Vernice asked if the MACRO employees have any experience in cultural diversity.

Lisa said that they are aware of cultural differences and espouse tolerance in their training.

Andy asked if there is any staff at UMBC that has experience in environmental justice and could speak at the retreat. Lisa said she would check into that.

Ben said that one of his recent professors focused on environmental justice and that she belongs to a research group that also has an EJ focus. Vanessa said that there are some people in the sociology department that may have EJ experience. Both offered to share names with Lisa.

Lisa asked if there is anything else anyone wants to address regarding the retreat.

Vernice said that it might be a good idea to include someone at the retreat that would be able to discuss urban water in Baltimore City. She then mentioned a particular group that has released interesting GIS maps related to EJ in the past.

Lisa said that she is looking into having someone speak on that topic.

Andy noted that there were not enough people present at the meeting to have a quorum to vote on the minutes. He then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Next CEJSC Meeting: July 22, 2014

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Commissioner's Retreat
Tuesday, July 22, 2014
University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)**

**USGS Building, A&B Conference Rooms
5522 Research Park Drive, Baltimore, MD 21228
9:15 am to 3:30 pm**

MINUTES

In Attendance:

Commissioners: Andrew Fellows, Arabia Davis, Calvin Ball, John Quinn, Rev. Meredith Moise, Stephan Levitsky, Vernice Miller-Travis, Larissa Johnson, Lisa Nissley, Dick Fairbanks, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Benoy Thomas

Guests: Scot Spencer, Benjamin Campbell, Cheryl Jamison, Dr. Christopher Swan, Dr. Matthew Baker, Megan Micco, Megan Ulrich, Nick White, Vanessa Barksdale, Kathy Kinsey, Darlene Mitchell, Heather Barthel, Angelo Bianca, Dinah Winnick

Introductions:

Calvin Ball started the meeting by welcoming everyone and inviting everyone to introduce themselves. All persons in attendance introduced themselves with their names and their relevant professional positions. Calvin then thanked everyone for introducing themselves and briefly explained what the meeting would be focused on.

Presentations on EJ-related work at UMBC:

Dr. Matthew Baker, associate professor in the Geography and Environmental Systems Department, began his presentation on urban sustainability research being done at UMBC. Matthew first explained satellite data and the use of percent impervious cover in an area as a useful indicator of urbanization. He presented several charts that explained the relationship between benthic organisms and the change in water quality. These charts noted that negative changes in taxa and benthic organisms indicate that impervious cover and urbanization are much worse than expected. The next topic Matthew introduced was the work he has been involved with in Montgomery County regarding impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff. Several more graphs showed changes in terrain due to development. Matthew then explained that these manmade terrain changes impact how water flows in the county and how stormwater runoff and water quality are affected. Finally, Matthew discussed the studies that UMBC has been running on over 40 watersheds, all of different urbanization levels, for over 30 years, and any resulting conclusions from those studies. The corresponding graphs showed the effect of pollutants on these watersheds. At the conclusion of the presentation, Calvin opened the

floor for questions. Andrew Fellows, Stephan Levitsky, Dick Fairbanks, Vernice Miller-Travis, and Calvin presented questions to Matthew.

Dr. Christopher Swan, another associate professor with the UMBC Department of Geography and Environmental Systems, began his ecological presentation on plant work and “greening” vacant land in Baltimore City. Harlem Park is a specific location in Baltimore City where work is being done. Christopher and his graduate students have adopted 25 vacant lots and have coordinated with the communities surrounding the lots to decide what plants should be planted and how the lot should look. Inmates from local prisons assist in this project by doing research and collecting data on the vacant lots. Dr. Swan noted that the work being done on the lots is directly translational, meaning citizens pay taxes that fund the sustainable work which is ultimately beneficial to the citizens. The project has three outcomes: providing local communities and citizens with more sustainable areas, creating environmental amenities, and offering an opportunity for inmates to give back to local communities. Dr. Swan then concluded his presentation and welcomed questions from the group. Andrew, Vernice, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Robin Underwood, Larissa Johnson, and Dick Fairbanks presented questions to Dr. Swan.

Update on MDE’s Cumulative Impact Workgroup:

Calvin formally recognized that Rev. Meredith Moise is a new member of the Commission and welcomed her.

Lisa started by stating that MDE has been examining the issue of cumulative impacts (CI). She then said that a Cumulative Impact Workgroup has been formed to try to gain understanding on the issue for the next legislative session. She listed some of the people involved in the Workgroup, some of whom are members of the CEJSC. She then discussed what took place at the first Workgroup meeting and the proposed focus of the second Workgroup meeting. She mentioned that a third and fourth meeting will take place after the summer and that members of the CEJSC are welcome to come to all Workgroup meetings. Vernice asked if there is space for more members on the Workgroup. Lisa said that there is probably not any more room for members, but everyone is welcome to come to the meetings. Vernice then recommended Dr. Devon Payne Sturges be contacted as a resource for the workgroup. John Quinn stated that it was nice how the last workgroup meeting went over the specific CI actions taken by other states.

Calvin then introduced Nick White and Cheryl Jamison from the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO).

An internal look at the CEJSC:

Cheryl introduced herself and started describing MACRO. She stated that MACRO typically works with many groups to teach appropriate mediation and conflict resolution

techniques. She said that Maryland has come a long way in the field of mediation and conflict resolution. She then turned the presentation over to Nick White.

Nick introduced himself and said that he spoke to a few of the CEJSC members before the retreat. Commissioners expressed that there is potential in the CEJSC, but there are also some challenges that need to be overcome.

Nick then moved on to the first activity. He revealed three large posters with timelines for “personal,” “environmental issues,” and “Commission.” He stated that he wants the Commission members to think carefully about what they would write on each timeline. Cheryl and Nick then invited everyone to start writing on the posters. Everyone in attendance began writing on and putting sticky-notes on the posters. When the activity was completed, Nick asked for volunteers to read what everyone had posted.

Scot Spencer and Larissa started reading off the “personal” timeline. Once Scot and Larissa were finished going over the poster Nick asked what patterns everyone saw in that poster. Many attendees stated that there was a shared passion for environmental issues. Everyone was very supportive of each other’s backgrounds. Nick then asked how these personal timelines might influence other things and what other thoughts everyone had about the poster. Lisa commented that what people are willing to share on the poster is probably a reflection of their personalities and different styles of communicating. Scot mentioned that most things people wrote on the “personal” poster are important milestones in their lives.

Vanessa and Caroline read the various postings on the “environmental issues” poster. Nick then posed the same questions as he did with the previous poster. Many attendees stated that there is a wealth of information present among the attendees. Scot then made a point that if a person does not have a good understanding of some environmental policies, then they are usually not in the conversation, which has huge implications for environmental justice. Dick stated that the 1970s were an important period for environmentalism and bipartisan support is what created innovation in the field of environmental policy. Megan noted that even though there was a lot of information about environmental issues on the poster, some important milestones were left off, such as Title VI of the of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Robin and Stephan presented the “Commission” poster. Nick posed the same questions as he did for the two previous posters. Nick said that one thing he had seen in the poster was positivism and optimism with regards to the Commission. Scot mentioned that there is a lot of new blood in the Commission. Lisa stated that many people took new jobs and left the Commission within the past year, so there has been a fair amount of turnover. Cheryl made a comment on the turnover rate of the Commission, stating that there are surely new ideas flowing through the Commission. Lisa stated that new members typically learn a lot, but it takes people a little while to feel comfortable before they start working on Commission initiatives. Several members thought of additional successful events/projects that had not added to the timeline.

Cheryl announced that it was time to break for lunch and briefly went over what her and Nick would be going over after the lunch break.

Lunch

An internal look at the CEJSC cont.:

Cheryl was asked by Kathy Kinsey to recap what was discussed in the morning session. Cheryl explained the timeline exercise. Vernice and Robin also commented on what happened in the morning session. The group reviewed the conclusions that were drawn from each of the timelines, such as the fact that there is a great deal of expertise and knowledge in the Commission, and expanded more on those conclusions.

Cheryl said that the aim of the afternoon session is to look ahead at future CEJSC goals. Nick and Cheryl presented a summary of the CEJSC charge and left it up on the projector screen to help guide the direction of the afternoon session. Stephan suggested that better communication with other state agencies, in the form of quarterly newsletters/reports or a similar publication, would be helpful in keeping agencies engaged, updated, and aware of their responsibilities regarding environmental justice. Calvin mentioned that many people are unaware of what environmental justice (EJ) really is. Cheryl built on this idea by suggesting that publicizing EJ would be helpful for communication. Andrew Fellows mentioned that some agencies and organizations do not refer to environmental justice as EJ, but use different terms so it is important to recognize and possibly acknowledge these other terms in order to have more effective communication. Rev. Moise mentioned that building a community network would be beneficial because there are individuals in the community doing some of this work already; Lisa agreed and recalled that building community networks was a goal generated at a past CEJSC retreat. Vernice mentioned that the definition of EJ is sometimes restrained, but that the Commission is interested in looking at EJ in every sphere of an individual's life. Lisa acknowledged that the Commission has a lot of big picture goals, and it can be disappointing when not every goal is accomplished. However, the Commission has had a lot of smaller successes. Calvin acknowledged that a challenge to the Commission is balancing being inspirational and successful. Vernice pointed out that a major frustration for her is the lack of tangible results for constituents, despite other accomplishments. She identified a goal for the Commission of finding the missing pieces needed to better people's lives.

Cheryl and Nick took note of the goals that the Commission members discussed. Cheryl read a list of 12 goals for 2014/2015 that were gleaned from the morning session:

1. Friendly interaction
2. Make suggestions to state government that acknowledges resources
3. Evolve conversation
4. Want to set actionable goals
5. Help the new governor understand EJ issues
6. Create specific goals on how to move CEJSC forward (5-10 point plan)
7. Allow CEJSC to continue to engage state and local organizations on EJ
8. Implementation

9. A 2015 community forum on local EJ issues
10. Work with UMBC on urban core redevelopment
11. Continue to grow CEJSC membership
12. Partnership of vacant-to-values initiative with prison inmates green initiative

Andy mentioned that Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, a candidate for Governor, is one of the first candidates to address EJ on the campaign trail, which could be a major benefit to the Commission. Dick pointed out that there needs to be more of a “person-to-person,” case-based effort, rather than an Annapolis effort, however he acknowledged that his idea would take a lot of time. He also said that he would like to respond to the actual needs of communities with a more action-based approach. Scot shared an anecdote about his work with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and his experience with direct results. Cheryl suggested building more of a community network that Rev. Moise mentioned earlier and allowing them to work more hands-on to achieve those direct results. Stephan noted that there could be more action taken, but that the Commission’s job is to influence policy as well as to educate other agencies and the Governor. Vernice mentioned again that she measures personal and Commission effectiveness by making a difference in the lives of citizens. Calvin pointed out that at last year’s retreat there was a great deal of talk about the change of state government and the Commission realized that it would be hard to move initiatives forward because of elections. However, the Commission began seeking to educate more and sent monthly updates on the Commission’s work to a point of contact in the Governor’s Office. Rev. Moise also suggested partnering with the Maryland Legislative Black Caucus because many of the legislators in the Caucus represent impacted communities. Calvin stated that the Commission hosted a reception at the Legislative Black Caucus Conference in November of 2013. Calvin identified this as a major accomplishment and mentioned that this will surely help future goals because many legislators are now educated on EJ.

Cheryl then turned the discussion to what was going to be done this year. Vernice identified the recently established Cumulative Impact Workgroup as something that will be progressive and as something the Commission can stay connected with. Kathy Kinsey said that the work the Commission does is extremely important and will continue to be important. She suggested that the Commission identify two or three goals, develop some project ideas, and create a plan for the next year. She said she believed this would help the Commission achieve more tangible goals. Kathy also said she liked the idea of hands-on, action-based approaches to EJ.

Goals and Priorities for 2014-2015:

Cheryl and Nick created a separate list of general goals:

1. Educating and staying in contact with government officials, members of the legal community, judicial officials, and communities
2. Growing the Commission by attracting members of impacted communities
3. Impacting legislation
4. Identify data sets that are relevant to the Commission’s goals
5. Focus on a champion (legislator, politician, etc.) who can aid the Commission

6. Form partnerships
 7. Tackle specific issues (sea level rise/land subsidence, vacant lots, etc.)
- Rev. Moise suggested partnering with Morgan State University. Calvin noted that a Commission member was a faculty member of Morgan State.

Cheryl and Nick then went over a final list of future goals for the Commission:

1. Maryland Legislative Black Caucus reception and recognition for Delegate Bobo
2. Joint hearing with the General Assembly to discuss the definition of EJ
3. Commission interaction with and support for the Cumulative Impact Workgroup
4. Identify relevant EJ data sets and achieve direct connection with the Attorney General's Office.
5. EJ and the rising sea level project on the Eastern Shore
6. Vacant lots

Lisa noted that sometimes when the list of goals grows, the level of success diminishes. The Commission has the most success when it tackles specific manageable goals. Stephan suggested establishing committees and assigning people to each committee so they are accountable for getting things done. Arabia suggested focusing on EJ and sea level rise on the Eastern Shore as a specific goal. Calvin suggested that advocates for the project dealing with EJ and sea level rise should make a presentation on the topic for the Commission. Dick expressed concern for the sea level project because of the lack of structure and representation by members of the eastern shore communities. Arabia responded by stating that the communities have been the ones who have spearheaded the projects thus far and have shown remarkable organization and willpower. Scot mentioned the idea of supporting implementation of an environmental curriculum into Maryland public education K-12. Larissa suggested that the Commission communicate with state agencies and understand where those agencies are in terms of EJ. Robin mentioned that she would be interested in educating middle school students about non-discrimination in EJ. Dick inquired about a past goal of aligning with other organizations and agencies such as the Maryland Association of Counties.

Cheryl and Nick then polled the Commission members, asking who would like to lead or support the goals that were previously outlined. They then made a poster that detailed the following:

4. Black Caucus Reception:
 - a. *Leading:* Vernice, Larissa
 - b. *Supporting:* Rev. Moise
5. Joint Hearing:
 - a. *Leading:* Lisa
6. Cumulative Impact Workgroup
 - a. *Leading:* John
7. Identify Relevant Data Sets and an Environmental Champion
 - a. *Leading:* Scot, Calvin, Stephan
8. Vacant Lots

9. Sea Level Rise
 - a. *Leading*: Arabia
 - b. *Supporting*: Dick

No Commission member was interested in leading on the issue of vacant lots, so it was dropped from the list of upcoming issues/goals.

Adjourned at 3:30 pm

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

September 3, 2014, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Baltimore City Community College (BCCC)

2901 Liberty Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215-7807

Attendance:

Commissioners: Arabia Davis, Calvin Ball, Lisa Nissley, Rebecca Rehr, Rachel Hess-Mutinda (for Cliff Mitchell), Larissa Johnson, Meredith Moise, Benoy Thomas, Caroline Varney-Alvarado, Stephan Levitsky, Molly McKee (for Senator Ferguson)

Guests: Megan Ulrich, Dr. Gordon May, Kristen Harbeson, Associate Dean Evans, Del. Shawn Tarrant, Sen. Joan Carter-Conway

Introductions:

Dr. May welcomed everyone and said that BCCC has many plans to move forward. He noted that he has only been on the job for three weeks and that everyone has given him a warm welcome. He also recognized that Calvin is running a complete degree program through BCCC.

Calvin thanked Dr. May for coming and said the CEJSC is pleased for the opportunity to expand the EJ community to other institutions of higher education.

Associate Dean Evans said that his Department works on a lot of sustainability issues and encourages students to engage in sustainability. They have student forums on sustainability. The CEJSC can help advance this.

Calvin said the CEJSC has partnered with other institutions in the past and is interested in partnering with BCCC.

CEHPAC Report

Rachel said DHMH is working on pesticide issues. She said that Benoy Thomas is going to be serving as the joint member on CEHPAC and the CEJSC. His paperwork is currently being processed. He should be officially appointed as of November.

Rachel said that DHMH is also focusing on asthma and looking for some ways that they can use the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to get reimbursement for asthma services. They are also looking at the environmental triggers for asthma, as well as health triggers.

Legislative Black Caucus (LBC) Update

Larissa said she has been doing research, but there are no website updates yet regarding new staff and information about the annual conference.

Lisa said we might have to wait a little longer to get information due to the elections. The current chair not running for re-election.

Larissa noted the dates are posted as Nov. 14th-15th. A few ways to reach out were noted. Larissa will reach out about the potential for participating.

Joint Hearing

Lisa has reached out to the committees about a briefing, but notes that sometimes it is tight in the first session after an election. Kristen said it might be possible to brief the Environmental Matters Committee, but they will not start looking at briefings until the beginning of December. They need to figure out other things first like who will be their vice-chair and subcommittee chairs.

Identify Relevant Data Sets and an Environmental Champion

Steve asked exactly what the CEJSC is looking for regarding data sets. He reached out to a couple professors on the issue and needs to get back to them with more specific details. Calvin said he thinks the idea is to bolster EJ concerns with data, i.e. do a more refined job of focusing on what communities are adversely affected.

Steve asked if there is any health data in Maryland that can be assessed alongside environmental data.

Megan said that is part of the conversation that the Cumulative Impact Workgroup is having. DHMH has designated health enterprise zones and part of the conversation is whether the Workgroup can utilize those to assess health impacts in communities. Cliff Mitchell also hired an intern to look at this issue. Megan suggested Steve talk to Cliff. Rebecca Rehr said that the CDC has good program and the University of Wisconsin has some good information. Dr. Sacoby Wilson also recently published an article on double disparity in Maryland. There are some ongoing limitations related to privacy issues with health data that also need to be worked out.

Steve asked once the CEJSC has the data, what does the Commission want to do with it? Calvin said the Commission can use it to talk to legislators with a data informed approach.

Calvin asked for approval of the May, June, and July minutes. The minutes were approved.

Benoy asked about the number of migrant workers in Maryland and if we are going to monitor pesticides? EPA recently came out with new pesticide standards.

Megan and Lisa said that the numbers had been discussed last fall. DLLR reported there were 673 H2 visa workers in the State and an estimated 2000 undocumented workers.

Sea Level Rise

Arabia said that she is waiting to hear back from Zoe Johnson on whether Zoe is available to present in November or December to the CEJSC on her work on Sea Level Rise.

Caroline said that the Coast Smart Council is working on issues in coastal communities in Maryland. The effects on the built environment might be a good way to address the intersection with the sea level rise.

Kristen said that there is an intersection between historical preservation and environmental impacts.

Calvin said he agreed, he has participated in discussions on how to preserve old buildings, churches, etc. that are threatened by sea level rise and climate change.

Delegate Tarrant said this discussion is exciting because the environmental health side of healthcare is important. He is not sure which Committees in the House of Delegates

discuss the health of communities and the unhealthy foods, drinks, etc. that are sold in them, but it is a big issue, i.e. people going grocery shopping at 7-11. He asked Kristen if Environmental Matters looks at the issue.

Kristen said Environmental Matters has dealt with food desserts, but maybe this isn't in the same scope.

Calvin said he thinks it may relate.

Meredith said that in NYC there are more fruits and vegetables at corner stores. It all relates to creating sustainable communities. If people don't deposit trash in the right receptacles, it brings rats, etc. Liquor stores and what they can sell are a Baltimore City zoning issue.

Del. Tarrant said that maybe local County/City Councils can start working on what is sold in corner and liquor stores. He used the example of banning smoking indoors, the County Councils acted on it and then the state legislator was able to pass it.

Calvin said banning indoor smoking was a big issue in Howard County and they were one of the first County Councils to ban it.

Lisa said that on a related note she had a meeting with a company that is going to be vertical gardening. The company is currently looking at space it would like to use at Montgomery Park. The business is trying to get their lettuce in corner stores, but business owners don't know how to preserve the lettuce and convince customers to buy it. The CEJSC might be able with ideas to help educate the public on the issue.

Del. Tarrant asked if this Commission could be involved in giving the businesses incentives to sell more vegetables.

Associate Dean Evans said that educating students is also a big step. For instance the students he works with didn't realize you can get a small plant and put it on your balcony. Caroline said that a lot of schools have cut Home Economics, art, etc- those classes added value to the education experience. It would help to have a more modern form of home economics to educate the students on these sorts of issues.

Molly said that there is a park that is 88 acres in Curtis Bay/Brooklyn. The community is talking about doing farming, and also potentially doing a canning kitchen. They are hoping to have field trips and establish other ways to engage the local students at Benjamin Franklin High School.

Cumulative Impact Workgroup

Lisa said that the Cumulative Impact Workgroup will have a meeting next week on 10/2. This third meeting will be to discuss what can work in Maryland. So far the Workgroup has discussed SB 706 from last session, the state of the science, and what other states are doing. MDE thought it was a good idea to come together and discuss the issue before the next legislative session. All of the information from the Workgroup meetings is available on MDE's website under cumulative impacts.

Other Business/Agency Updates

Lisa said MACRO will be doing trainings for MDE staff that she believes will prepare the Department to better address issues surrounding EJ, among other things. Arabia said the Planning Director's Roundtable is really interested in the CEJSC doing a presentation on EJ in the Spring.

Caroline said DHCD is working on neighborhood stabilization and home owner group meetings. Environmental issues are being addressed for multifamily development issues and ways you can build green, such as LEED. They are also starting to address siting, indoor health, etc. The Maryland Green Building Council is looking at the IGCC standard for state buildings. Baltimore City and Montgomery Counties are also looking at the IGCC.

Calvin introduced Senator Joan Carter Conway.

Senator Conway thanked Lisa for inviting her. She is very interested in environmental issues, and she leads the Environmental Health and Education Committee in the Senate. Calvin said the CEJSC is working on partnering with State Legislators on EJ issues. He said the goal is that they can come to the CEJSC for data on EJ.

Senator Conway said is familiar with Senator Benson's bill from last session and the existing problems are largely a zoning issue. She said zoning is a problem as it relates to EJ.

Calvin agreed and said the Commission reached out to the local zoning and local environmental health departments. The CEJSC sent them letters and an EJ information sheet for local governments.

Presentation on Energy Awareness Month

Larissa said right now the goal is to get people to participate in EMPOWER Maryland and to get people to reduce their energy bills. The big goal is to reduce Maryland's energy use by 15% by 2015. Energy is also an EJ issue. Energy affects us every day. As an EJ issue, it is something that directly impacts our health, for example- asthma is an issue caused in part by environmental factors. Larissa can send a blurb on National Energy Awareness month that can go into organization's newsletters. Larissa handed out kinetic flashlights (flashlights that require no batteries) for use in emergency kits. Meredith asked Larissa to send her the banner on Energy Awareness for her magazine. Larissa said she can also contact Dean Evans at BCCC. Everyone in Maryland pays for EMPOWER already, so we want citizens to use the incentives. EJ is related because if you make less than 10K a year, you are paying 70% of your total income on energy. The average Marylander pays \$129 a month on utilities.

Rebecca said the School of Public Health has released its public health study on hydrofracking in the Marcellus Shale. The public comment period is open. Maryland is the first state to actually conduct a health study on fracking before it starts. The Maryland Environmental Health Network has compiled some information on where there are data

gaps. Rebecca is happy to discuss more details on the issue. Public Comment closes on Oct. 3rd at 12:00 pm.

Senator Conway said this is one of the most contentious issues in her Committee. She noted that we need to find out what the studies say and decide if Maryland should extend the de facto moratorium in the future. It is important to look at the science, and she noted, there is not a single permit in Maryland yet. The Senator also offered to disseminate the EMPOWER MD information to her constituents.

The next meeting of the Commission will be held Tuesday, October 28th, 2014 at Montgomery Park.

8 Appendix D- EJ 101 Documents and Title VI Letter

Environmental Justice for State Officials

What is Environmental Justice?

The concept behind the term "environmental justice" is that all people – regardless of their race, color, national origin or income – are able to enjoy equally high levels of environmental protection and quality of life.

What is the history of EJ?

Environmental Justice (EJ), as a social movement has grown rapidly since the Warren County Landfill Protest movement in the early 1980s. The EJ movement began in order to address concerns about disproportionate environmental burdens in poor, minority communities. In the case of the Warren County protests, controversy arose in 1982 when a landfill was sited in Warren County, a community that was black, poor, rural and politically powerless. This landfill was designated as a place to dump toxic, contaminated soil.

What is an example of EJ?

The EPA cites the Love Canal disaster in Niagara Falls, New York, as “one of the most appalling environmental tragedies in American history.” The canal, a former dumping site for municipal and industrial chemical waste, was transformed into a neighborhood with schools and low-income housing by the City. In the following years, groundwater contamination from the former landfill impacted the health of more than 6,000 residents. Early surveys conducted by residents illustrated that 56 percent of the children born in the neighborhood had birth defects such as deformed teeth, anemia, ADHD and auto immune diseases, while mothers had a 300 percent jump in miscarriages.

Why is EJ important to Maryland State Agencies?

Explicitly, some state agencies are required by statute to be mindful of EJ issues with regard to their work. But many, if not all, state agencies are at least implicitly tied to EJ. Any State agency that receives federal assistance is required to be in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Collectively, Maryland State Agencies influence a significant portion of people’s lives. For instance, what permits are issued and what modes of transportation are available are at least partially determined by state agencies. These choices ultimately impact certain communities more so than others. It is therefore the responsibility of state agencies to ensure that the burden associated with choices like the ones listed above are evenly and fairly distributed, rather than becoming the burden of a small group of communities or a sole group of people.

Which communities are most vulnerable to EJ issues?

Low-income and minority communities are most vulnerable to EJ issues. Often these communities do not have an organized community group that can serve as a point of contact. As a result, these communities may house a disproportionate amount of polluting facilities putting residents at a much higher risk for health problems from environmental exposures. Any community can be subject to the effects of EJ issues if their citizens are not informed and able to be involved in the local land use decision-making process.

State Agency involvement in implementing EJ in Maryland

MDE is working on EJ initiatives to improve the quality of life in communities through a vision of partnerships and collaborations. In order to fulfill this goal, other state agencies must be committed to the following:

- **Identification**
 - Identify what your agency is required to do by statute and or regulation with regard to EJ.
- **Proactive engagement**
 - Fulfill whatever legal obligations your agency might have concerning EJ and go beyond those obligations whenever feasible.
 - Efficiently build a network of people who are knowledgeable about the issues of concern to share expertise and advance the EJ agenda in Maryland. This includes reaching out to local businesses, legislators, planning and community organizations, and the academic community.
- **Recognize Environmental Justice concerns with collaborative approaches**
 - Work together with MDE and other state agencies to address EJ issues.
 - Communicate with the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC), whom are responsible for advising state agencies on the adequacy of current laws, regulations, and statutes to achieve environmental justice, while ensuring all Maryland communities are healthy, safe, economically vibrant, and environmentally sound.
- **Offer solutions.**
 - Optimize state resources. Solutions could appear in the form of increased public participation and education, public-private partnerships, innovative outreach advertising (social media, newspapers, press releases, outdoor signs), and strategic enforcement.

Maryland Environmental Justice Resources

CEJSC: The Commission of Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities is tasked with advising State government agencies on environmental justice and analyzing the effectiveness of State and local government laws and policies to address issues of environmental justice and sustainable communities.

MDE: The Maryland Department of Environment focuses on encouraging environmental protection and economic development in Maryland that takes into account public and ecological health, sustainability issues, and community participation.

For more information contact Lisa Nissley, Environmental Justice Coordinator at lisa.nissley@maryland.gov

Spanish version of EJ in Communities Document:

Justicia Ambiental en Mi Comunidad

¿Qué es la Justicia ambiental? Justicia Ambiental (EJ) está en el principio de que todas las personas tienen derecho a ser protegidos de la contaminación del medio ambiente y para vivir y disfrutar de un medio ambiente limpio y saludable.

¿Cuál es un ejemplo de EJ? Según la EPA, "una de las tragedias medioambientales más atroces en la historia de América" fue el desastre Love Canal en Niagara Falls, Nueva York. Los materiales peligrosos, los residuos, y la mala gestión de la tierra en el área de impacto de la salud de más de 6.000 residentes. Durante más de 30 años, el canal era un vertedero de una empresa química. No mucho tiempo después de que la compañía fue vendida a la ciudad, los funcionarios comenzaron a construir escuelas, hogares y viviendas de bajos ingresos en el antiguo vertedero. En los años siguientes, inviernos húmedos y primaveras causaron el nivel freático se eleve y toxinas que se filtre en los patios de los residentes. Como resultado de la contaminación de las aguas subterráneas, las primeras encuestas realizadas por los residentes de manifiesto que el 56 por ciento de los niños nacidos en el barrio tenía defectos de nacimiento, como dientes deformes, anemia, ADHD y enfermedades auto inmunes, mientras que las madres tuvieron un salto del 300 por ciento en abortos involuntarios.

¿Cómo pueden las comunidades afectadas por los problemas de justicia ambiental se ocupan de cuestiones ambientales? Es importante que la comunidad se mantenga informado acerca de los problemas ambientales, participa en el proceso de formulación de políticas y utiliza los recursos disponibles del gobierno y entidades privadas con el fin de garantizar un ambiente seguro, sano y comunidad sostenible para todos.

Las decisiones de uso de la tierra del gobierno local: En Maryland, los condados tienen autoridad sobre local de zonificación de la mayoría de los proyectos que afectan a la salud ambiental de su comunidad. Por ejemplo, las leyes de zonificación del condado definen suelo para usos residenciales, comerciales o industriales. Estas leyes de zonificación pueden llevar a muchas industrias "sucias" que se congregaron en un solo ámbito. Esto puede conducir a un aumento de la contaminación en su comunidad.

¿Qué medidas puede tomar?

- Puede mantenerse informado mediante el control de la planificación y zonificación página web de su gobierno local para los proyectos que usted y su comunidad afectan.
- Los periódicos y los medios sociales también pueden ser una herramienta eficaz para mantener al día sobre lo que está pasando en su comunidad.

- Compruebe si su condado tiene un servicio de correo electrónico para enviarle actualizaciones sobre proyectos en su área.
- Sus mensajes condado un calendario de reuniones públicas en su sitio web, asisten a las reuniones públicas para proyectos en su área y proporcionar comentarios.
- **Decisiones del Estado que permitan:** Industrias que operan en Maryland tienen que seguir las leyes y regulaciones ambientales estatales. Estas industrias requieren un permiso del Departamento de Medio Ambiente de Maryland (MDE). Por ejemplo, MDE emite un permiso de calidad del aire para la construcción de ciertos proyectos.

¿Qué medidas puede tomar?

- Puede mantenerse informado visitando la página web del MDE.
- Para más información visite generales:
- <http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/marylander/Pages/MarylanderHome.aspx>
- Para realizar un seguimiento de los proyectos propuestos que están llegando a su visita barrio: <http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Permits/sb47/Pages/SB47.aspx>
- Ciertos permisos de control de la calidad del aire para la construcción están sujetos a revisión pública. Asociaciones comunitarias, funcionarios electos y las personas interesadas pueden solicitar una reunión informativa o audiencia pública. MDE requiere que el solicitante de la industria para publicar un anuncio relativo a la aplicación. El público puede solicitar una reunión informativa dentro de los 10 días siguientes a la notificación. Para más información visite: http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Marylander/CitizenParticipation/Pages/CitizensInfoCenter/citizen_participation/publicmeetingguide.aspx

Implementación de la Justicia Ambiental en Maryland

la misión de MDE en lo que respecta a la justicia ambiental es hacer hincapié en la mejora de la calidad de vida, desarrollo económico y protección del medio ambiente para todas las comunidades. Los esfuerzos de aplicación de la justicia ambiental en el Departamento de Medio Ambiente de Maryland incluyen:

- **Proactive compromiso**
 - Integrar e incorporar los ideales de EJ en la política ambiental del estado con el fin de proteger a todas las comunidades.
 - Continuar la educación de los reguladores estatales sobre la justicia ambiental y comunidades sostenibles, con enfoque especializado dado a las comunidades marginadas.
 - Fortalecer la infraestructura del gobierno a nivel local para apoyar a las comunidades marginadas.
- **Reconocer problemas de justicia ambiental con enfoques de colaboración**

- Construir una red de personas que conocen EJ que pueden compartir conocimientos y avanzar en la agenda de EJ en Maryland. Esto incluye llegar a los negocios locales, los legisladores, la planificación y las organizaciones de la comunidad, y la comunidad académica.
- Utilice esta red cuando se trabaja para encontrar soluciones mutuamente beneficiosas para las comunidades y las instalaciones reguladas.
- Trabajo con la Comisión de Justicia Ambiental y Comunidades Sustentables (CEJSC).
- **Ofrezca soluciones**
 - Optimizar los recursos del Estado. Las soluciones pueden aparecer en forma de aumento de la participación pública y la educación, las asociaciones público-privadas, publicidad innovadora difusión (redes sociales, periódicos, comunicados de prensa, muestras al aire libre), y la ejecución estratégica.

Recursos Maryland Justicia ambiental

La Comisión de Justicia Ambiental y Sostenible Communities:

http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/CrossMedia/EnvironmentalJustice/EJImplementationinMaryland/Pages/programs/multimediamediaprograms/environmental_justice/implementation/details.aspx

El Departamento de Medio Ambiente de Maryland:

<http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/CrossMedia/EnvironmentalJustice>

Para más información póngase en contacto con Lisa Nissley, Justicia Ambiental
Coordinador lnissley@maryland.gov

Spanish version of General EJ Document:

Justicia Ambiental 101

¿Qué es la Justicia Ambiental? El concepto detrás del término "justicia ambiental" es que todas las personas - independientemente de su raza, color, origen o la renta nacional - ponen disfrutar igualmente altos niveles de protección ambiental.

¿Cuál es la historia de EJ? Justicia Ambiental (EJ), como movimiento social ha crecido rápidamente desde que el movimiento de protesta del Condado de Warren PCB relleno sanitario a principios de 1980. El movimiento EJ comenzó con el fin de abordar las preocupaciones sobre las cargas ambientales considerables en las comunidades pobres, las minorías. En el caso de las protestas del condado de Warren, la controversia surgió en 1982 cuando un vertedero fue localizada en el Condado de Warren, una comunidad que era negro,

pobre, rural y políticamente impotente. Este vertedero fue designado como un lugar para volcar tóxico, el suelo contaminado.

¿Cuál es un ejemplo de EJ? Según la EPA, "una de las tragedias medioambientales más atroces en la historia de América" fue el desastre Love Canal en Niagara Falls, Nueva York. Los materiales peligrosos, los residuos, y la mala gestión de la tierra en el área de impacto de la salud de más de 6.000 residentes. Durante más de 30 años, el canal era un vertedero de una empresa química. No mucho tiempo después de que la compañía fue vendida a la ciudad, los funcionarios comenzaron a construir escuelas, hogares y viviendas de bajos ingresos en el antiguo vertedero. En los años siguientes, inviernos húmedos y manantiales causaron el nivel freático se eleve y toxinas que se filtre en los patios de los residentes. Como resultado de la contaminación de las aguas subterráneas, las primeras encuestas realizadas por los residentes de manifiesto que el 56 por ciento de los niños nacidos en el barrio tenía defectos de nacimiento, como dientes deformes, anemia, ADHD y enfermedades auto inmunes, mientras que las madres tuvieron un salto del 300 por ciento en abortos involuntarios.

¿Qué comunidades son más vulnerables a los problemas de justicia ambiental? Las comunidades de bajos ingresos y las minorías son los más vulnerables a los problemas de justicia ambiental. A menudo, estas comunidades no tienen un grupo de la comunidad organizada que puede servir como un punto de contacto. Además, estas comunidades pueden albergar una cantidad desproporcionada de instalaciones contaminantes que ponen los residentes en un riesgo mucho más alto de problemas de salud causados por exposiciones ambientales.

¿Cómo pueden las comunidades afectadas por los problemas de justicia ambiental se ocupan de cuestiones ambientales? Es importante que las comunidades afectadas por EJ tomen conciencia de los problemas ambientales en su área, participen en el proceso de toma de decisiones y utilizar los recursos disponibles de las entidades gubernamentales y privadas con el fin de garantizar comunidades seguras, saludables y sostenibles para todos.

Implementación de la Justicia Ambiental en Maryland

La misión del Departamento de Medio Ambiente en lo que respecta a la Justicia Ambiental Maryland es hacer hincapié en la mejora de la calidad de vida, desarrollo económico y protección del medio ambiente para todas las comunidades. Los esfuerzos de aplicación de la justicia ambiental en el Departamento de Medio Ambiente de Maryland incluyen:

- **Identificar las responsabilidades de la agencia.**
 - Integrar e incorporar actividades de EJ en las operaciones estatales
- **Compromiso proactivo.**

- Continuar la educación de los reguladores estatales sobre la justicia ambiental y comunidades sostenibles, con enfoque especializado dado a las comunidades marginadas y desfavorecidas
- Fortalecer la infraestructura del gobierno a nivel local para apoyar a las comunidades marginadas
- Promover e implementar programa de Distritos Beneficio Ambiental del MDE
- **Reconocer problemas de justicia ambiental con enfoques de colaboración.**
 - Llevar a cabo foros de JA de todo el estado para discutir las preocupaciones y soluciones
 - Eficiente construir una red de personas que conocen los temas de interés para compartir conocimientos y avanzar en la agenda de EJ en Maryland. Esto incluye llegar a los negocios locales, los legisladores, la planificación y las organizaciones de la comunidad, y la comunidad académica
 - La colaboración con la Comisión de Justicia Ambiental y Comunidades Sustentables (CEJSC), los cuales son responsables de asesorar a los organismos estatales, sobre la adecuación de las leyes vigentes, reglamentos y estatutos para lograr la justicia ambiental, al tiempo que garantiza a todas las comunidades de Maryland son sanos, seguros, económicamente vibrante, y el medio ambiente
- **Ofrecer soluciones.**
 - Optimizar los recursos estatales limitados. Las soluciones pueden aparecer en forma de aumento de la participación pública y la educación, las asociaciones público-privadas, publicidad innovadora difusión (redes sociales, periódicos, comunicados de prensa, muestras al aire libre), y la aplicación estratégica

Recursos Maryland Justicia ambiental

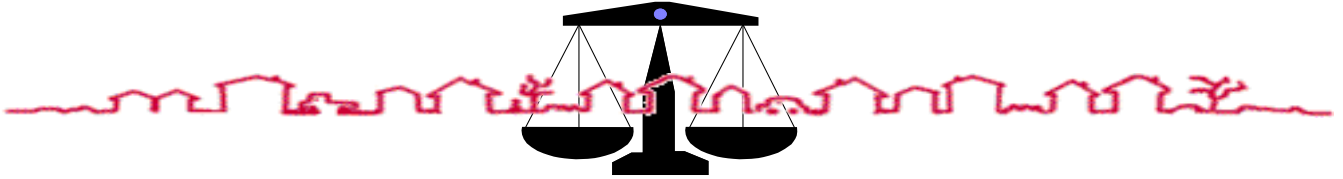
CEJSC: La Comisión de Justicia Ambiental y Comunidades Sustentables tiene la tarea de asesorar a las agencias del gobierno estatal en la justicia ambiental y el análisis de la efectividad de Estado y de las leyes y políticas para abordar los problemas de justicia ambiental y las comunidades sostenibles de los gobiernos locales.

MDE: El Departamento de Medio Ambiente de Maryland se centra en el fomento de la protección ambiental y el desarrollo económico en Maryland, que tenga en cuenta pública y la salud ecológica, los problemas de sostenibilidad y la participación comunitaria.

EPA / Plan de EJ 2014: La Agencia de Protección del Medio Ambiente ha puesto en marcha una iniciativa llamada “EJ Plan de 2014.” Esta nueva iniciativa tiene previsto integrar la justicia ambiental en los programas de la Agencia, las políticas y actividades. Más información sobre esta iniciativa se puede encontrar aquí: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/plan-ej/.

Para más información póngase en contacto con Lisa Nissley, coordinador de Justicia Ambiental en lnissley@mde.state.md.us

Title VI Letter Template:



**STATE OF MARYLAND
Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable
Communities**

**State Agency
Title VI/EEO Officer**

Date

Dear State Officer,

In an effort to bring awareness to State agencies that receive federal financial assistance, the Governor’s Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (“CEJSC”) would like to take this opportunity to remind State agencies of their Title VI and Environmental Justice responsibilities under federal civil rights laws.

Any State agency that receives federal assistance is required to be in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Title VI prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. There are two Presidential Executive Orders (“EO”) directed to federal agencies that address Title VI compliance. The first, EO 12250 addresses the consistent and effective implementation of the various laws prohibiting discriminatory practices in federal programs, as well as programs receiving federal financial assistance/funding. Executive Order 12898 directs federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice goals into their mission to prevent disproportionate adverse public health and environmental impacts, the denial, reduction or delay in benefits received by minority and low-income populations, and ensure full and fair participation of affected populations in the decision making process. Executive Order 12898 supplements EO 12250 by specifically addressing issues related to environmental justice.

To that end, the CEJSC recommends that each State agency that receives federal financial assistance should implement: (1) a Title VI Plan to ensure compliance with federal requirements; and (2) a Public Involvement Plan to ensure adequate public participation and outreach to all communities. The Governor’s Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities also suggests that all State agencies review their Title VI programs

for compliance with applicable federal requirements. If you would like additional information regarding Title VI and Environmental Justice, please contact Lisa Nissley, CEJSC staff, at lisa.nissley@maryland.gov or visit the following websites:

<http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/cor/coord/titlevi.php>.

<http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/cor/byagency/28cfr503.pdf>

<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/interagency/title-vi.html>

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Nissley".

Chair, CEJSC