



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

**Annual Report
2014-2015**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1. Background.....	3
2. Commissioners Serving 2014 to Present.....	4
3. Commission Activities October 1, 2014- September 30, 2015.....	5
4. Planned Commission Objectives for 2015- 2016.....	6
5. Appendix A- July 2015 Retreat Summary	7
6. Appendix B- Letters & Comments Shared by the Commission.....	8
7. Appendix C- 2014- 2015 Meeting Agendas/Minutes.....	12

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) resigned December 2015

Senator Victor Ramirez, State Senate (*State Legislature)

Vacancy, House of Delegates (*State Legislature)

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

Secretary Van Mitchell, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (*State Agency)

Secretary Kenneth Holt, Department of Housing and Community Development (*State Agency)

Secretary David Craig, Maryland Department of Planning (*State Agency)

Secretary Michael Gill, Department of Business and Economic Development (*State Agency)

Secretary Pete Rahn, 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. Laurance Polsky, Calvert County Health Officer (*Local Government)

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)

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

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

Membership

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

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

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

Welcome Letter to the Governor-Elect & Other Letters

The CEJSC shared several letters of information that can be found in Appendix **B**. This included an introductory letter to then Governor-elect Hogan, comments to EPA on EJ 2020 Action Agenda, and a letter to Governor Hogan about EJ considerations surrounding natural gas development in the Marcellus Shale.

State Agencies

The Commission was eager to hear from the new executive staffs at the state agencies. MDE Secretary Ben Grumbles attended a joint meeting of the CEJSC and CEHPAC and shared his interest in EJ and a willingness to work on both organizations. At another meeting, Deputy Secretaries Tablada and Tung attended the June meeting as well. MDP welcomed the co-chairs of the Commission for introductions and a discussion on upcoming issues of interest.

Legislative Outreach

The Commission continues to reach out to members of the legislature to collaborate, educate, and give feedback on EJ issues. Members of the Commission have individually engaged several members and had a meeting with the Latino Caucus about potential issues of mutual interest. The Commission is planning to have a January Open House for legislators.

Joint CEHPAC Meeting

The Commission held a joint meeting with the Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council on May 26, 2015 per its statutory charge. The organizations

shared information on recent progress and issues of mutual interest. Full details are outlined in the meeting minutes in Appendix C.

4 Planned Commission Objectives for 2015- 2016

Children’s Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council

CEJSC & CEHPAC has enjoyed a friendly relationship and robust discussion about mutual issues of interest during an annual joint meeting in the spring. However, the Commission has felt limited by this once a year meeting and has decided to pursue a more active relationship as a priority for the upcoming year. The Commission has identified the use of green cleaning products in schools and lead poisoning prevention as potential areas for collaboration. There are plans for an additional joint meeting in December to finalize a work plan for 2016.

Local Government Outreach & Equitable Development

After identifying local government outreach, specifically to encourage inclusion of equitable development principles into planning and zoning processes, several CEJSC members formed a working group to carry out these goals. They identified two sources for equitable development tools that could be distributed. As a first step to best disseminate this information, they prioritized contacting MACO leadership. Those efforts are underway, and the working group reports to the full Commission at our monthly meetings.

Sources:

<http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-03/documents/our-built-and-natural-environments.pdf>

<http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-01/documents/equitable-development-report-508-011713b.pdf>

<http://www.policylink.org/equity-tools/equitable-development-toolkit/about-toolkit>

Cumulative Impact

Cumulative Impact has long been an issue of interest for the Commission. Since 2009, the Commission has followed legislation on the issue and offered support and information when appropriate. During the 2014 and 2015 interim, MDE has hosted a Cumulative Impact Workgroup (more information can be found here: http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/CrossMedia/EnvironmentalJustice/EJinMarylandHome/Pages/Cumulative_Impacts_Workgroup.aspx). Several of the Commissioners are involved and are communicating between the two groups. The Commission would like to get further engaged with the work surrounding Cumulative Impact, specifically as the discussion relates to enhanced public participation. MDE has committed to engaging with the Commission on this issue and there will be mutual planning of outreach issues.

5 Appendix A- July 2015 Retreat Summary

The Commission met for its Annual Retreat on July 28, 2015 at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. CBF Staff Attorney, Elaine Lutz, greeted the Commission and shared that the Foundation is working on better incorporating EJ in its goals and priorities. The Commission also participated in a webinar with EPA to discuss EJ Screen, a screening and mapping tool EPA has developed for public use. CBF staff also provided a tour of the green facility.

The remainder of the day was spent defining CEJSC priorities and action items for the 2015-2016 year. There was a discussion about engaging with the state agencies, why people participate in the Commission, and what they would like to see the Commission work on. The priorities listed in the report reflect the conclusions reached by the Commission. Full minutes can be found in Appendix C.

6 Appendix B-Letters and Comments Shared by the Commission



STATE OF MARYLAND Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

Dr. Calvin Ball, Chair
Howard County Council

**Vernice Miller-Travis,
Vice Chair**
Miller-Travis & Associates

Andrew Fellows, Vice Chair
Clean Water Action

Delegate Elizabeth Bobo
House of Delegates

Senator William Ferguson
Senate

Raymond A. Skinner,
MD Department of Housing and
Community Development

Secretary Richard E. Hall
MD Department of Planning

Secretary James T. Smith
MD Department of Transportation

Secretary Dominick E. Murray
MD Department of Business and
Economic Development

Joshua M. Sharfstein,
MD Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene

Dr. Robert M. Summers,
MD Department of the Environment

Richard Fairbanks
Baltimore City Resident

Larissa Johnson,
University of Maryland Center for
Environmental Science

Stephan Levitsky,
Locust Point Resident

Meredith Moise
Groundswell Baltimore

Dr. Laurence Polsky,
Calvert County Health Department

John Quinn,
BGE

Lesliam Quiros Alcalá
UMD School of Public Health

Rebecca Rehr
MD Environmental Health Network

Benoy Thomas
Washington, D.C., Children and
Family Services Agency

Hogan-Rutherford Transition Team
Tawes State Office Building
580 Taylor Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Governor-Elect Hogan:

Congratulations on your recent electoral victory. We are writing as the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) to introduce ourselves and our charge. We look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Following a series of national events and reports documenting uneven distribution of environmental hazards, the Maryland legislature passed a bill creating the Maryland Advisory Council on Environmental Justice (MACEJ) to address these same issues Maryland. Their final report in 1999 included a recommendation to establish a permanent body advising the governor on environmental justice. The CEJSC was established by executive order in 2001 and codified into law in 2003. Legislation in 2010 expanded the CEJSC so it now has 20 members, including the heads of six state departments, leaders in the business community, clergy, community advocates, and researchers in academia. The Maryland Department of the Environment explains the concept behind environmental justice as, "all people – regardless of their race, color, national origin or income – are able to enjoy equally high levels of environmental protection." As recently as 2014, researchers in Maryland published findings documenting disparities in the distribution of both polluting facilities and healthcare accessibility. The strength of the Commission is our diversity, our ability to address environmental justice issues from multiple stakeholder viewpoints.

Our Statutory Charge:

- Advise State government agencies on environmental justice
- Analyze the effectiveness of state and local government laws and policies to address issues of environmental justice and sustainable communities.
- Coordinate with Maryland's Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council on the issues of environmental justice and sustainable communities.
- Develop criteria to assess what communities in Maryland may be experiencing environmental justice issues.
- Recommend options for addressing environmental justice issues to the Governor and the General Assembly; include prioritized areas of the State that need immediate attention.

We invite you to come to one of our upcoming meetings to tell us how we can be helpful to you as you set your agenda and look towards improving the quality of life for all Marylanders. If you are unavailable on those dates, we would be happy to put together a team to come meet with you at your convenience.

Thank You.

Maryland Department of the Environment
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STATE OF MARYLAND

Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

Vernice Miller-Travis,
Vice Chair
Miller-Travis & Associates

Andrew Fellows, Vice Chair
Clean Water Action

Senator Victor Ramirez
Senate

Kenneth C. Holt,
MD Department of Housing and
Community Development

Secretary David R. Craig
MD Department of Planning

Secretary Peter K. Rahn
MD Department of Transportation

Secretary R. Michael Gill
MD Department of Business and
Economic Development

Secretary Van T. Mitchell,
MD Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene

Secretary Benjamin H. Grumbles,
MD Department of the Environment

Richard Fairbanks
Baltimore City Resident

Larissa Johnson,
University of Maryland Center for
Environmental Science

Stephan Levitsky,
Locust Point Resident
Director of Sustainability, American
Sugar Refining, Inc.

Merrick Moise
Companions of the Incarnation

Dr. Laurence Polsky,
Calvert County Health Department

John Quinn,
BGE

Dr. Lesliam Quiros Alcalá,
UMD School of Public Health

Rebecca Rehr,
MD Environmental Health Network

Benoy Thomas,
Washington, D.C., Children and
Family Services Agency

Charles Lee
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Justice

July 6, 2015

Dear Mr. Lee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on EPA's Draft EJ 2020 Action Agenda Framework. The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) analyzes and reviews what impact State laws, regulations, and policy have on the equitable treatment and protection of communities threatened by development or environmental pollution, and determines what areas in the State need immediate attention. Moreover, the Commission assesses the adequacy of statutes to ensure environmental justice, and develops criteria to pinpoint which communities need sustaining. We commend the EPA for monumental efforts towards achieving environmental justice (EJ) and the EJ 2020 Framework represents one more step in this process. We have the following comments for you to consider as you move forward:

- As you consider EJ in EPA permitting, consider issuing guidance for states. Maryland has long attempted to incorporate EJ into permitting, without success. Federal guidance may help in these efforts.
- As you advance EJ through compliance and enforcement, consider providing financial assistance for states to do the same.
- As you enhance science tools for considering environmental justice in decision-making, hold EPA accountable for finalizing their Framework for Cumulative Risk Assessment, which has been in draft format since 2003. Further, until there are concrete methods, the EPA should issue guidance on *how* to consider cumulative impact in decision-making. We know that real world exposure happens through many pathways and many chemicals at once, and throughout a lifetime. While the EPA has done a fine job explaining *why* it is important to consider cumulative impacts, it has not issued guidance on *how*.
- As you seek to engage business and industry, consider supporting states as they also employ these strategies. The Maryland Department of the Environment is convening a cumulative impacts working group to convene a diverse group of stakeholders to find solutions to address cumulative impacts and exposures on overburdened communities.
- Support meaningful community engagement and participation in federal, state, and local actions.
- We look forward, also, to your goals of full implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, as this is a topic we have taken up as a Commission in the past.

In conclusion, we would also congratulate your office on the recent rollout of EJ Screen and look forward to an upcoming information session on the tool. Thank you.

Sincerely,
The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities

Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd • Baltimore, Maryland 21230
410-537-3812 • 410-537- 3888 (fax)



STATE OF MARYLAND

Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

August 28, 2015

- Vernice Miller-Travis,
Vice Chair
Miller-Travis & Associates
- Andrew Fellows, Vice Chair
University of Maryland
- Senator Victor Ramirez
Senate
- Kenneth C. Holt,
MD Department of Housing and
Community Development
- Secretary David R. Craig
MD Department of Planning
- Secretary Peter K. Rahn
MD Department of Transportation
- Secretary R. Michael Gill
MD Department of Business and
Economic Development
- Secretary Van T. Mitchell,
MD Department of Health and
Mental Hygiene
- Secretary Benjamin H. Grumbles,
MD Department of the Environment
- Richard Fairbanks
Baltimore City Resident
- Larissa Johnson,
University of Maryland Center for
Environmental Science
- Stephan Levitsky,
Locust Point Resident
Director of Sustainability, American
Sugar Refining, Inc.
- Merrick Moise
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- Dr. Laurence Polsky,
Calvert County Health Department
- John Quinn,
BGE
- Dr. Lesliam Quiros Alcalá,
UMD School of Public Health
- Rebecca Rehr,
MD Environmental Health Network
- Benoy Thomas,
Washington, D.C., Children and
Family Services Agency

Governor Lawrence J. Hogan
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Governor Hogan:

The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) is writing to you to request that community engagement measures, such as those recommended in a 2014 study commissioned by the State of Maryland, be given full attention by you and your agencies as you consider natural gas development in Maryland, in order to address environmental justice concerns related to unconventional natural gas development and production (UNGDP).

The CEJSC analyzes and reviews what impact State laws, regulations, and policy have on the equitable treatment and protection of communities threatened by development or environmental pollution, and determines what areas in the State need immediate attention. It is in this capacity to advise State government on environmental justice that we write to you on the topic of UNGDP.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice 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.” The history of the environmental justice movement is rooted in the inequitable siting of polluting facilities. Decades of research have documented the disproportionate siting of chemical plants, processing facilities, and landfills in low-income communities and communities of color.

There have been at least two peer reviewed studies using the environmental justice framework to analyze UNGDP, which both found evidence of well siting in impoverished areas. Ogneva-Himmelberger (2015) found that people in Pennsylvania who live in census tracts with potential exposure to pollution from unconventional wells are significantly less wealthy than other parts of the state. Fry, et al. (2015) demonstrated that in Texas, economic benefits from shale gas development are geographically distributed because the mineral owners who benefit from drilling live elsewhere, but the social and environmental burdens remain local. For example, property values decreased 3-14% when located within 1000 ft of wellheads, the same distance within which researchers found high and unsafe concentrations of the carcinogens acrolein and formaldehyde. The authors go one step further to raise questions about power and participation in the decision-making processes that resulted in the distribution of costs and benefits.

Further, Jacquet's (2014) review of risks to shale extraction communities highlights atypical financial features of unconventional gas development that may make it harder for communities to plan for development. Although Appalachian communities have experience in boom-bust resource extraction cycles, Jacquet notes that industry's speculative financial strategies "incentivize the concealment or even misrepresentation of plans for future drilling activity" to citizens, landowners and local officials.

The Marcellus Shale, the formation most likely to be drilled first if UNGDP is approved in Maryland, runs through western Maryland, mostly Garrett and Allegany counties. Garrett County's median household income is almost \$30,000 less than that of

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STATE OF MARYLAND
Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

Maryland as a whole, and the poverty rate at 13.9%, is 4% higher than that of Maryland as a whole. In light of these statistics, it is crucial that citizens in Garrett County are meaningfully engaged in environmental decision-making processes directly affecting their lives and livelihoods. Too often, communities at an economic disadvantage do not or cannot fully participate in decision-making processes.

In July 2014, as part of the Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission process, the Maryland Institute of Applied Environmental Health (MIAEH) at the University of Maryland School of Public Health produced a public health analysis, *Potential Public Health Impacts of Natural Gas Development and Production in the Marcellus Shale in Western Maryland*. Among the 52 recommendations in the report, they included several on community engagement. MDE and DNR failed to incorporate most of MIAEH's recommendations for citizen participation in the draft oil and gas regulations written under Governor O'Malley. We are asking that you consider MIAEH's recommendations. Community engagement is critical in all stages of planning, development, and implementation of large-scale industrial projects. Further, including the communities' perspective in whether to develop is critical, as low-income communities are vulnerable to extractive industries considering development in those areas. Although there is not any UNGDP happening right now, there is only a short-term moratorium in place. Now is the perfect time to work with residents of Garrett County, particularly to collect baseline data for air quality, water quality, and economic studies.

In addition to economic disadvantages, Garrett County is also designated as a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) and a Health Professional Shortage Area and has a slightly higher percentage of uninsured individuals than the state average (14 vs 12%). It is important to note that MIAEH documents effects of cumulative impacts on overburdened communities:

Exposure does not happen in vacuum. Community members impacted by UNGDP will be exposed to multiple chemical hazards (VOCs, PM, PAHs), physical hazards (noise, radiation), and a host of psychosocial stressors including those related to public safety, potential loss of property values, disruption of existing social fabric, crime, among others. In addition, such developments also disproportionately impact underserved communities such as those with low SES, and without a strong political voice.

Resiliency is already compromised in Appalachian communities. UNGDP would not only have public health effects but could also eviscerate the basis of economic well-being (tourism and resource-based recreation) and further erode resiliency in Allegany and Garrett Counties. The Marcellus Shale Risk Assessment, also published as part of the Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission process, highlights high risk of adverse health outcomes associated with UNGDP, including accidents and injury because of increased truck traffic. Garrett County is undertaking an analysis of UNGDP vs. amenity-led development with recently announced support from the Appalachian Regional Commission. Local citizens have petitioned county government to have a strong citizen participatory basis to this economic research.

Thank you for your service to the state of Maryland and for your strong leadership and focus on economic development. Economic development should also be equitable development, which begins with community engagement, especially for those who feel disenfranchised from the political systems in place. Thank you for your consideration of the issues presented here.

Sincerely,

The Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities.

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7 Appendix C-2014- 2015 Meeting Agendas/Minutes

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Aqua Conference Room, Montgomery Park
Baltimore, MD
October 28th, 2014

AGENDA

Introductions

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
 - a. *Leading:* Steve, Rebecca
4. Identify an Environmental Champion
 - a. *Leading:* Scot, Calvin

Academic/Community

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

Cumulative Impact Workgroup

- *Proposed Leading:* John Quinn

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 September minutes

Adjourn

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Aqua Conference Room, Montgomery Park
Baltimore, MD
November 18th, 2014

AGENDA

Introductions

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

Legislative Outreach

5. Black Caucus Reception:
 - a. *Leading:* Vernice, Larissa
 - b. *Supporting:* Rev. Meredith Moise
6. Joint Hearing:
 - a. *Leading:* Lisa
7. Identify Relevant Data Sets
 - a. *Leading:* Steve, Rebecca
8. Identify an Environmental Champion
 - a. *Leading:* Scot, Calvin

Academic/Community

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

Cumulative Impact Workgroup

- *Proposed Leading:* John Quinn

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 September and October minutes

Adjourn

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Low House Office Building, Room 318*
Annapolis, MD
February 24, 2014

AGENDA

Introductions

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

Legislative Outreach

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

10. Identify Relevant Data Sets
 - a. *Leading:* Steve, Rebecca

11. Identify an Environmental Champion
 - a. *Leading:* Scot, Calvin

Academic/Community

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

Cumulative Impact Workgroup

- *Proposed Leading:* John Quinn

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 September, October, and November minutes

Adjourn

***Please note this is a different room than we have used in the past**

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Low House Office Building, Room 318
Annapolis, MD
March 24, 2014

AGENDA

Introductions

Updates

- Cumulative Impacts Bill
- CEHPAC

Discussion on Priorities & Goals:

(Added due to discussion at last meeting regarding recent transitions in the Administration, the Legislature, and CEJSC Membership)

- Legislative Black Caucus/Other Legislative Outreach
- Executive Branch Outreach
 - Setting up meetings with new Secretaries (esp. those on CEJSC) to hear their environmental justice priorities
 - Inviting Secretary Grumbles to our April meeting
- CEJSC tangible materials
 - What do we have and what can we produce?
- CEJSC Membership
 - Vacant spots include: Chair, Senate Representative, House Representative
 - Who can do outreach to recruit members?

Adjourn

(The following is left as a reference point for our previous goals, as determined at the July Retreat)

Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps

Legislative Outreach

12. Legislative Black Caucus:
 - a. *Leading:* Vernice, Larissa
 - b. *Supporting:* Rev. Meredith Moise
13. Identify Relevant Data Sets
 - a. *Leading:* Steve, Rebecca
14. Identify an Environmental Champion
 - a. *Leading:* Scot, Calvin

Academic/Community

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

Cumulative Impact Workgroup

- *Proposed Leading:* John Quinn

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.

Joint Meeting
Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Children’s Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council
Baltimore, MD
May 26, 2015

AGENDA

- 9:30 am – 9:45 am Welcome and Introductions
 Welcome by Secretary Grumbles
- 9:45 am-10:00 am Discussion of Council and Commission Business
- 10:00 am – 10:20 am Lead Strategy Update and Regulation Review
 Dr. Clifford S. Mitchell
- 10:20 – 10:40 Marcellus Shale Letter on Proposed Regulations – Final
 Review
- 10:40 – 10:50 Update on CEHPAC issues (synthetic turf fields, wifi in
 schools)
- 10:50 am – 11:20 am Group Discussion
 (1) Place based issues – Children’s environmental
 health Concerns
 (2) Cumulative exposures
 (3) Common process issues for both groups related to
 implementation of statutory responsibilities
- 11:20 am – 11:30 am Wrap Up and Next Steps

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD
September 22, 2015

AGENDA

Introductions

Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps for Priorities & Goals

Below are the three priorities decided at the annual retreat. Each item below represents the ideas for moving forward on the issue. We will further discuss and refine these ideas at the September meeting. Also, please note that rather than having legislative outreach as a completely separate idea, we plan to include it within the three topics. The January Annapolis meeting is listed as a separate item for planning purposes.

- CEHPAC Collaboration
 - Green Cleaning
 - Lead Testing
 - Note – do we want a second joint meeting in December?

- Local Government Outreach
 - Outline guidelines for local jurisdictions
 - Development strategies for rural and agricultural communities
 - Bring Kevin Plank/knowledgeable speaker
 - Open conversation for land use at Westport
 - Round table planning for directors meeting on equitable development
 - Compile ED research information talking points prior to round table
 - Legislative Black Caucus/Other Legislative Outreach
 - Executive Branch Outreach – Agencies Representatives to discuss ideas for outreach

- Cumulative Impact
 - Report on CI Workgroup Meeting
 - Discuss ideas for defining meaningful community input & public outreach
 - Thought – don't propose legislation so that process can generate new legislation during 2017 session

Planning for January Meeting in Annapolis

Other News & Announcements

Adjourn

Next Meeting: CEJSC Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will take place on October 27th, 9:30a to 11:30a, Montgomery Park, 1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD
Aeris Conference Room
October 27, 2015**

AGENDA

Introductions

Progress Reports & Development of Next Steps for Priorities & Goals

- CEHPAC Collaboration
 - December Meeting?
 - Green Cleaning
 - Lead Testing

- Local Government Outreach
 - Report back on focus & identify next steps
 - Outline guidelines for local jurisdictions
 - Development strategies for rural and agricultural communities
 - Bring Kevin Plank/knowledgeable speaker
 - Open conversation for land use at Westport
 - Round table planning for directors meeting on equitable development
 - Compile ED research information talking points prior to round table

- Cumulative Impact
 - Report on CI Workgroup Meeting
 - Discuss ideas for defining meaningful community input & public outreach

Planning for January Meeting in Annapolis

Other News & Announcements

- MD Climate Change Commission Question
- Minutes

Adjourn

Next Meeting: CEJSC Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, the next meeting will take place a week early on November 17th, 9:30a to 11:30a, Montgomery Park, 1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD.

**Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC) Meeting
October 28th, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Maryland Department of the Environment
Aqua Conference Room
1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore 21230**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Lisa Nissley, Andy Fellows, Dick Fairbanks, Vernice Miller-Travis, Larissa Johnson, Robin Underwood, John Quinn
- Participants: Megan Ulrich, Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Jeaneen Logan, Richard Allen, Lauren Rodgers, Dorothy Robinson

Introductions: Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

Black Caucus Reception

Larissa said that she contacted the Legislative Black Caucus staffer about the CEJSC participating in Annual Legislative Black Caucus Conference. The CEJSC does not have the capacity to host a reception this year. The Agenda for the Conference is already completed, so the CEJSC cannot host a panel either.

Vernice said we can talk to the Legislative Black Caucus about setting up a panel for next year.

Richard Allen asked what the date is for the Annual Legislative Black Caucus Conference?

Lisa said it is November 13th - 15th.

Joint Hearing

Lisa said the legislative committee chairs are likely to change and we don't know the committees make-up yet. Lisa said that both Environmental Matters and the Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee have been engaged with environmental issues over the summer. Chairman McIntosh's staffer came to the last few cumulative impact and CEJSC meetings and Senator Joan Carter Conway came to the last CEJSC meeting.

Identify Relevant Data Sets

Lisa said that Rebecca Rehr is looking into the health enterprise zones and trying to get in touch with people to discuss how the zones could be used in an EJ context.

Sea Level Rise

Lisa asked Dick if he talked to Arabia on sea level rise.

Dick said he had not been able to connect with Arabia yet. He recently returned from a trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Lisa said she would check with Arabia who is communicating with Zoe Johnson at DNR to see if Zoe was available to speak to the CEJSC.

Andy Fellows said he is going to the UM Symposium and leading a discussion on communities and climate change. He asked if it is related.

Lisa and Megan said it might be related. At the retreat Arabia said that she initially became interested in the issue because of a presentation about sea level rise affecting communities on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Cumulative Impact Workgroup

Lisa gave a summary on the Cumulative Impact Workgroup. She said that the first two meetings of the Cumulative Impact Workgroup were meant to provide a background on cumulative impacts. There were presentations on what MDE has done so far in regard to EJ (including multiple mapping exercises), what other states are doing on cumulative impacts, and the state of the science of cumulative impact assessments. Additionally, the department prepared a one-pager on what cumulative impact work the EPA is doing. The third meeting was a discussion of what processes the states of Connecticut, Minnesota, and California use for cumulative impact or enhanced public outreach and how these processes could work in Maryland. The discussion was not very robust. Some of the stakeholders did not volunteer a lot of discussion points. After the third meeting Lisa and Megan started talking to people in smaller groups to get input on permits, geographic area, and a potential process.

Andy asked if any potential EJ areas came out MDE's mapping exercise?

Lisa said MDE did update the maps and that no EJ areas immediately were immediately apparent based on the permitting data alone. Lisa and Megan just participated in a webinar on EJSCREEN. EJSCREEN is EPA's new tool that they intend will be used to identify areas that might require some further examination. EJSCREEN is not released to the public yet, for the time being it is only available on an EPA computer. The tool is supposed to be released by the end of the month. Once EJSCREEN is available MDE would like to do a public webinar on it. MDE could also potentially add local information into EJSCREEN to use that as a tool in Maryland.

Vernice said MDE should invite Dr. Devon Payne-Sturgis to come and speak. She helped develop EJSCREEN and would do a great job explaining it.

Lisa said that that Cliff Mitchell reached out to Dr. Devon Payne-Sturgis to speak at the second Cumulative Impact Workgroup meeting. She gave him information, but she could not attend the meeting.

Lisa also said that she and Megan talked to Minnesota about their cumulative impact assessment. They had two projects go through the assessment and the best part of the process was that there was dialogue between the company and the community that resulted in better outcomes for the community. They are currently considering revising their process to include an enhanced public participation program.

Vernice said one part of that is if the public engagement is voluntary that would be bad. The public outreach has to be required.

Dick agreed and asked if Lisa and Megan can send the link to the cumulative impact workgroup page.

Lisa said she or Megan would re-send the link.

Environmental Champion

Andy asked what the environmental champion would do? Would he or she focus on cumulative impact work or in EJ in general?

Lisa said that cumulative impact work would definitely be a big part because it is a major focus issue right now.

CEHPAC update

Lisa said no one was present to give the CEHPAC update.

Other Business

Dick said he had questions about the minutes. He asked about the vertical gardening at Montgomery Park.

Lisa said she can look for more information on it.

Dick said on the Eastern Shore, the waves were pretty high and the storms are getting worse. He summarized an article from USA today about a report that the Union of Concerned Scientists issued on nuisance flooding. It relates to days when the flooding is much higher than it should be. We need to be aware of it.

Vernice said that she recently sat through a meeting on that issue. The Delmarva Peninsula is amongst the worst hit in the country. The NAACP and the Union of Concerned Scientists are having a meeting November 13th in Baltimore. The NAACP is involved with the issue because the communities that will be some of the hardest hit are historically African American communities and there needs to be better communication to the communities. Vernice will send a link to the Union of Concerned Scientists' Report. NEJAC just finished a report on this issue as well and they will be issuing it within the next 30 days.

Stephanie thanked Vernice for clarifying the issue and asked her to send the links to both reports to Lisa.

Richard Allen asked if the CEJSC should be reaching out to insurance companies?

Vernice said yes, at least to the federal flood insurance program.

Andy said there is also an economic piece to the issue.

Lisa said she also has the tentative agenda for the UM symposium. She will share that in the weekly email. The Symposium is December 6th and 7th.

Vernice mentioned that there is a Green 2.0 report on diversity and how can we diversify the environmental community. Vernice will send links to the report.

Richard Allen said that there was a STEM fair this past week. Morgan has received some money to enhance STEM programs.

Robin said that she at the retreat she requested to work with CEPHAC about reaching out to children on Title VI. Robin is willing to take the lead on the issue.

Lisa said she would look into it.

Lisa also reminded everyone that November CEJSC meeting is going to be held a week early on Nov. 18th due the Thanksgiving holiday.

Adjourn

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

**November 18th, 2014, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Maryland Department of the Environment
Aqua Conference Room
1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore 21230**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Lisa Nissley, Rebecca Rehr, Dick Fairbanks, Meredith Moise, Larissa Johnson, Robin Underwood
- Participants: Megan Ulrich, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Jeaneen Logan, Lauren Rodgers, Angelo Bianca

Introductions: Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

Legislative Outreach:

Lisa asked Rebecca if she could give an update on identifying relevant data sets.

Rebecca said that she reached out to DHMH to ask them about the Health Enterprise Zones (HEZs). She is currently trying to set up a call with DHMH staff. The five HEZs are spread across the state.

Stephanie asked where the HEZs are located.

Rebecca said that there is one in West Baltimore, Annapolis/Morris Blum, Prince George's County /Capital Heights, Dorchester/Caroline Counties, and St. Mary's County/Greater Lexington Park.

Lisa asked Rebecca to update everyone once she hears back from DHMH.

Lisa said that the even though the CEJSC cannot host a reception at the Legislative Black Caucus (LBC) Weekend Conference this year, the Commission can pursue a relationship with the group. In regard to the joint hearing, the CEJSC can reassert its request to have a briefing once we know who the new committee chairs will be. There will be some movement on Environmental Committees in both the House and Senate.

Meredith asked if the CEJSC is still looking for an environmental champion in the LBC.

Lisa said yes, the CEJSC is looking for an environmental champion and that person could be a member of the LBC.

Academic/Community:

Lisa asked Dick if he had heard anything from Arabia regarding sea level rise and Zoe Johnson's possible presentation.

Dick said he hadn't heard from Arabia.

Lisa said she would check in with Arabia.

Dick asked the name of the new Commission working on Sea Level Rise at DNR.

Megan said she thinks it is called the Coast Smart Council.

Cumulative Impact Workgroup:

Lisa said that MDE will need guidance from the new administration on the Cumulative Impact Workgroup before anything moves forward. Also, due to the transition period and other factors, there will not be a December CEJSC meeting. That meeting is a working lunch if needed and has been canceled in other years as well.

Rebecca said that another group she works with is writing an introductory letter to Governor-Elect Larry Hogan's Transition Team. She was wondering if the CEJSC might want to do something similar.

Dick said his neighbor Roger Campos is serving on the Transition Team.

Lisa said she thought it was a good idea to draft the letter and asked Rebecca if she could take the lead on writing it.

Rebecca said she could draft the letter.

Lisa said that there will be some staffing changes throughout the Executive branch and while EJ may not be the first issues to get tackled, it would be good to establish some connections with the new administration.

Dick asked if the CEJSC will still be meeting in room 218 in Annapolis and if Secretary Summers will be staying on as Secretary of MDE.

Lisa said that Delegate Bobo's aid booked room 218 for the CEJSC in the past. MDE staff is currently looking into room options for 2015. She said that Governor-Elect Hogan has not announced his cabinet positions yet.

CEHPAC Report:

No one was present to give the CEHPAC update.

Other Business:

There was not a quorum for approval of September and October minutes.

Lisa asked if anyone had any other updates.

Meredith said that the Baltimore City Council passed a ban on plastic bags and Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said she would veto the bill because she did not think there was sufficient public input. Meredith said that there are equity issues to be considered because distressed communities will have to purchase bags. If the ban goes through it would help to have free bags available.

Dick asked what the purpose was behind the legislation. Is it a revenue source for the City?

Larissa said it is an effort to reduce the massive amount of trash (particularly plastic bags) that is in Baltimore's waterways, parks, and public spaces.

Rebecca said maybe there could be a bag giveaway or bag exchange.

Meredith said maybe it is an issue the CEJSC can look at in the future.

Meredith also said that trash pick-up in the city is another equity issue. In her community, which is a distressed area, she is not allowed to put her trash in the trash can directly. She contacted the Baltimore City DPW and they verified that she has to put all of her trash into a plastic garbage bag before putting it in the trash can.

Dick said that he has interacted with the Baltimore City DPW for many years and never had that issue.

Meredith said his experience with DPW may be different, but that was her experience.

Rebecca said that on December 1st, there is a public hearing on the Targa Resource's proposed crude oil shipping terminal which would move Bakken crude oil from North Dakota to Baltimore by rail. The company is requesting to retrofit the facility and the rail infrastructure is old and the company is not required to disclose any emergency plan.

Stephanie said that they might not be disclosing their emergency plan for security reasons.

Rebecca said yes, that's possible.

Robin said that the transport of crude oil by rail is not regulated by USDOT/FRA.

Stephanie said she is not sure which federal agency regulates it, but it is regulated.

Angelo said that the December 1st public hearing is MDE's hearing and it is about an air emissions permit that the company requested. It is only a small part of the whole project. MDE has heard from the Sierra Club, CCAN, and EIP about the project. Angelo said he is not sure what government agency communities should be reaching out to if they have concerns on the project as a whole.

Rebecca said the Baltimore City Council will be making the ultimate decision on whether or not to allow the facility to be retrofitted to store the crude oil.

Robin said that MDOT has a Canton Railroad project to keep trains near the Port of Baltimore separate from the highway. The project has already gone through a NEPA analysis.

Dick said that George Washington University is helping to sponsor a large solar project that would site solar panels in North Carolina and have the power feed into the grid to provide power to Washington, D.C.

Angelo asked how many Megawatts the project will produce.

Dick said 52 Megawatts.

Adjourn

The next CEJSC meeting is scheduled for January 27th, 2015 in Annapolis.

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Lowe House Office Building, Room 318
Annapolis, MD
February 24, 2015**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Clifford Mitchell, Vernice Miller Travis, Andrew Fellows, Arabia Davis, Lisa Nissley, Rebecca Rehr
- Participants: Stephanie Cobb Williams, Jeaneen Logan, Lauren Rodgers, Angelo Bianca, Hadi AlShaikh Nasser, Kristen Weiss, Akosla Dosu

Introductions

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

Transition

Lisa updated the Commission on MDE and the transition. Secretary Grumbles has been appointed and is working through the confirmation process. Lisa has discussed EJ with him. He is interested and would like to meet with the Commission. Lisa will work to get the April or May meeting on the schedule. May would be our joint meeting with CEHPAC. Some members liked the idea of him being exposed to both groups at the same time.

Andy mentioned he'd like the Department to think about Urban Waters and EJ. Secretary Grumbles may be interested in this. Vernice said she would like to learn more about the Secretary's feeling towards CEJSC. Other members suggested we discuss with him what our role should be in terms of briefing the Governor. Could we meet with him annually?

CEJSC Membership

The Commission needs a new Chair appointed. Lisa explained this is done by the Governor's Appointments Office which is currently busy with Secretary-level confirmations. She does not know exactly how soon these things will be done. The Commissioners would like to see more community representatives. We are also in need of legislative representatives. Rebecca suggested we send a letter to the presiding officers with suggestions. There was a brief discussion of members that have expressed an interest in EJ or may be open to discussion about the issue. .

Most members are up for reappointment in October.

Legislative Outreach

The Commission continued to discuss legislators that may be interested in EJ. Also, they would like to do more Legislative Black Caucus outreach. Perhaps there is a role for the Commission in the November Convention? Maybe a panel?

The Commission began to discuss what they can offer as a tangible product. We have a pretty good website at this point, but what can we provide to people as we discuss EJ. The Commission noted that many things happen at the agencies that go under our radar.

Vernice suggested the NEJAC might be a model for the Commission.

Next Steps/Moving Forward

Given the transition of both the administration and the legislature, the Commission discussed how we might adjust our goals for the year. What Regulatory framework that allows us to move forward? How can we grow the Commission's voice? Arabia mentioned she'd like to engage Secretary Craig in the issues as well. Commissioners expressed a need for clarity and a vision both internally and suggestions from the new

officials of the administration. Other ideas of interest included accessing current zoning laws. We should take advantage of the transition as an opportunity to raise up EJ and be aspirational.

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Low House Office Building, Room 318
Annapolis, MD
March 24, 2015

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Lisa Nissley, Larry Polsky, Benoy Thomas, Stephan Levitsky, Andrew Fellows, Vernice Miller Travis, Rebecca Rehr, Dick Fairbanks, Merrick Moise, Arabia Davis, Subha Chander for Cliff Mitchell

- Participants: Elizabeth Dissen, Richard Allen, Akosua Dosu, Darlene Mitchell

Introductions

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

Updates

Lisa updated on SB 693/HB 987: Environment - Ambient Air Quality Control - Cumulative Air Impact Analysis. The bills were heard by their respective committees earlier this month. EHE has not voted on the bill. The bill has been held in ENT as the sponsor is suggesting amendments to create a workgroup. Lisa shared that no matter what happens with the bill, MDE will reconvene the Cumulative Impact Workgroup during the interim.

Rebecca and Lisa also shared that MDE and the advocates met to discuss technical issues with the bill and had a good conversation. Vernice suggested in the future that could be done earlier in the process. Rebecca agreed.

CEHPAC

Benoy has officially been appointed to serve on both CEHPAC and CEJSC. He will continue to help coordinate between the two organizations.

Discussion on Priorities & Goals

The Commission continued to discuss next steps and goals for the year, given the change of Administration and the changes within the legislature.

There is agreement the Commission would like to do more outreach with the Legislative Black Caucus and caucuses. Perhaps a panel or briefing at their November event. It was mentioned that Cory McCray and Antonio Hayes may be good legislators to reach out to. Other potential outreach could happen with the Latino Caucus and the Asian/Pacific American Caucus that is newly forming. Perhaps the Women's Caucus too.

The Commission also discussed Executive Branch Outreach. Commissioners suggested setting up meetings with new Secretaries (esp. those on CEJSC) to hear their environmental justice priorities. Lisa suggested each agency representative could make suggestions particular to communicating with their agency. She is also working on getting the April or May meeting on Secretary Grumbles' schedule. There are EJ provisions of the Chesapeake Bay Agreement. That may be a place to get involved.

Lisa and Rebecca discussed the idea of having just one Annapolis meeting next year since many members have trouble making the meeting in Annapolis. It could be a day to meet with legislators with talking points, etc. Generally people seemed to like this idea.

The Commission continued its discussion on CEJSC tangible materials. Is there something we can produce? Lisa reminded the Commission of the information sheets MDE developed with the help of the Commission. Those are online and they may want to take a look.

During a discussion on membership, Lisa reminded the group that most Commissioners will be up for reappointment in October. The Governor will need to appoint a new Chair. Both legislative seats are still open.

Adjourn

Joint Meeting
Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
(CEJSC)
Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council
May 26, 2015, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Maryland Department of the Environment
Aeris Conference Room
1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore 21230

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Cliff Mitchell, Ben Grumbles, Rebecca Rehr, Benoy Thomas, Merrick Moise, Larissa Johnson, Vernice Miller Travis, Andrew Fellows, Arabia Davis, John Quinn, Subha Chandar
- Participants: Delegate Angela Angel, Dr. David Bishai, Veronika Carrella, Dr. Gregory Diette, Dr. Benjamin Gitterman, Julian Levy, Dr. Jed Miller, Nse Witherspoon, Allison Rich, Lorne Garrettson, Jeaneen Logan, Laura Rogers, Lisa Nissley, Rachel Hess Mutinda

Introductions

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves. Dr. Mitchell welcomed both groups; discussed the charge and overview of groups.

Welcome by Secretary Grumbles

*Secr. Grumbles stated that he was thrilled to be a part of mtg; gave his background including Assistant Administrator for Water at EPA

*Secr. Grumbles sees national protections for children through environment and health

*There will continue to be a focus on lead, Marcellus Shale, air quality impacts – local and regional, ozone transport and cumulative impact projects under leadership of Secr. Grumbles

*CEJSC leadership thanked Secr. Grumbles for coming, want to make sure cumulative impacts and focus on enviro justice

Discussion of Council and Commission Business

*Dr. Mitchell stated that this annual mtg is relevant for both groups and that it is the first time discussing under new Administration

*Both CEHPAC and CEJSC are independent advisory groups to give advice to Secr, Gov and Legisl.

Lead Strategy Update and Regulation Review - Dr. Clifford S. Mitchell

*C. Mitchell provided review of screening and testing process and recommendations; background of why changes—picture of lead risk and level has changed; CDC recommendations and guidance has changed recently also

*Universal screening/statewide screening of ALL 1 and 2 yr olds in State over the next 3 years will be a key part of the strategy

*Re-evaluate where exposures are seen after three years and decide if just need targeted or still do universal.

*Children entering child care, pre-K or Kind. Must submit paperwork from medical provider stating that lead test completed – new proposal will just include child care providers

*Nse Witherspoon suggested that there are loop holes that include “unlicensed” child care providers who would not be in the catch group (40%); what about uninsured children? Target the provider community to make sure all are tested or atleast screened not just focus on child care providers.

*Lorne Garrettson – Reflect back on Secr. Grumbles comments on lead testing and air quality; then gave lead Hx; after much success, the “mop” up process is harder to catch the remaining kids – not as easy; also be aware of immunization level – educate population on lead effects and will see an increase in testing

*CEJSC member – Any way to make sure a child who transferred into MD schools to be tested? C. Mitchell says that medical providers will be guided to always ask question no matter the age of the child to catch such children who are new to Maryland

*B. Gitterman – Universal lead testing is not controversial at all; longterm goal to get kids in kinship care, but must focus now on kids in licensed care – low hanging fruit;

- should reach out to WIC (co-located service office) as they have many services and are doing blood tests for anemia; must focus on prevention rather than testing as secondary
- *Vernice – Discussed ambient sources of lead and lead in soil, along with industrial sources – MDE should strictly enforce air standards; different populations labeled differently when affected by lead – ADHD vs. Behavioral Issues (white vs. black/latino) – need to focus on identifying issues – “prison pipeline” concept
 - *C. Mitchell – DHMH is updating regulations and will share with groups for input; verbal input given now will be included in first round of updates; formal request for input will be sent in September 2015
 - *CEJSC leadership / A. Fellows – Will regs address lead in drinking water? C. Mitchell: No, MDE addresses lead in drinking water; Secr. Grumbles – not sure of status of drinking water program at MDE; A. Fellows noted that lead in drinking water is often a residential water pipe / service line issue
 - *D. Bishai – utilize maps as tool to move dial; C. Mitchell – working on EPHT sub-county data; B. Gitterman – make sure providers don’t use maps against increased testing - providers might say “not in my county” but C. Mitchell says that maps will reflect the testing rates which will show that we don’t have the whole picture and will display projected rates.
 - *Vernice – an important issue is lead in products at Dollar Store – toys, food etc. Keep on radar screen
 - *Merrick Moise – must include faith communities to get education materials on lead
 - *Del Angel – WIC clinics or schools to have mobile clinics for parts of State – utilize these resources to get the word out
 - *J. Levy – can we have a combined mtg in Fall to address this and regs? R. Rehr – action item needed in between
 - *Allison – what are the joint issues to work on in between mtgs

Marcellus Shale Letter on Proposed Regulations – Final Review

- *Proposed regulations submitted by MDE, comment period has passed
- *CEHPAC letter and comments shared; could be considered by both CEJSC and CEHPAC as review of cumulative impacts
- *V. Carella points out mis-numbering of bullets; C. Mitchell approves renumbering – Page 4, bullet #8 should begin with “The proposed regulations for allowing...” – bullet #7 ends at “...in the revised regulations.”
- *Andy, CEJSC leadership – impressed by CEHPAC comments, hopes CEJSC will support or submit comments in alignment
- *Secr. Grumbles – Welcome all comments until Oct. 2016
- *R. Rehr – involved in the advocacy portion of the MS; moratorium has been changed to short amount of time and health studies
- *C. Mitchell – joint letter with CEJSC? J. Levy – should submit separately, seconded by B. Gitterman; CEHPAC will submit letter on own.
- *V. Carella – letter becomes a public document, suggests separate letters but refer to each other letters
- *CEHPAC voted to accept the letter on Marcellus Shale regulations. Ultimately the Commission decided not to sign onto this letter, but may consider doing an EJ specific letter.

Update on CEHPAC issues (synthetic turf fields, wifi in schools)

*Synthetic turf fields – will be putting together workgroup; exposures to children playing on field

*Pesticides –no specific considerations at present but ongoing priority

Group Discussion

*The members discussed how they might work together more. Perhaps we need more meetings together?

Other ideas included:

*Place based issues – Children’s environmental health concerns & complex mixtures

*Cumulative exposures

*Common process issues for both groups related to implementation of statutory responsibilities

Meeting Adjourned

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

June 23, 2015, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Maryland Department of the Environment

Patuxent Conference Room

1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore 21230

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Lisa Nissley, Rebecca Rehr, Dick Fairbanks, Arabia Davis, John Quinn
- Participants: Megan Ulrich, Jeaneen Logan, Kasarachi Omo-Osagie, Debra Corrgia, Rabecka Koons, Betsey Atkinson, Horacio Tablada, Mary Beth Tung, Jennifer Hains, Delterese George

Introductions

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves. Horacio Tablada and Mary Beth Tung introduced themselves as the recently appointed Deputy Secretaries of MDE. They both expressed an interest in working with the Commission moving forward.

CEHPAC Follow Up

The Commission held a joint meeting with the Children’s Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council in May. There was a discussion about signing on to the Council’s letter of comment about the Marcellus Shale Drilling Regulations. The

Commission decided not to join the letter because the focus was much more focused on children's issues rather than EJ related issues. Rebecca mentioned that during public listening sessions on the issue there was a large social justice component. She suggested that the Commission write a letter that discusses EJ related issues and suggestions the state consider the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health (MIAEH) recommendations community involvement and outreach. The letter would not suggest the Commission is for or against fracking, but would suggest the report has information is useful and valuable.

Vernice agreed we should supply a letter and lift up the MIAEH report. Dick also agrees so long it doesn't reach a conclusion on fracking. Rebecca confirmed the report identified vulnerable areas where it may have been helpful to have increased community participation. The letter would support that. It was agreed that Rebecca will draft a letter for the member's review.

It was mentioned that our special topic meeting in December might be a second joint meeting with CEHPAC.

Legislative Outreach

Merrick, Rebecca, and Lisa have discussed ideas for moving forward. One is that rather than meeting in Annapolis for each meeting during the legislative session, which many find difficult, the Commission would schedule the January meeting in Annapolis to have a small open house for legislators, a visit to the legislative Chambers, and meet and greet with legislators. Perhaps even a briefing if appropriate. If weather interfered, the meeting could be rescheduled for February. Vernice said it is easier for her to make meetings in Annapolis than in Baltimore.

There is still an interest in somehow participating in the LBC Convention in November. Rebecca reported she has reached out to Delegate Fraiser-Helgado and they are working on a date.

Arabia shared that she has discussed Environmental Justice with the Deputy Secretary at MDP. She would like to have Lisa and the Co-Chairs meet with the Executive Office at MDP to share information about EJ. In addition, there are issues MDP would like the Commission to look at EJ in agricultural communities, including considering EBDs as a possible outreach to farmers and creating an EJ 101 on agriculture. Arabia would also like to work on getting the Commission to present to the Planning Directors Roundtable.

Retreat ideas

Lisa asked for ideas for the retreat agenda. Commissioners suggested:

- MCCC
- Urban Forest
- Fisheries

- Overarching issues
- Hearing from each Departments about how the Commission might be involved in related issues
- Rebecca will have the MS letter ready for review
- Structured conversation on goals

Other News & Announcements

Rebecca shared that the Sierra Club was in touch about the Energy Answers Project. They have asked for an update on the project and asked if the CEJSC can intervene in the permitting process. Rebecca told them this is not the role of the Commission. Horacio explained it is not a waste to energy facility. Vernice said she needs an update on what is going on.

Vernice announced that the next NEJAC is September 9th and 10th in Arlington, VA. She is planning a BBQ at her home for NEJAC members. She will be sending invitations.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40am. The next meeting of the Commission will be the Commissioner's Retreat on Tuesday, July 22nd at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Details to follow.

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Commissioner's Retreat
Tuesday, July 28, 2014
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Philip Merrill Environmental Center
6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403
9:30 am to 3:30 pm**

In Attendance

Commissioners: Lisa Nissley, Rebecca Rehr, Dick Fairbanks, Arabia Davis, John Quinn, Vernice Miller Travis, Andy Fellows, lesliam Quiros Aleala, Subha Chandar, Merrick Moise

Participants: Angelo Bianca, Joshua Cocker, Duane Johnson, Elaine Lutz, Laura Rogers

Introductions

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

Greetings from CBF

The CBF Maryland Staff Attorney, Elaine Lutz greeted the Commission. She described many of the goals of CBF including education(on the health of the bay), lobbying (for the health of the bay), curbing rollbacks of federal pollution regulations, redevelopment of

bay economy after macro-economy bounces back, sustainable agriculture, and curbing trend poultry farms making more pollution not accounted for in pollution plan.

Angelo asked about the possibility of burning chicken waste. Elaine said anaerobic digestion not incineration, is the best option. CBF does not officially endorse a method yet but will oppose clean-up methods that cause other environmental damage. Dick claims he has seen self-enclosed recycling process of chicken manure cleanup on the eastern shore. Elaine believes this to be a pilot project. Some members add it is perhaps funded by DNR in their efforts to curb this problem.

Andy believes that case by case is best way to deal with issues of agricultural pollution at the moment, alongside permitting for custom pollution amounts based on cases.

Vernice asks if the foundation is attempting to extend into EJ, and EJ issues? To Vernice's pleasure CBF responds stating yes they are. They have pursued new hires and new board members with EJ skills.

Discussion: Commission relationships with state agencies

The Commission began to discuss their interactions with the state agencies that sit on the Commission. Lisa noted that Arabia is very good at bringing ideas related to her Department (Planning). Arabia often suggests issues of interest and effective ways for the Commission to be involved.

Andy shares that as Mayor of College Park, he took the Chair of Chamber of Commerce on a tour of CP. They had a conversation on the metro purple line development, and its impact as more than just a transport. Prince George's County has six struggling communities. The new Metro line would be useful for these developing the community.

Dick enquires as to the project's cost. Andy, although unsure of the cost, is aware it would be split between stakeholders: Montgomery County, Prince George's County, the Federal government, the State government, and the District of Columbia.

Rebecca states if this is to come to fruition the Commission needs to advise the Governor based on his priorities as well as our own. We should find an equitable economic development plan.

Vernice shared that she finds the Red Line development very influential. She is disappointed the Red Line Project has been canceled because she feels it is needed for economic growth and EJ for impoverished Western Baltimore. Andy thinks all transport corridors should be considered.

Rebecca agrees West Baltimore needs redevelopment. The Maryland Environmental Health Network wants to join the West Baltimore conversation. They want to break the school to prison pipeline.

To counter Vernice's argument, Dick recounts that when the Red Line was originally conceived, one of its major benefits would have been the large assured ridership between SS Hqs, Woodlawn and the huge SS presence downtown, but once SS vacated that leased building downtown a few years ago, that part of the justification disappeared.

Lisa says that the Commissioners would want to discuss this in light of connection to MDOT, they should considering our list of priorities later in the day. As for MDE suggestions, she suggests engaging with the Maryland Climate Change Commission and the Cumulative Impact Workgroup. Vernice would like Lisa to create a dialogue between two commissions. Lisa says this may be possible in the fall.

Subha updates the commission on DHMH involvement. Providing data and climate change is main focus for DHMH at the moment. Also revamping maps and tracking program by end of summer. Rebecca asks when will sub county level data be available? Subha says they will be in the fall. Rebecca wants to know how this can be sped up as it is heavily needed and has been on the way for some time. Subha finds the problem is in deciding the best way present the information. More pressure may not expedite process. The grant team meeting is coming up with other state's agencies where DHMH will have better understanding of timetable and who else is not presenting at sub county level.

EJ Screen Webinar presented by Matthew Lee, US EPA

Matthew Lee presented a webinar about EJ Screen (attached). Commissioners asked questions after the presentation.

Andy asks could you source drinking water to a community at the local level? Matt answers yes, if you have that source you can layer it in. Andy also asks what the crossed out Environmental Indicators are in the presentation. Matt says they indicate that the Re Release in 2016 will allow you to use those.

Vernice points out that low income does not always equal adversely EJ affected, as EJ screening often suggests.

Rebecca explains that some areas in Baltimore were shown as more affected than others in the EJ index, but only difference was demographics, not air quality. Real time air monitoring is needed. The EJ index may come to wrong conclusions. Matt responds saying he can't get real time monitoring at the moment.

Angelo asks if the size of block group population affect EJ index. Matt clarifies that the Census Bureau defines block size. Size may cause EJ index differences, but he is not sure. Some blocks have no population.

Rebecca states CEJSC can empower communities with this tool. We need to invite local health departments and local organizations to compile data and understand correlations between EJ factors.

Vernice believes there will be large pushback from communities attempting to bring in jobs and economic growth. Sustainability needs to balance with growth. She also notes that UCC's 1985 race and hazardous waste map inspired EJ screen.

Angelo thinks they need to stress using tool effectively and teach people how it is useful versus drawing conclusions that do not make sense.

On the other hand vernice finds that the data from EJ Screen can help to support local, lived EJ experiences.

Subha states the local piece will be supported with addition of local information. A community input layer is needed and can be added despite not a metric experience

Angelo wonders if there is any feedback on uses of EJ screen so far. Before community meetings EJ screen used to identify demographics and EJ struggles they are facing according to Matt. It has been used for enforcement targeting, making visible difference and which communities most need support.

Andy thinks his Maryland/region 3 can spearhead the usage of EJ screen.

Vernice asks can data like asthma cases, death and hospitalization be brought up in the tool? Matt responds not within the tool.

Congratulations from the commission are given to EPA and Matt. The call is ended, though the conversation continues.

Vernice asks Angelo if this tool is useful from a regulatory stand point? Angelo believes it is useful in enforcement, but maybe not as much in permitting. He said good EJ Screen data could be useful in supporting EJ issues.

Dick reminds the group that Baltimore comes across as one of the highest percentile locations.

Update on MDE's Cumulative Impact Workgroup

Lisa updated the Commission on MDE's Cumulative Impact Workgroup. As background, the topic is related to a number of bills presented in recent years in Annapolis. After the 2014 session, created the workgroup because the issue is complex and there is not time to fully engage during session. There were four meetings last summer and fall which provided a lot of background information. The Department paused after the 2014 election to deal with transitional issues.

Meanwhile, another bill was introduced in 2015, but it did not pass. MDE agreed to move forward with the workgroup, but first began with small group pre-meetings around the three issues for consideration. Topic 1: which permits are of most concern for CI & EJ?, Topic 2: what indicators might be appropriate to identify communities' of concern?,

and Topic 3: what process would address communities concerns about permitted facilities? To date we have been able to have very robust conversations about each topic. The goal is to find consensus, or at least determine where the conversation is heading, then meet as a full group.

For permits there has been talk of limiting it to a few air permits that tend to get the most public interest. Various indicators have been discussed from just income to income and non-white population. A health indicator could be added. For process, enhanced public outreach seems to dominate the conversation.

Rebecca continues, MDE is succeeding in working with labor groups. Small work groups more effective, but are still figuring out how to achieve goals. She mentioned that the EBD (Environmental Benefit Districts) were a good effort to direct resources to economically depressed areas with environmental burdens. Perhaps CEJSC should revisit that program and its marked priority areas? Perhaps there is a way to expedite permitting process in these areas so considering EJ is a plus?

Vernice thinks stakeholders should not have equal say in this issue. Quality of life and health impacts are more important in places of burden and community interests should have more of a voice. Job creation is not equivalent mortality and health.

Angelo thinks businesses can, and are willing to, step up in many situations and that the biggest EJ concerns are not regulated (like truck traffic). No one has a good answer on how to make it work, but this could help situations.

Vernice points out the zoning for asphalt/concrete plans falls alongside racial boundaries.

Arabia points out that from a planning standpoint EJ is being taken into account alongside economic development to see how EJ can be implemented. But at the moment the focus is on rural and agricultural communities

The Commission took a break for lunch.

Discussion: Choosing our priorities for 2015-2016

On the wall, Commissioners wrote ideas for 2015-2016 priorities. Someone grouped like ideas together, then the Commissioners checked off their top three choices for priorities. The ideas and votes follow:

Legislative Outreach (3)
Identify relevant data sets
ID legislative chapters
Address sea level rise (1)
Explore cumulative impacts (5)
More collaboration w/ CEHPAC (2)

Top 3 Choices Ranked (> indicates subtopics)

1. CEHPAC Collaboration
2. Local government outreach > Westport development, Agricultural Development, Community initiatives/Equitable Development
3. Cumulative Impact/Workgroup > Legislative Outreach, Identifying data sets

Overarching themes to consider during breakout groups:

Outreach (government officials, legislative, stakeholders, academia)

The Commission took a break for a tour of the Philip Merrill Environmental Center.

Group work: Action items and lead Commissioners for our priorities

The Commissioners broke into three groups to discuss the following “guiding questions:”

1. What is the long term goal?
2. Who is the lead?
3. Who else do we need to involve (i.e. Commissioners not in the room)?
4. What are our three specific action items?
5. Final review: can we meet this goal?

From the discussion, they formed the following steps to implement our 2016 priorities.

1. CEHPAC Collaboration (Subha & Lesliam)

Explore green cleaning initiative in MD - All public schools must use green products (with minimal exceptions), but there is no enforcement of the law. Private schools can opt into the law. Rebecca mentioned that Allison from MdeHN got some EPA funding to do a statewide green cleaning training in Maryland (Nov 20). The biggest impact for green cleaning in schools laws will be at the youngest ages (when the children's vital organs are still developing and more susceptible to damage from harmful exposures)

Work with state agencies on lead testing strategies.

Will need to engage Benoy Thomas on these issues.

It was noted that the Maryland Public Health Association annual conference is at UMBC on September 12th featuring Dr. Freeman Hrabowski.

2. Local Government Outreach (Arabia, Rebecca, Andy, Dick, & Duane)

Outline guidelines for local jurisdictions

Development strategies for rural and agricultural communities

Bring Kevin Plank/knowledgeable speaker

Open conversation for land use at Westport

Round table planning for directors meeting on equitable development

Compile ED research information talking points prior to round table

3. Cumulative Impacts (Vernice, Lisa, & Angelo)

Commission should facilitate transparency. Lisa & Arabia should report back about the process each month each month. The Commission can be helpful as the workgroup makes an effort to define meaningful community participation. Perhaps we could meet in a small group in the fall to respond to actions after the September workgroup meeting, respond the ideas presented.

Vernice thought that it may be premature to propose legislation in 2016, but continue the process to generate action for 2017. Lisa and Angelo agreed.

The retreat adjourned at 3:30p. The next CEJSC meeting will take place at MDE Offices, September 22, 2015.

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

**September 22, 2015, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Maryland Department of the Environment
Aeris Conference Room
1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore 21230**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Lisa Nissley, Rebecca Rehr, Subha Chandar, Chris Clarke, Laura Rogers, Lesliam Quiros Alcalá
- Participants: Jeaneen Logan, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Ariane Kouamou-Nousa, Pamela Harris, Joe Wright

Introductions

Everyone at the meeting introduced themselves.

The Commission reviewed the priorities set at the July retreat to further define their goals and share what work they had done since the retreat.

CEHPAC Follow Up

Subha discussed the priority areas CEHPAC has for themselves and how that might inform what the two groups may work on. Two CEHPAC issues are not particularly related to EJ including the use of turf fields and wifi/smart meter exposure/towers near schools. While she knows lead, an issue we named as a priority, is on their agenda, she is not sure if there will be crossover on green cleaning.

Subha shared that a potential time to help is during Lead Poisoning Prevention Week is at the end of October. Also, DHMH's new screening and testing recommendations will be implemented early next year. There will be a roll out in January and the Department will need help connecting with communities.

Lisa suggested checking in with Benoy Thomas who serves on both the Council and the Commission and the Council in order to assist with these issues. Perhaps also try to get five to ten minutes on the next agenda for CEHPAC to further this discussion. She will check in with Rachel about what the Council's schedule is in the coming months. She mentioned that another item on the retreat minutes was possibly doing the CEJSC December meeting as a second meeting with CEHPAC to work on these issues.

Commissioners agreed this is a good idea. Lisa will reach out to CEHPAC leadership about this.

On green cleaning at schools, Rebecca mentioned that at her organization, the Maryland Environmental Health Network, Allison works on this issue. She notes that the best policies are in Howard and Montgomery Counties, which happen to be the most wealthy. On the otherhand, Prince George's County still does not have a policy.

Rebecca also shared that at UMBC on Thursday there is the MD Public Health Association Conference. She will share if anything of interest comes from that.

Joe mentioned that radar is also an issue related to children's health, especially if they are constantly passing through something that is set up on their way to school. Another guest asked Subha to explain the issue with turf fields. There is some early concern that the materials used to make the turf and maintain it may be of harm to children if they are constantly exposed.

Local Government Outreach

Rebecca reported that the members involved in this issue had a call last week to work on next steps. They are interested in developing (or finding an existing) equitable development toolkit that could be used to start a convo w/MACo and local governments.

They are working on defining an agenda and then will set up a call with Les Knapp.

They want to learn how are the counties incorporating EJ & ED in their planning and development plans, but also make suggestions to improve, or start, depending on the situation.

Arabia is work in on something with MDP that would deal with rural outreach. Possibly a roundtable on EJ and Dick is working on Westport. Both should be here next month to share more.

Cumulative Impact

Lisa updated the Commission on MDE's Cumulative Impact Workgroup. The first meeting was on September 9th and it was a good first meeting. Rebecca attended and

Arabia was there as well. They only were able to cover the topic of permits and begin to get into indicators because of the robust questions. It seems that naturally the advocates are somewhat concerned about how to narrow the permit list because they don't want to miss something while businesses and labor are somewhat more concerned about the net that will be cast with indicators. Lisa believes that smaller is okay because if whatever is put in place or tested works, it can be replicated or grow. She will keep the Commission posted.

Other Announcements

Lisa noted that one area of interest that did not make the top three priority list during the retreat is working with the Maryland Climate Change Commission. She asked if some members might be interested in a one time meeting with leadership from the MCCC to discuss EJ. It was decided to wait until the October meeting to decide.

Subha mentioned that DHMH's revised portal for health data should be ready in November/winter time.

Rebecca mentioned the Regulatory Reform Meetings being held by the Administration. Lisa shared that Jeff Fretwell has been attending those meetings and may be available to quickly summarize the meetings at the October meeting.

The Commission adjourned at 10:15am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27th at MDE.

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

9:30 a.m-11:30 a.m

Tuesday, October 27, 2015

**Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd, Baltimore, MD 21230**

In Attendance

- Commissioners: Lisa Nissley, Dick Fairbanks, Rebecca Rehr, Benoy Thomas,
- Subha Chandar, Tanex Moye Cornick, Vernice Miller-Travis,
- Participants: Duane Johnson, Angelo Bianco, Delegate Clarence Lam, Crystal Lemieux, Louis Jones, Jeaneen Logan, Stephanie Cobb Williams, Michelle Larue

Introductions

Lisa Nissley started the meeting by welcoming everyone and inviting everyone to introduce themselves. All persons in attendance introduced themselves along with their positions.

CEHPAC Discussion

- Subha gave an update on collaborating with the Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council
- CEHPAC is focused on issues surrounding cell towers near schools and synthetic field turf. They also work on lead issues.
- Lisa checked in about the CEHPAC schedule. The Council meets every other month, but the schedule is not a set day of the month because many of the members have clinical schedules to work around.
- The statute requires CEHPAC and the CEJSC to work together.
- It was discussed that the next CEHPAC meeting might need to be moved up to December 8th instead of the 15th due to the holiday with possible lunch. The members agreed to this change.
- Possible topics to be discuss with CEHPAC: Rebecca suggested updates on environmental tracking data being done in Prince George's County. Dr. Sacoby Wilson's graduate classes are doing HIAs (Health Impact Assessment) for the county government. We may want to hear from them in December.
- Rebecca said that EJ should discuss with CEHPAC the Green Cleanup topic.

Dick Fairbanks asked about the current Lead news concerning kids 1 and 2 getting tested. Subha gave a brief update concerning the Press Conference held on Monday 26th and some background information on lead and its future in the State of Maryland. Delegate Lam questioned the possible cost of 6 million dollars to pay for this testing. Subha said she could send him the cost analysis.

Local Government

- Rebecca reported there have been a few conference calls on this topic. Andy Fellows has offered to reach out to Les Knapp of MACo about engaging with the local governments.

Dick Fairbanks indicated that he has no new updates on the Westport development. He did say that the development could have an impact on the community. Kevin Plank, owner of Under Armor, has bought 43 acres of land in the area to build his new headquarters.

- Dick has connected with the city planner who works on this area of the city. He would like to have him visit with the Commission to discuss the City Master Plan. He and Lisa discussed having the planner come before or after the November meeting to talk to interested Commissioners.
- Dick read an article from the Sun paper concerning the land purchase by Mr. Plank and said he would like to see remediation completed.

Cumulative Impact Workgroup

- Lisa gave an update on the meeting that took place on Monday 26th.
- The Workgroup came to a working agreement about which air permits to use. The indicator conversation continues and MDE is working on maps to share with the group.
- There was also a discussion about moving forward on enhanced public participation. Lisa is interested in ideas from the Commission about what would be helpful to move this issue forward as they define meaningful public participation.
- It was mentioned that Honeywell Corporation engagement with the community is a great example and that it would be nice to talk to them about it.
- Subha said that HIA (health impact assessment) would be good to incorporate into permitting.
- Rebecca spoke about the success the community of Morrell Park had regarding rail in the area.
- Dick mentioned that the city might have benefited from having an intermodal facility within its borders, though he agreed the community made a good effort in advocating for itself.
- Subha said public engagement seems to lead to success.
- Rebecca said that it will be legislation this year coming from the advocacy community.

Annapolis Meeting

- Meeting planned for January 26th with a rain date for February 23rd
- Plan on inviting House and Senate for light food before session, then have a short meeting, possibly visiting the Senate & House floor sessions.
- The Commission could go around to targeted legislators to introduce themselves.
- Rebecca said it's a health equity reception going on same day of the meeting and EJ members should be invited.

Climate Change

- Lisa said this was on the list of ideas when the Commission discussed priorities, but was not voted as a top three item
- There has been a request from the MD Climate Change Commission for the CEJSC to collaborate. Lisa has suggested a one time meeting to discuss issues of mutual interest. Vernice Travis by phone mentioned a project she is working on to look at the intersection of Climate Change and EJ. It is being funded by the Town Creek Foundation and may inform some of the MCCC plans for 2016.

Other Business

- Rebecca announced there is an Equitable Development Seminar at UMD on Nov 12th at 3 pm. She sent Lisa information to share with the group in the weekly email.
- Rebecca also mentioned the LCV legislative kick off being held at the Aquarium that evening.

Meeting Adjourned