

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

**2007 Annual Report**

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## 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.

## LIST OF COMMISSIONERS

Mr. Scot Spencer, Commission Chair, Annie E. Casey Foundation  
(\**Public Interest*)

Senator Ulysses Currie, State Senate (\**State Legislature*)

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

Secretary Shari Wilson, Maryland Department of the Environment (\**State Agency*)

Secretary John Colmers, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (\**State Agency*)

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

Ms. Rosa Hart Burenstine, Baltimore Community for Environmental Justice, Inc.  
(\**Impacted Community*)

Christine Dunkerton., Community Law Center (\**Public Interest*)

Rev. Dr. Douglas Edwards, Mission of Love Charities (\**Impacted Community*)

Mr. Richard Fairbanks (\**Impacted Community*)

Mr. Andrew Fellows, Commission Vice Chair, Clean Water Action/Council Member, City  
of College Park  
(\**Environmental Advocacy*)

Ms. Vernice Miller-Travis, Commission Vice Chair, Groundwork USA (\**Environmental  
Advocacy*)

Rev. Dr. Solomon Iyobosa Omo-Osagie II, Maryland Church of God in Christ (\**Impacted  
Community*)

John Quinn, Constellation energy (\**Regulated Business*)

Dr. Barbara Sattler, University of Maryland School of Nursing  
(\**Public Health*)

Mr. Bill Stack, Baltimore City Department of Public Works (\**Local Government*)

*\*Representative Stakeholder Group*

## COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IN 2006-2007

During the period October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007, the Commission met nine times and subcommittees held additional meetings and teleconferences to execute activities laid out in their various work plans. Some activities included engagement with the executive and legislative branches of state government; and outreach to local government officials and community residents. The Commission currently has four subcommittees, which include: Land Use and Sustainable Communities, Community Involvement, Environmental Health and Research, and Legislative Review.

### (I) Subcommittee Activities

#### A.

#### Particulate Matter

[en español](#)

*Particulate matter is the dust and soot found in the air everywhere. High levels can affect breathing.*

#### What is particulate matter?

Particulate matter is the term for tiny particles found in the air. These particles can include dust, dirt, soot, smoke, and liquid droplets. Some particulate matter is large and dark enough to be seen, such as soot and smoke. Other particulate matter is so fine that it can be detected only with a microscope that examines air.

Particulate matter is sometimes abbreviated "PM". The Environmental Protection Agency is concerned with two sizes of particles: PM-10 and PM-2.5. PM-10 describes coarse particles with a diameter of 10 micrometers or less (0.0004 inches or one-seventh the width of a human hair). Fine particles, those smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter, are designated PM-2.5.

Particulate matter can be found in pollution emitted into the air. Particulate matter is in emissions from cars, trucks, buses, factories, construction sites, tilled fields, unpaved roads, stone crushing, and burning wood.

Particulate matter is formed indirectly when emissions from burning fuels -- especially emissions from motor vehicles, electric power plants, and other industrial processes -- react with sunlight and water vapor. It is also formed by grilling food on charcoal or gas, burning leaves and brush, and burning wood in a fireplace or wood stove.

#### How might I be exposed to particulate matter?

Particulate matter is a common air pollutant found in most of the air in the United States. You can be exposed to particulate matter outdoors by breathing polluted air that contains it. Particulate matter levels can vary according to the weather, time of year, and location. You are most likely to be exposed to particulate matter in the summer, when the sun and hot temperatures react with pollution to form smog, causing government officials to issue air quality alerts.

You can be exposed to high levels of particulate matter if you live near an industrial site that emits particulate matter, or if you exercise near high-traffic areas. You can also be exposed at home or at work, indoors or outdoors, through smoking cigarettes or breathing second-hand smoke.

#### How can particulate matter affect my health?

High concentrations of particulate matter, especially the fine particles of particulate matter, have been found to present a serious threat to human health if they accumulate in the respiratory system. The way particulate matter can affect your health depends on the size of the particles and the level of their concentration in the air. The fine particles of particulate matter can be inhaled deeply into the lungs, where they remain embedded for long periods of time, or can be absorbed into the bloodstream. Prolonged exposure to fine particulate matter can cause increased respiratory disease, decreased lung function, chronic bronchitis, and even premature death due to respiratory problems.

Short-term exposure to large particles of particulate matter can aggravate respiratory conditions such as asthma. It can also cause increased coughing, wheezing, respiratory irritation, and painful breathing.

Particulate matter is especially harmful to people with lung diseases such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and emphysema. Other people who are sensitive to particulate matter exposure are children, the elderly, and people with heart disease.

**Web Links from MedlinePlus (National Library of Medicine)**

[Air Pollution](#)

[Indoor Air Pollution](#)

**More Links**

[Aerosols](#) (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health)






[Particulate Matter](#) (Environmental Protection Agency)

[Particulate Matter: Basic Information](#) (Environmental Protection Agency)

[Particulate Matter: Health and Environment](#) (Environmental Protection Agency)

[Visibility \[affected by haze\]](#) (Environmental Protection Agency)

[Particulate Matter home page](#) (Environmental Protection Agency)

<b>Locations where Particulate Matter may be found</b>				
				
<b>City</b>	<b>Farm</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>U.S.-Mexico Border</b>	<b>Port</b>
<a href="#"><u>Airplanes and Air Travel</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Agricultural Runoff</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Factory Homes</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Auto Shop</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Beach</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Construction</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Animal Waste</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Offices and Stores</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Border Crossing</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Cruise Ship</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Dental Office and Lab</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Barn and Silo</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Outdoor Air</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Crop Fields</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Homes</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Factory</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Crop Fields</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Park</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Homes</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Marina and Boats</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Homes</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Farm Pond</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>School</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Illegal Dumps and Tire Piles</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Offices and Stores</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Hospital</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Feeding Operation</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>School Bus</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Maquiladora</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Outdoor Air</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Offices and Stores</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Homes</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Vehicles</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Outdoor Air</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Shipping</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Outdoor Air</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Landfill</u></a>		<a href="#"><u>Park</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Shipyards</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Park</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Meat Processing</u></a>		<a href="#"><u>Rural and Unpaved Roads</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Vehicles</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>School</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Off-road</u></a>		<a href="#"><u>Trash Burning</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>School Bus</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Vehicles</u></a>		<a href="#"><u>Vehicles</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Vehicles</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Outdoor Air</u></a>			
	<a href="#"><u>Tree Farm and Logging</u></a>			

The purpose of this subcommittee is to bring more clarity about the relationship between good land-use planning and the growth and development of sustainable communities across the State of Maryland. To date, this subcommittee has:

- Worked to closely monitor the progress and development of the East Baltimore Development Initiative's demolition and deconstruction protocol, currently under development through its demolition activities in the Middle East community of Baltimore City. (See Section VI for more information on demolition protocol).
- Worked to provide information about the work and mandate of the Commission to other stakeholder groups, e.g., the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Maryland Association of Counties, and the U.S. EPA Annual Brownfields Conference.

#### **B. Community Involvement— Rosa Hart Burenstine, Chair**

The purpose of this subcommittee is to enhance public involvement in civic processes and encourage collaboration among all parties in addressing environmental, health, and economic disparities that may exist in some communities. During the course of the year, members of the Community Involvement Subcommittee conducted various community outreach activities including outreach to the Town of Easton.

The outreach workgroup further discussed and developed a draft workplan for 2007-8 to focus on four goals:

- An increase in awareness of Environmental Benefits Districts (EBDs)\* within those communities that have been designated such.
- An exploration of an expansion of EBDs so that there is one per local jurisdiction, using criteria for the location of those districts based on the work of the Health Indicators workgroup.
- A discussion of increased benefits for EBDs, and what those benefits might be, including legislative approaches.
- An increase in membership or participation of the affected communities on the CEJSC.

*\*Environmental Benefits Districts are places where State government and other stakeholders can focus their financial, technical, regulatory, administrative, policy, and other appropriate resources to benefit targeted communities. The concept acknowledges that many of the needed programs to protect and revitalize communities are in existence, albeit not focused or coordinated in some cases. EBDs provide the geographic focus and needs identification to make some existing programs more successful.*

#### **C. Environment and Health Research— Cliff Mitchell, Chair**

The purpose of this subcommittee is to use sound health and environmental research to identify and mitigate health and environmental hazards that exist in communities. The workgroup on Health Indicators had a very productive year, primarily as its work has been in transition to becoming an integral function of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). Dr. Clifford Mitchell, chair of the workgroup, moved from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to become the new director of the environmental health coordination program at DHMH in June, 2006. In that capacity, and through the Center for Disease Control (CDC)-funded environmental public health tracking program located in DHMH and in the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Maryland has begun to focus on the issue of integration of health considerations into other environmental justice and sustainability activities. The best example of this was the DHMH-sponsored workshop in June, 2007: "Tracking Community Environmental Health: What Should the State be Doing?"

The focus of the workshop was on identifying potential community environmental health indicators that should be collected at the state level. This work grew in part out of the previous CEJSC workgroup activities, and provides a framework for DHMH and MDE to think about surveillance activities that could generate the indicators proposed in the workshop. The workshop focused on indicators related to built environment, healthy housing, transportation, neighborhood/social factors, and vulnerable/susceptible populations in communities

#### **D. Legislative Review— Kelly Pfeifer, Chair**

The Legislation and Policy Development Workgroup's primary role within the Commission is to review bills introduced during the legislative session, which may have an impact on environmental justice or sustainable community issues. To this end, Commissioners and others brought numerous pieces of legislation forward for consideration and possible comment by the Commission.

The Commission was called upon to give comments on a number of bills during the 2007 General Assembly. The Chair, on behalf of the Commission, provided testimony on these bills from an environmental justice and sustainable communities perspective. The bills included: House Bill 363- Landfill Termination; House Bill 773- Task Force on Future Growth and Development; and House Bill 1034- Healthy Places Act. The Healthy Places Act bill did not pass this year but the Commission has reason to believe that the bill will be reintroduced during the 2008 legislative session.

HB 31/SB 65 and HB 34/SB 159, which would grant certain community and nonprofit organizations standing to appeal zoning decisions in court, was discussed by the Commission. Unfortunately, the bills died before the Commission could provide comment. The Commission will continue to monitor future proposed legislation in these areas of the law.



## **(II) Summer Retreat**

On July 9, 2007 the CEJSC held a daylong retreat at the Baltimore Rowing Club. The morning session focused on CEJSC accomplishments and challenges. The afternoon discussion centered on responses to four questions presented by the Chair:

1. What should we do with regards to the Environmental Benefits District (EBD) Program and the Lead Demolition Protocol?
2. How can we build a stronger voice for EJ advocacy with the Governor, agencies, legislators, and legislative committees?
3. How do we respond to constituency issues?
4. How do we define success?

The summary notes from the retreat is attached as Appendix A.

## **(III) Governor's Appointments**

In January 2007, Maryland took on new leadership with Governor Martin O'Malley sworn into office. Recommendations for appointments to the Commission were submitted to the Governor's Appointments Office in March 2007 and are currently awaiting confirmation.

## **(IV) East Baltimore Development Lead-Safe Demolition Protocol**

Currently two members of the Environmental Justice Commission are actively engaged in the monitoring and development of the East Baltimore Development Initiative (EBDI) Demolition and Deconstruction Protocol. Commissioner Rosa Hart-Burenstine is a member of the public review committee and Commissioner Vernice Miller-Travis is a member of the Independent Expert Panel.

The East Baltimore Development Initiative is an \$800 million, 88-acre revitalization project in East Baltimore, adjacent to the Johns Hopkins University Hospital. Several hundred homes are being demolished and new housing, businesses, and other uses are being built in their place. Many families are being relocated as a result of this project, which due to the magnitude of demolition activity has the potential of releasing very significant levels of lead dust into the air. EBDI, in collaboration with other partners, developed and is currently utilizing a protocol for deconstruction and demolition that is meant to be highly protective of public health and limiting in the amount of lead dust particles that are released into the ambient air.

The Commission has closely monitored the development and implementation of this protocol and intends to pursue enabling legislation that would provide statewide guidance on safer and more environmentally protective methods of building deconstruction and demolition.

## PLANNED COMMISSION OBJECTIVES FOR 2007-2008

There are a number of activities that the commission would like to pursue, which are provided below. However, in order to accomplish more notable and measurable outcomes, Commissioners agreed that a more feasible approach would be to focus the Commission's limited resources on one main project per year. Desirable outcomes and goals for this project would be clearly articulated and commissioners will work diligently throughout the year to meet those goals.

This year, the Commission's project focus will be on outreach to decision-makers and under represented members of the state to engage them in discussions about environmental justice and sustainability issues. Below are the Commission's three major goals for 2007-2008 and the needed tasks to achieve them.

1. Increase awareness of environmental justice and sustainable community issues in state and local decision-making.
  - a. Convene meetings with house and senate committees and leadership at least once to re-introduce commission, its purpose and work.
  - b. Analysis and commentary on select state legislation during the 2008 session.
  - c. Hold meetings with locally elected officials and select appointees to provide background on commission, its purpose and work (number of meetings?)
  - d. Provide informational resources for communities online. Resources such as grant information, educational workshops and conferences, and meaningful environment and health data.
  - e. Development and dissemination of EJ policy guidance for government agencies on incorporating EJ in permitting and local land use planning.
2. Increase participation by diverse stakeholders in matters pertaining to environmental justice and sustainable communities.
  - a. Promote involvement of environmental justice and minority groups with the Maryland Environmental Summit scheduled for February 18, 2008.
  - b. Host at least two listening sessions, in places recommended by commissioners or requested by constituents, on matters pertaining to EJ and SC.
  - c. Examine, analyze, and provide recommendations to strengthen the appeal, reach, and results of Environmental Benefits District designation.
3. Frame the state's environmental agenda to be inclusive of concerns relevant to minority and disadvantaged communities.
  - a. Engage environmental organizations in the activities of the EJ commission— its purpose and work.
  - b. Work with state agency leadership to inquire about the impact (positive and negative) of proposed legislation on the state's vulnerable populations from advocacy groups (i.e. reduction of health disparities, change in economic opportunity).

- c. Work to advance the recommendations of the Task Force to Increase Minority Participation in the Environmental Community.

Some measures of success in meeting the stated objectives may include:

- a. The number of EJ issues received and investigated.
- b. The number of stakeholder listening sessions convened.
- c. The number of meetings held with stakeholders

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The recommendations which follow are directed to various sectors of government to include: the Governor's office, the legislative office, cabinet agencies, and local governments.

### **GOVERNOR'S OFFICE:**

#### **Funds for implementing EJ efforts**

The Commission continues to recommend consideration of project funding to more fully develop a Community Profile Tool through state appropriations. Additionally, the Commission may pursue funding opportunities from other sources, such as federal agencies and philanthropic organization. The value of developing a community profile tool is to provide a reference point for various stakeholders, including: the community, state planners, environmental officials, investors, and others to consider when working to address disparate environmental impacts and revitalization communities. The investment in a community profile tool will assist agencies with prioritizing communities in need of assistance and for enhancing a community's ability to access data about the environmental quality of its neighborhoods for planning purposes.

The Commission feels that this is a very small initial investment to provide the citizens of Maryland with basic information so that they can more fully participate as stewards of a healthier future.

### **STATE AGENCIES:**

#### **Statewide prioritizing system to assist marginalized communities**

The Commission recommends that all state agencies develop a prioritizing system for their programs to help mitigate the environmental and health impacts in disadvantaged communities. This system would ideally help leverage resources in targeted areas within the state that have been identified as being or face the threat of becoming marginalized. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is working on implementing Environmental Benefits Districts (EBDs), places where government and other stakeholders can optimize their resources to benefit communities in a proactive way. MDE has identified EBD zip codes in Central and Western Prince George's County and in East Baltimore as pilots. The Maryland Department of Planning is implementing the State's Priority Places framework to enable sound land use practices, economic growth, environmental protection, and community revitalization.

#### **Renewed commitment**

The Commission recommends that each state agency demonstrate full commitment to the Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities initiative by allocating dedicated staff to this effort cause. Dedicated staff will be responsible for fostering collaboration within their home agency, among other state agencies, and with the Commission on Environmental Justice and

Sustainable Communities, to assist communities in need. Dedicated staff will strive to effect change in communities by proactively listening to community concerns; reviewing their agency's programs and policies that may help address community concerns; and implementing strategies that promote environmental health and economic vitality in disadvantaged communities.

## **LEGISLATURE:**

### **Expansion of Commission's membership**

The commission recommends the expansion of state agency appointments to the commission. These should include but may not be limited to the Department of Housing, Department of Business and Economic Development, and Department of Transportation. Currently, the agencies appointed to the commission are the Department of Environment, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Department of Planning. In order to address EJ issues from a holistic standpoint, it will require a collaborative strategy crafted through the involvement of all state agencies because EJ issues are crosscutting in nature and fall under the purview of multiple state agencies as well as the various levels of government. In addition to the increased state agency representations, two more representatives from the community at large are recommended, bringing the total number of Commissioners to 20.

### **Enabling legislation**

The Commission recommends the proposal of enabling legislation, which would encourage mindful, lead-safe demolition activities in Maryland by implementing demolition protocols such as those developed through the East Baltimore Development Initiative for the purpose of eliminating lead contaminated housing and lead poisoning statewide. The Legislation might be adopted as an expansion of existing Brownfields Law.

## **LOCAL CODE ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES:**

### **Lead safe demolition protocol**

The Commission endorses the safe demolition practices outlined in the East Baltimore Demolition Protocol and recommends that this protocol be reviewed by local code enforcement agencies and if feasible, be adopted in to local ordinances.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **July 2007 Retreat Summary**

Commission on Environmental Justice  
and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) Retreat  
Baltimore Rowing Club  
July 9, 2007

Draft Summary Notes

On July 9, 2007 the CEJSC held a daylong retreat at the Baltimore Rowing Club. The morning session focused on CEJSC accomplishments and challenges. The afternoon discussion centered on responses to four questions (listed on page 2) presented by the Chair.

CEJSC Accomplishments

***Legislative:***

The Chair reported that the Commission was called upon to give comments on a number of bills during the 2007 General Assembly. The Chair, on behalf of the commission, provided testimony on these bills from an environmental justice and sustainable communities perspective. The bills were: House Bill 363- Landfill Termination; House Bill 773- Task Force on Future Growth and Development; and House Bill 1034- Healthy Places Act.

The Healthy Places Act bill did not pass this year but Cliff Mitchell reported that the bill would be reintroduced during the 2008 legislative session.

***Health and Environmental Research:***

Cliff Mitchell gave an update on the Community Environmental Health workshop held in June 2007, through sponsorship from the Center for Disease Control, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and Department of the Environment. The take home message from this workshop was: “do not go into a community with preconceived notions about their problems. Instead, listen to the community’s needs and concerns and jointly devise a strategy to address their expressed needs. Information gained from this workshop about the true issues of interest to communities would be an important consideration in the development of a web-based community health indicators tool proposed by the CEJSC.

CEJSC Challenges

The major challenge for executing the work of the CEJSC is the lack of resources. There is no designated state budget for environmental justice programming beyond the salary of one staff person. Commissioners expressed concerns that most of the community-center activities proposed by the CEJSC cannot be implemented without funds. Communities that do not have the capacity to seek or apply for state and other resources may become “lost colonies”. Because of the scarcity of resources, it was recommended that the

Commission streamline its efforts to focus time and energy on just one project per year. Examples of such projects include— seeking funds to implement projects in select communities; working to ensure that all state agencies incorporate an environmental justice (EJ) culture by developing state and local EJ policy guidance; or pursuing the passage of a state-wide demolition guidance bill.

#### Afternoon Discussion Questions:

1. What should we do with regards to the Environmental Benefits District (EBD) Program and the Lead Demolition Protocol?
2. How can we build a stronger voice for EJ advocacy with the Governor, agencies, legislators, and legislative committees?
3. How do we respond to constituency issues?
4. How do we define success?

#### Responses/Recommendations to Questions

##### ***Environmental Benefits District:***

In terms of analyzing the EBD program, the Commission concluded that it is too early to evaluate the program because implementing various aspects of the program require funds, which have not been appropriated. However, communities with the EBD designation seem appreciative and hopeful. Easton's Council Woman Moonyene Jackson-Amis indicated that she hopes Easton's EBD designation will help kick off community-based health research in Ward 4. The Town of Easton, Ward 4 was designated an EBD in 2006.

A recommendation was made to develop a process to raise awareness among residents, local governments, and businesses within EBDs about EBD designation and to better understand their needs. Another suggestion was implementing a strategy to fund and support the program. The communities of Curtis Bay and Turner Station are good candidates for an EBD designation.

##### ***Demolition Protocol:***

The Commission would like to see all demolition activity in the state follow the East Baltimore Demolition Protocol. It was proposed that the Commission work with MDE's Legislative Director on introducing a bill to adopt the protocol.

##### ***Outreach to Constituency:***

Recommendations included:

- conducting listening sessions throughout the state to distill community concerns and issues;
- developing a community-oriented web based portal containing access to various resources available to communities;
- leveraging other public forums such as "Reality Check" activities to reach and engage citizens;
- advocating for incorporating environmental education in public schools; and



- inviting mainstream environmental groups to the table ( September-October, 2007) to discuss EJ issues and how those issues may be incorporated into their environmental agenda.

***Outreach to Agencies and Legislators:***

Recommendations included:

- Getting on the Interagency Smart Growth Coordinating Committee to begin dialogue about the nexus between smart growth an EJ;
- meeting one on one with senators and delegates to discuss EJ and sustainability issues in Maryland;
- meeting in collective caucus with legislature;
- delivering testimony on various EJ-related matters during the General Assembly to provide the Commission's perspective;
- hosting an EJ awareness workshop for legislatures and local elected officials; and
- Del. Elizabeth Bobo offered to broker a meeting between commissioners and legislators sometime in the November-December, 2007 timeframe

***Measurement of Success:***

Commissioners proposed developing some means of measurement, such as an EJ STAT to measure outcomes and successes of CEJSC activities. Sample measurement parameters include:

- number and type of EJ inquiries received by the CEJSC;
- how the CEJSC resolves complaints;
- degree of involvement with policy issues and legislative bills;
- number of outreach and educational events facilitated with the general public;
- ability to secure funding for the community health indicators project;
- number of new databases made available to the public; and
- number of new bills passed with support from the Commission.

It was reiterated that in order to realize notable progress, the Commission should focus on a specific project area each year.

\*Next regular monthly meeting will be on Thursday, September 27, 2007 at MDE.

**APPENDIX B**

**Legislative Testimonies**

**Comments by the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable  
Communities**

**on**

**House Bill 773 – Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development  
Heard in the Senate Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee**

**Thursday, April 5, 2007**

**Offered by Scot T. Spencer, Chair, on behalf of the Committee**

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Commission has had an opportunity to review HB 773 and along with our charge to give advice to state agencies, the governor and the legislature on matters related to environmental justice and sustainable communities, offer the following comments on the proposed legislation:

- The charge of the Task Force is important and more critical than ever with the anticipated population growth in the state over the next decade and more specifically with the anticipated influx of residents resulting from BRAC, extending this group's work by one year is both wise and timely.
- Developing tools to assess the cumulative impacts of proposed development, the manners with which the State and local governments will support that development – with financial and land management techniques including but not limited to transit oriented development and housing opportunities to serve Maryland's diverse workforce – is also a crucial and necessary strategy.
- It has been the observation of the Commission that there are instances when the impacts of development decisions do not take into account more vulnerable populations. The result is an undesired impact such as the disparate concentration or relegation of people to places of last resort rather than a deliberate and deliberative process that ensures the inclusion of myriad points-of-view and diverse housing opportunities for all. We have witnessed millions of dollars of redevelopment and litigation (i.e. HOPE VI and HUD v. Thompson), which are trying to undo well-intended but exclusive decision-making.
- While the legislation passed by the House modifies and expands the breadth of the task force, it also eliminates citizen voices that are equally necessary to adequately and frankly assess unintended impacts at the state level. **The Commission would advise that the “three representatives of citizen organizations that address affordable housing, transportation and smart growth” be restored in the final bill.**
- The table that is set by this Task Force could have far reaching implications for the sustainability of Maryland communities that are integrated. The Commission does not see an adverse fiscal impact by including three citizen voices in this important process.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

**Comments by Scot T. Spencer, Chair**  
**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable**  
**Communities**  
**Regarding HB 363**  
**First heard in Environmental Matters Committee**  
**21 February 2007**

The Commission took an opportunity at its meeting on March 22 to discuss this legislation for potential Environmental Justice impacts through the enactment of this legislation and offers the following:

- There is an apparent history to this legislation; during the 2006 session, a similar piece of legislation was introduced which only referenced the proposed landfill in Queen Anne's County. That legislation was introduced due to newly elected county officials with an interest to overturn the support decision rendered by previous county leadership to the original rubble fill proposal at this site;
- The Prince Georges amendment included in this year's legislation, while specifying two Potomac tributaries in the southern part of the County, expands the permit restriction to "within 1 mile of any other tributary in Prince George's County that flows directly or indirectly into the Potomac River;" and
- The proposed legislation expands the prohibition to all landfills.

The Commission does not take positions on proposed legislation; however, it is within our purview to offer our insights and analysis of potential environmental injustices posed by legislation, policy development or promulgation of regulations.

While the Commission is not aware of any environmental justice impacts of the Queen Anne's site, it does not mean that none could exist as a result of the siting and operation of this rubble fill.

In the case of Prince George's County, there are a host of concerns that the Commission raised in the course of its deliberations:

- The fact that the prohibition is limited to tributaries within the Potomac River watershed implies that a similar prohibition would not exist on the Patuxent River watershed areas of the county. Given that most Marylanders currently live within ½ mile of a Chesapeake Bay tributary, this would, in effect, equal a prohibition of any landfills on the county's Potomac watershed. An unintended consequence of the proposed prohibition would place severe pressure on the County to either site new landfills on the Patuxent watershed side; this is not only home to sizable African-American populations and communities in central Prince George's County including Bowie, Largo and Upper Marlboro, it is also home to sites which make up Maryland's African-American heritage leading back to

slavery such as the North Hampton Slave Quarters site, Dorsey Chapel and the Lake Arbor Community.

- While there is no recent evidence that landfills in Maryland lead to significant environmental degradation in a traditional sense (i.e. pollutant runoff or ruptured linings impacting groundwater), environmental justice issues could arise from the impact of hundreds of trucks traveling through a community – either directly or indirectly – in order to access a new landfill site.
- Secondary quality of life impacts could occur from landfills located on the Patuxent watershed side of Prince George’s County but *accessed* by roads and through communities in Anne Arundel County. Since impacted communities outside of jurisdictions where landfill facilities could be sited do not have standing to voice opposition, there exists a chance for historic African-American sites or low-income or minority communities to be adversely impacted by an action outside of their jurisdiction.

If the Committee has any other questions regarding this legislation, you may contact me directly at 410-223-2904. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

**Comments of Scot T. Spencer, Chair**  
**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities**  
**Regarding HB 1034 – Maryland Healthy Places Act**  
**House Health and Government Operations Committee**  
**Tuesday, March 13, 2007**

Good Afternoon Mister Chair and Members of the Committee, it is good to see many of you again. My name is Scot Spencer and I serve as chair of the state's commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities.

The commission has taken the opportunity to review HB 1034 with some favor and, in line with our charge to provide of advice and analysis would like to offer the following comments on this proposed legislation:

- We find that the bill as proposed offers many similar measures which have been recommended in one or several of this Commission's prior reports including the development of an Interagency Working Group and the development of Environmental Health Indicators. In our view, the development and availability of Environmental Health Indicators will further democratize a public's concern about environmental health. Our groundwork in this development has determined that in many instances, environmental health impacts, while disproportionately affecting low-income, disadvantaged and minority people, is not limited to those populations. The compilation and dissemination of this information will raise the bar and the tenor of the need to further environmental health protections for all Marylanders through the assurance that the most vulnerable are considered;
- We feel that the interagency working group should, at a minimum include representatives from the departments of housing and community development, disabilities, aging and the Governor's Office for Children and would recommend this as a friendly amendment to the legislation. Safe, decent and affordable housing is a critical environmental health factor and the aged, disabled, and children are among those with the greatest vulnerabilities due to environmental health impacts;
- We are greatly encouraged by the ideal of an annual conference and the development of an environmental health impact assessment. The environmental health impact assessment mirrors our view and perspective on environmental justice matters – in that consideration on the impact of human ecosystems should be of equal consequence and importance to more traditionally viewed ecosystems.

On behalf of the Commission I would like to thank you for the opportunity to share our insights and observations on HB1034.

**APPENDIX C**

**Meeting Minutes**

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

**Wednesday, October 25, 2006**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Commission Members & Participants:**

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

**Welcome Remarks**

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

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

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

**Draft Outline 2006 Annual Report**

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

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

**Calendar 2007 Outline**

Jan, Feb. March – meetings held in Annapolis

April & Oct. – off site visit

June or July – CEJSC Retreat

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

**Updates**

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



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

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

#### Brief Background on CEJSC

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

#### Minority Task Force Update

Vincent Leggett, DNR gave an update on the Minority Task Force that was created from SB 350/HB 412. The Taskforce will examine ways to improve communication with minorities, foster better engagement and establish environmental centers.

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

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

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

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

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

## State, local officials discuss stormwater management

By VICKI FISHER

Business Editor

October 26, 2006

**EASTON** — Whenever it rains heavily in Easton, the Watkins family's house along Dover Street becomes waterfront property. Unfortunately, it's not the kind of water that would increase their property values.

Easton Ward 4 Town Councilwoman Moonyene Jackson-Amis and Brian Hause, assistant to the town engineer, led a discussion on the town's stormwater management issues Wednesday afternoon with the state Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities before taking a tour of two sites that were of major concern, including the Watkins' property.

The commission serves as a large advisory body on environmental issues to the state, said Chairman Scot Spencer. The commission analyzes and reviews what impact current state laws, regulations and policy have on the equitable treatment and protection of communities threatened by development or environmental pollution and it determines what areas in the state need immediate attention, according to the Maryland state Web site. The commission also assesses the adequacy of current statutes to ensure environmental justice and develops criteria to pinpoint which communities need sustaining, the site states.

Jackson-Amis said she asked to work with the commission to help address some of Easton's environmental issues, such as stormwater runoff, and health issues, such as asthma and immune deficiency problems, and to make the state aware of the town's issues.

One of the most immediate problems that could be fixed in Easton is the stormwater runoff from Dover Street that floods the area near the Watkins' house, Annapolis Paint and the site of the town Christmas tree, Hause said. The stormwater pipe network along Dover Road recently was upgraded, Hause said, but floods whenever there's a heavy rain. A possible solution would be to discharge that water past Goldsborough Street at the Tanyard Branch stream, he said.

Click an image to enlarge...



**PHOTO BY TRAVIS DUNN**

State officials, from the left, Dorothy Morrison, Sharmi Das, and Nan Lyon talk with Easton Town Councilman Moonyene Jackson-Amis, right, during a brief tour Wednesday afternoon that ended on Brickyard Lane.

[Printable Version](#)



Another issue the town will have to address is the extra runoff that will accumulate from impervious surfaces after U.S. Route 50 is widened to three lanes from Chapel Road to High Street.

The commissioners gave Hause a few contacts from the state Department of the Environment who might be able to help with the stormwater issues and also suggested that the town look at flood maps to figure out how best to solve the flooding issues.

Following a brief tour of the Watkins' property and Tanyard Branch at Rails to Trails, Jackson-Amis then took the state officials and commissioners to Brickyard Lane — the community just beyond the western limits of the town. (A landlord there is suing in district court to evict seven of the tenants here for failing to pay their rent; he has said he was moved to seek eviction because of county repair orders that called for near-total renovation of the homes.)

Jackson-Amis told the officials what had happened in the neighborhood in the past several months, and she said she found it “amazing” that the county council on Tuesday defeated a bill aimed to protect tenants in similar situations.

Staff Writer Travis Dunn contributed to this article.

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

**Wednesday, November 17, 2006**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Commission Members & Participants:**

Dorothy Morrison (Designee for Kendl Philbrick), Vernice Miller-Travis, Rosa Burnstein, Sharmi Das (Designee for Anthony McCann), Richard Fairbanks, Nan Lyon, Barbara Sattler,

**Welcome Remarks & Review of Minutes**

Vernice chaired the meeting in the absence of the Chair, Scot Spencer.

The draft minutes were reviewed and edited but were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.

**Easton**

Dorothy gave an update on the Easton visit during the October meeting.

**Annual Report**

Dorothy circulated the draft to date (still missing sections from workgroups) for review. The draft will also be sent electronically for review. The draft will also be sent electronically to those not present at the meeting.

**2007 Meeting Schedule**

This could not be determined due to poor attendance. Dorothy will send out an email requesting Commissioners to indicate long standing commitment dates, for which they will not be available for a CEJSC monthly meeting.

**2007 Activities**

- I. The group discussed next steps on lead-safe demolition protocols for Maryland.
  - 1) need technical reviewers who could translate protocol into local regulation.
  - 2) Solicit support from other partners to include:
    - Society of Occupational & Environmental Health
    - Local Code Enforcement Association
    - Local Zoning Officials or Subcommittee of MACO addressing zoning
    - Association of Standards & Testing Materials (ASTM)
    - Maryland Environmental Health Directors
  - 3) Find a legislative Sponsor for demolition protocol
  - 4) Find private funds to support work of technical reviewer.

Sharmi Das mentioned that she is the legislative liaison for the Community Health Administration and she will try to garner support from that Administration.

II. It was recommended that one of which should include little Washington in Prince Georges County site visits to various negatively impacted communities in the State scheduled for 2007.

#### Other Updates

##### I. Community Health Indicators project:

Sharmi mentioned that an EPA grant is being sought through a partnership among DHMH, MDE and University of MD to support work on Community Health indicators started by the CEJSC community Health Workgroup. The CEJSC will be asked to write a letter of support for the grant applicants. Cliff will draft the letter to be signed by Commissioners.

Barbara Sattler indicated that it is important for the Community Health Indicators project to focus on assisting the permitting process and not morph into satisfying environmental public health tracking.

##### II. Task Force on Minority participation in the Environment:

The group discussed the role of the Task Force on Minority participation in the Environment versus the role of the CEJSC. Clarification needed in order to coordinate efforts. Dorothy will send a copy of SB350 – Task Force on Minority Participation to Commissioners along with proposed list of task force members for review.

**The next Commission on Environmental and Sustainable Communities meeting  
December 19 @ 9:30 am.  
Maryland Department of the Environment**

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

**Wednesday, January 25, 2007**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**Commission Members & Participants:**

Scot Spencer, Vernice Miller-Travis, Stephen Pattison & Dorothy Morrison (Designees for Shari Wilson), Rev. Iyabosa Solomon Omo-Osagie, II, Edward Dexter, Nan Lyon, Nadine Jackson-Bey, John Papagni, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Sandi Olek

**Introduction**

Scot opened the meeting with introductions. The new Commissioner, Rev. Solomon Omo-Osagie gave a brief introduction and expressed his interest in environmental justice and the work of the Commission.

State & Local Authorities in Zoning, Land Use and Permitting Presentation by Edward Dexter

Edward Dexter, Administrator for the MDE Solid Waste Program gave a presentation on the following:

- Break down on the MDE Solid Waste Program and the current staff persons
- Regulated Facilities
- Solid Waste Statistics
- Rubblefill Definition
- Five-Phase Application Process for Rubble Landfill
- Past Results – 1990-2005
- Potential Problems with Rubble Fills
- What's Leachate?
- What's a Liner?
- Key EJ Issues to Note

A few of the Commissioners questioned if there was a break down by region that reflects where the rubble fill permits are located, especially as it relates to minorities. Dorothy will assist in getting information through GIS.

***NEXT STEP:*** Vernice, Chairperson for the Land Use and Sustainability Subcommittee will continue communications and discussions with Edward in order to move forward. The powerpoint presentation, from the meeting, will be accessible on the MDE website under Environmental Justice.

Further information can be found at [www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/](http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/) or [www.mde.state.md.us](http://www.mde.state.md.us)

**Legislative Matters:**

The following two bills are schedule for a hearing on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

IB31 – Community or Homeowners’ Associations – Standing to Participate in Certain Proceedings  
HB34 – Planning and Zoning Decisions – Standing to Appeal

Commission Updates:

Rev. Omo-Osagie has agreed to participate on the Legislative Review Subcommittee, Chaired by Kelly Pfeifer and the Community Involvement Subcommittee, Chaired by Ms. Rosa Burnstein. Each chair is asked to welcome Rev. Omo-Osagie and update him on upcoming meetings, conference calls and bring him up to speed on current tasks. Please contact Nadine for his contact information.

ALL Commissioners are asked to let Dorothy know if you are interested in continuing on the Commission. She will be submitting name to the Governor’s Appointment’s Office. Low attendance to the monthly meetings will also play a factor on the names that will be submitted.

**The next Commission on Environmental and Sustainable Communities meeting will be February 22, 2007 @ 9:30 am at the House Office Building, Room 202, Annapolis MD**

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

**Thursday, February 22, 2007**

**In Attendance**

**Commission Members:**

Scot Spencer, Vernice Miller-Travis, Delegate Elizabeth Bobo, Shari Wilson, Dorothy Morrison, Rev. Solomon Iyobosa Omo-Osagie II, Cliff Mitchell, Arabia Matthews, Bill Stack, KellyPfeifer, Andrew Fellows, Richard Fairbanks, Rosa Burenstine

**Other Participants:**

Edward Dexter, Nan Lyon, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Charles Zeleski, Phil Heard, Moonyene Jackson-Amis, Lou Takacs, Carl Snowden, Betty Dabney, Shannon Heafy, Diane Franks, Bill Paul.

**Introductions**

MDE Secretary, Shari Wilson was introduced by Chairperson, Scot Spencer and she briefly addressed the Commission. She discussed two of the Department's priorities, namely:

1. Enforcement and inspector training.
2. Alignment of budget with the most critical MDE activities.

Andrew Fellows requested that Sec. Wilson urge other cabinet agency heads to collectively help address communities' environmental needs by leveraging their various program resources.

Rev. Omo-Osagi asked whether a budget could be allocated to the Environmental Justice Commission.

**Commissioner Updates**

Clifford Mitchell announced a May 17 & 18 Community Workshop to discuss the Indicators Project and its utility to communities.

Vernice volunteered to give an overview of Federal Brownsfields Program Initiatives at the March meeting while MDE's Brownfield Program Manager give the State program overview.

**2006 Health Air Bill, Air Pollution and Health Concerns of Power Plants and Incinerator Presentation by Diane Franks, MDE Air & Radiation Management Administration**



## Highlights:

- Progress has been made in the last 3 years. Emissions cut by 40% since 1990.
- One source ozone pollution: there is a large cloud of ozone above the mixing or boundary layer of the atmosphere, which if it breaks causes ozone from the upper layer to mix downwards.
- The Maryland Healthy Air Rule is more stringent than the federal air quality standards.
- MD will join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) by June 2007 to help reduce green house CO2 emission.
- MD Healthy Air Rule is more stringent than the Federal requirement.

## Legislative Updates

Cliff Mitchell summarized HB 1034 – Maryland Healthy Places ACT. The bill calls for state-wide projects that integrate health into the planning process, which is analogous to the federal environmental impact statement, but with a focus on public health.

A follow up conference call to continue discussions about HB 1034 will be scheduled to determine what if any involvement the Commission should have.

## Upcoming Activities

Next month's meeting will be on Thursday, March 22, 2007 at 45 Calvert Street (Department of Budget Management) in Annapolis. The presentation topic will be on Brownfields— Federal and Maryland laws and initiatives overview.

**COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES  
(CEJSC)**

Thursday, May 24, 2007 Meeting

**In Attendance:**

Shari Wilson (MDE Secretary)  
Heather Barthel (MDE Legislation & Policy Director)  
Any Fellows  
Bill Stack  
Rev. Solomon Iyobosa Omo-Osagie II  
Arabia Mathews  
Del. Elizabeth Bobo  
Rosa Burenstine  
Kelly Pfeifer  
John Quinn  
Betty Dabney  
Ed Dexter  
Nan Lyons  
Mary Rosso  
George Oleru

**Possible recommendations from issues framed earlier in year:**

The group identified various issues within each topic area that the Commission could provide recommendations on. It was decided that at the upcoming retreat, the issues identified were to be prioritized into just three or four recommendations, with each recommendation fleshed out into details of how it could be implemented. The issues within each topic that were identified during the meeting are:

(1) Solid waste management

- Addressing trash issue in the Baltimore city and the waterways that drain into the Chesapeake. E.g. the Anacostia has significant trash impairment.
- Storm water management act legislation
- Plan siting and projection of solid waste needs for the future. Seek out an inventory of solid waste facilities.
- Developing legislation for local actions in equitable facilities siting. The State does not have a system in place to oversee private land use siting.

(2) Maryland's air quality

- Taking cumulative impact into consideration in permitting.

(3) Brownfields

- Working with communities to identify brownfields across the State

- Taking into account acceptable levels of clean for community
- Addressing unintended impacts of brownfield redevelopment- gentrification and displacement

(4) Sustainability

- EJ and Military Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)- BRAC is projected to bring over 600,000 jobs to Maryland within the next two to four years. The most affluent counties will most likely bid for those jobs, but being mostly built out, may lack the infrastructure such as water and sewer. There should be a push to direct the economic engine to Baltimore City, which already has the capacity in place to accommodate this kind of large-scale growth.
- Tax incentives to encourage development in the city.

(5) Transportation

- Need for more mass transit alternatives to move citizens with modest income around to their jobs, social activities and health centers

(6) Housing

- Too many elite residential communities being built across the state. Need legislation or incentives for affordable and workforce housing. E.g. Montgomery county model.

(7) Health

- Support re-introduction of Healthy Places bill in 2008 legislative session

(8) Other suggestions

- Commissioner reiterated the need to expand the Commission membership by have representation from other state agencies (Transportation, Housing, Economic Development).
- CEJSC taking on a more vocal advocacy role.

**Summer retreat**

The group unanimously decided to convene a one-day retreat on July 19, 2007 (location TBD).

**Commission on Environmental Justice  
and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) Monthly Meeting  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD**

**September 27, 2007**

**In Attendance**

Commissioners:

Scot Spencer, Chair  
Vernice Miller-Travis, First Vice Chair  
Andrew Fellows, Second Vice Chair  
Heather Barthel  
Dorothy Morrison  
Kelly Pfifer  
Rosa Hart-Burnstein  
Betty Dabney  
Rev. Dr. Solomon Iyobosa Omo-Osagie II  
John Quinn

Guests:

Terry Harris, Maryland League of Conservation Voters  
Chris Sewell, 1000 Friends of Maryland  
Mary Washington, Parks and People Foundation  
Vincent Leggett, Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Lou Takacs, Washington Village Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council  
Jenn Aiosa, Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Lilian Buie, Chesapeake Bay Foundation  
Moonyene Jackson-Amis, Town of Easton.

**Introductions**

During introductions, Commissioners gave updates on their summer EJ activities. Scot announced that he had been appointed to serve on the Board of the Chesapeake Bay Trust. Representatives from three environmental groups were invited to join Commissioners in a discussion about environmental agendas and collaborative partnerships between environmental organizations and the CEJSC to address environmental justice issues.

**Approval of July 9<sup>th</sup> Minutes**

The July 9, 2007 minutes were approved with amendments (see attached).

## Review of July, 2007 Retreat Outcome

Because of time constraint, this item was postponed.

## Discussion With Environmental Groups Regarding EJ and Environmental Agenda

Representatives from the League of Conservation Voters, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and 1000 Friends of Maryland presented some of their current and proposed program activities that have a nexus with EJ.

Mr. Terry Harris, representing the League of Conservation Voters, stated the organization's functions as follows:

- Conduct elections
- Involvement in political campaigns
- Publish scorecards regarding the environment
- Provide assistance and coordination for environmental issues
- Sponsor citizen campaign for the environment

Mr. Harris speaking on behalf of the League, indicated that the League's agenda had not yet been set, but gave the follow predictions for issues that would most likely be considered:

1. Examination of how funds come and go.
2. Smart growth and development with possible EJ component.
3. Climate change: how it affects Maryland and how the state can affect it— for example, energy efficiency strategies.
4. Chesapeake Bay restoration
5. Legal standing for communities to oppose permits
6. Lead paint: holding the lead pigment manufacturers accountable and suing for restitution funds to help remediate the damage left behind.

Mr. Chris Sewell, representing 100 Friends of Maryland, highlighted the organization's agenda as follows:

1. Budget: promote value spending
2. Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC): develop smartly, increase mass transit, invest in Baltimore City neighborhood schools, and complete the red line light rail in Baltimore.

Ms. Lilian Buie, representing the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, mentioned that he Foundation has been primarily a scientific organization, focusing on the science of the Chesapeake Bay and reducing impervious surface pollution. Ms. Buie pointed out that more recently the Foundation has started to conduct outreach in Prince George's County, which constitutes a large portion of the Anacostia River watershed. The impaired Anacostia River is a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay. The Foundation is also partnering with the Sierra club and the Anacostia Watershed Society on a number of watershed initiatives.