



STATE OF MARYLAND
Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

September 1, 2020

The Honorable Larry Hogan
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Bill Ferguson
President Senate of Maryland
State House, H-107
Annapolis Maryland 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker Maryland House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis Maryland 21401

Re: Report required by Environment Article § 1-701 (MSAR # 8164)

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of the Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (“the Commission”), I respectfully submit the enclosed reports containing the Commission’s annual reports for 2014-2019. The Commission has carried out its duties in accordance with HB 970, signed into law on May 22, 2003. The Commission’s work continues to progress towards developing strategies to enhance the quality of life in all Maryland communities, including through economic development, community outreach, and environmental protection.

The content of the report is a summary the Commission’s activity in the last few years and key recommendations for enabling continued progress in revitalizing communities and promoting fairness and opportunity in our state. The Commission looks forward to any comments upon review of the report. If you have any questions or are in need of clarification, I can be reached at 443-984-2460 and Camille.Burke@baltimorecity.gov.

Sincerely,

Camille E. Burke

Camille E. Burke, Chair of the Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

cc: Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services (5 copies)



Maryland State
Commission on Environmental Justice
and Sustainable Communities

Annual Report
2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|------|
| 1. Background | 1 |
| 2. Commissioners Serving 2019 to Present | 2 |
| 3. Commission Activities October 1, 2018- October 29, 2019..... | 3 |
| 4. Plan Commission Objective for 2019-2020 | 4 |
| 5. Appendix A-July 2019 Retreat Summary | 4 |
| 6. Appendix B-Eastern Shore Case Study and Recommendations | 5 |
| 7. Appendix C-2019 Meeting Agendas/Minutes..... | 18 |

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 2018-2019

Ms. Camille Burke, Commission Chair (*Local Government)

Senator Obie Patterson, State Senate (*State Legislature)

Delegate Clarence Lam House of Delegates (*State Legislature)

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

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

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

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

Secretary Michael Gill, Department of Commerce

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

Mr. Richard Fairbanks (*Impacted Community)

Mr. Stephan Levitsky (*Impacted Community)

Ms. Tanvia Gadhia, Environmental Organization

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

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

Ms. Deriece Pate Bennett, General Public

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

Ms. Crystal Faison, Business/Affected Community

Mr. Robert Hackman, Business/Public

Ms. Paula Dannenfeldt, Business/Public

3. Commission Activities January 22, 2019- October 29, 2019

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. MOE staff is working with the Governor's Appointments Office to fill these vacancies.

Joint CEHPAC Meeting

The Commission held a joint meeting with the Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council on May 28, 2019 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.

Plan Commission Objectives for 2019-2020

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

Appendix A-July 2019 Retreat Summary

The retreat focused on communication and collaboration. The Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) also acknowledge the need to improve our outreach to other jurisdictions in Maryland as well as other organizations engaged in Environmental Justice. As a result Veronica Carella , a commission member of the Children’s Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) attended and presented. Veronica provided an in depth presentation on most of the issues currently facing CEHPAC such as; Health in All Policies, Pesticide spraying, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for buildings that meet certain requirements related to use of green products.

Maryland Department of Health presented on Lead and Asthma. Kamila Gray gave a presentation on the Brandy Wine community. She provided an update on the Title 6 complaint with the EPA and said an agreement was reached with several state agencies in 2019. She said the agreement puts policies in place with several state agencies.

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

Eastern Shore Case Study and Recommendations

Commission for Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities

2019

Introduction

Purpose

During our annual retreat in 2016, the Commission for Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) decided to include case studies in their annual report to provide examples of environmental justice issues in various areas of the State. The Eastern Shore of Maryland has areas where minority and lower-income communities are prevalent, and as a region, they are exposed to a variety of risk factors from climate change. Looking at the Union of Concerned Scientists' "When Rising Seas Hit Home – State by State Data," all but one of the 12 listed Maryland communities currently impacted by climate change are located on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Future predictions (2035, 2060, 2080, 2100) in this document predict more Eastern Shore communities will be considered impacted by climate change. Many of these communities have large minority and/or low-income populations. As these areas are impacted, the ability to adjust and adapt to climate change and rising water will be inhibited due to a lack of resources. This case study was completed to highlight the projects along with recommendations on how to improve the State's approach in addressing sustainability and environmental justice in these communities.

Goal of Case Study Report

For this Case Study, CEJSC reviewed climate change issues, and adaptation approaches on the Eastern Shore with special attention to the impact on minority communities. This review highlighted the isolation of these communities from decision-makers. The ultimate goal of this case study is to better inform the Governor's office and key policy-makers of the issues surrounding climate change and environmental justice on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

To better understand these issues, the following tasks we completed:

1. Reviewed various academic and Non-Government Organization studies conducted to date
2. Worked with the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy to understand the geographic areas of concern and overlay minority and disadvantaged communities to understand the intersection
3. Prepared this summary with recommendations for the Governor's office regarding policy and funding decisions at the State Executive level for addressing climate change impacts, resiliency, and equity

Conclusion

This case study highlights five different methods for approaching climate change and environmental justice. The case study showcases how different counties, organizations, or systems are looking to include climate change and environmental justice considerations into their

day-to-day activities and long-term planning. A one-size-fits-all solution that addresses climate change and environmental justice does not exist. However, by seeking out examples, experts, and learning from their process, the State can move towards having a set of standards that can be deployed for all climate change activities. This will ensure that environmental justice is not an afterthought, but a lens through which the adaptations and planning take place. Below are recommendations that grew out of the conversations, document and process review, and lessons learned from the highlighted examples.

Recommendations

- i) Sustained, participatory stakeholder engagement is one of the most critical aspects to successfully addressing climate change and climate resiliency in Maryland. To recognize these ties to local environmental resources, including the land and surrounding water resources, and the varied awareness of the threats climate change poses to their livelihoods. Because of this, a strong partnership between State agencies and communities is essential. Trust building and two-way information sharing should be mandatory for all climate change and resilience programming in Maryland.
- ii) The inclusion of local knowledge, specifically as it relates to flooding and its impacts, is critical to the successful incorporation of climate resiliency. A priority should be the development of a guiding framework for how to incorporate community qualitative knowledge and perspective alongside the best available science to develop resilience programs and plans. This is one of the most important aspects based on our review of the literature and talking with non-governmental organizations working in this area. The local community should be identifying issues and solutions. There can be some guidance from State officials, but in the end, if the community is not engaged in identifying issues and planning solutions, the investment of time and resources will be wasted.
- iii) Prioritization of environments and areas in the State for intervention and support should include a cumulative assessment that uses data and resources from across State agencies such as Department of the Environment, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health, Department of Planning, and others to complement and leverage recommendation ii, where support already exists, as well as the economic status of communities with a high priority being placed on those with largest social vulnerability.

- iv) Building upon recommendation iii, the State should work with stakeholders, through a community engagement framework, with stakeholders from each community in order to establish trust and build local support for resilience programming. The community engagement should follow a path from the identification of problems by the community and the State through evaluation of the implemented solutions in their ability to protect the community from climate change.
- v) The State should assess their current support levels for climate change adaptation and mitigation to identify where additional support is required. Recommendations could include leveraging resources, such as portions of the Volkswagen Settlement funds, to supplement the engagement, development, implementation, and evaluation of climate change resilience, environmental justice, and sustainability programming in communities across Maryland.
- vi) The State should support local entities focused on the aspects of climate change impacting Eastern Shore residents allows for a stronger support system in those counties.

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction | 1 |
| Purpose | 1 |
| Goal of Case Study Report | 1 |
| Conclusion | 1 |
| Recommendations | 2 |
| Case Studies | 5 |
| Background | 5 |
| Climate change and environmental justice concerns on the Eastern Shore | 5 |
| Methodology | 5 |
| Kent County “Participatory Climate Vulnerability Assessment” – (2015 – 2016) | 5 |
| Hazard Mitigation Planning in Dorchester County and Talbot County (2016 – 2017) | 6 |
| Deal Island Peninsula Project (2012 - present) | 8 |
| Integrating Environmental Justice and Social-Ecological Resilience for Successful Adaptation to Climate Change: Lessons from African American Communities on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay | 9 |
| Shoring Up Resiliency Through Education (SURE) (2017 - ongoing) | 10 |
| Reference Sources | 12 |

Case Studies

Background

Climate change and environmental justice concerns on the Eastern Shore

The Eastern Shore of Maryland, a peninsula between the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean is made up of nine Maryland counties; Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester, and Cecil. This region of Maryland is one of the most at risk for sea level rise in the country with the most recent State of Maryland sea level rise projections, forecasting as much as 2.3 feet of sea level rise by 2050 in Maryland and 3.7 feet by 2100, increasingly dependent on which emission pathway is followed (Boesch et al., 2018). In addition to sea level rise, the Eastern Shore demographic, social, economic, transportation, and other systems leave the region vulnerable to climate impacts.

Climate change will bring to the Eastern Shore, along with rising seas, hotter, wetter and longer-lasting weather events. Those changes will be accompanied by shifts in the beginning and end of seasons, potential impacts on migration patterns and shifts to habitat range for animals and vectors alike. Climate change is known to negatively impact a range of health outcomes, including cardiovascular, respiratory, automobile accidents, and risk of food and waterborne illness (University of Maryland School of Public Health College Park, 2016). These anticipated shifts will add strain to the current social, cultural, political, and economic systems of the Eastern Shore. In addition to climate change and sea level rise, many of the Eastern Shore's rural communities have been affected by decades of demographic shifts and eroding economic opportunity. These unintended consequences have manifested as environmental injustices and health inequities that disproportionately burden certain sectors and some populations on the Eastern Shore.

In order to successfully address climate change on the Eastern Shore, special consideration needs to be paid to ensure climate adaptation is approached with an environmental justice lens first and foremost. Therefore, the following case study and recommendations were put together as a guiding framework for climate adaptation on the Eastern Shore with each project highlighting successful methods to community engagement, environmental justice or health equity framing around climate adaptation. Through intentional, consistent, inclusive community engagement, climate adaptation can ensure resilience exists for all residents in all counties on the Eastern Shore.

Methodology

Kent County "Participatory Climate Vulnerability Assessment" – (2015 – 2016)

The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy partnered with Kent County's planning department and emergency services office to conduct an assessment of vulnerabilities to sea level rise, high heat, and extreme precipitation. Using a participatory methodology, the assessment team engaged three dozen stakeholders from across the community and county government in a series of interviews and workshops. The project prioritized the local knowledge of flooding and extreme

weather impacts on residents, businesses (including agriculture), infrastructure, and county services. Of the more than 60 recommended actions to prepare the county for climate impacts, two-thirds came directly from stakeholders, creating a high level of community buy-in. The recommendations were adopted by the Kent County Commissioners and the Kent County Planning Commission in April 2018.

Highlights: The vulnerability assessment was undertaken to better inform the multiple planning processes that are conducted by the Kent County Planning office. Kent County Planning partnered with a local non-profit, the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, to implement the vulnerability assessment. The results were used to augment and improve both the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Comprehensive Plan

Partners: Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (Brian Ambrette) and Kent County Planning Office

Outcomes: Completed a thorough participatory stakeholder engagement process. Through the stakeholder engagement process, the team compiled a list of recommendations, most of which were adopted by the county commissioners and into the County Planning Commission comprehensive plan (see Appendix I link below).

Lessons learned & successes: The stakeholder engagement process led to an understanding of the need to prioritize local knowledge alongside science-based observations and projections. Community members living in Kent County are knowledgeable about the county science and the impacts of flooding and extreme weather on individuals, residents, businesses, and infrastructure. To be successful at stakeholder engagement, those leading and facilitating the approach need to identify how best to integrate the scientific evidence base and the validity of the information and experiences that community members and individuals bring to the table, which may be harder to quantify. Kent County was able to navigate that effort which resulted in over 60% of the recommendations originating from local stakeholder comments.

Appendix: (1) Kent County Hazard Mitigation Plan:

https://w1a.w.kentcounty.com/images/pdf/planning/2014_Hazard_Mitigation_Plan_Final.pdf

(2) Eastern Shore Land Conservancy: <https://www.eslc.org/>

Hazard Mitigation Planning in Dorchester County and Talbot County (2016- 2017)

The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) served on both Dorchester and Talbot Counties' steering committees for updating hazard mitigation plans (HMPs). The HMP is required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in order to be eligible for federal disaster relief and must be updated every five years. ESLC helped both communities address the threat of sea level rise by providing expertise for addressing long-term risk in local land use and capital investment decisions. Both county plans were approved by FEMA and adopted by their respective county councils. In Dorchester County, ESLC was also a steering committee member for their project to inventory and mitigate flood risk for cultural and historic resources.

Highlights: Dorchester County and Talbot County both completed their HMP plans with feedback from stakeholders. The approaches varied slightly but were structured to receive input in a way that made sense for the specific population they served.

- Both Talbot and Dorchester County led the stakeholders and steering committee through the respective MP update process.
- Talbot County established a stakeholder advisory group to oversee its stakeholder interaction and feedback system.
- Dorchester County opened the process to stakeholder feedback by relying on their established networks of stakeholders, including county and municipal staff and representatives.
- ESLC served as an active participant on steering committees, working alongside other stakeholders to develop approaches for evaluating and mitigating sea level rise and flooding risk.

Partners: Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Brian Ambrette. Dorchester County Steering Committee, Talbot County Steering Committee

Outcomes: The outcomes highlighted here focus on the support that ESLC provided to the process for each county, and the critical role of third-party technical support to help manage the process. The strategies suggested and ultimately adopted, highlight a methodology for how communities on the Eastern Shore and across Maryland can tap existing expertise to ensure climate adaptation and assessments are participatory and inclusive of impacted communities.

- Developed county-scale sea level rise (SLR) maps and scenarios that include the 1% flood event, in order to help the county integrate future conditions into current planning processes.
- Integrated SLR and extreme precipitation projections into floodplain management, stormwater management, and capital investment planning.
- Used open space preservation to reduce flood risk, store flood waters, and attenuate wave energy.
- Took advantage of incentive programs like the Community Rating System to reduce flood risk.

Lessons learned:

- Committing to a complete feedback loop between stakeholders and county planning is critical for effective engagement. The information must be shared between all stakeholders and those in charge of the planning process in order to keep everyone informed and strengthen the connections.
- ESLC currently uses the successfully adopted strategies from this HMP process in their other projects.
- Relying on an established entity, such as ESLC, offers counties in Maryland access to local strategies, experts, and experience.

Appendix:

(1) *Dorchester County Plans:* <https://www.dorchestercountysc.gov/government-emergency-services-emergency-management/emergency-plans>

(2) *Talbot County Plans:*

<http://www.talbotdes.org/land-reareas?res=des-hazard-mitigation>

Deal Island Peninsula Project (2012 - present)

“The goal of the Deal Island Peninsula Project (DIPP) is to reduce the vulnerabilities of the Deal Island Peninsula area to the impacts of flooding, erosion, storm surge, changing sea levels, and socio-economic changes by creating partnerships between communities, decision-makers and scientists through a collaborative learning process. By investing in [collaborative learning](#), DIPP seeks to merge local and regional expertise, knowledge, and resources and enhance decision-making tools in order to strengthen the ability of local communities and marshes to successfully adapt to changing conditions.” <https://www.dealispenninsula.org/goals-and-activities>

Highlights:

- Approaching DIPP through a collaborative learning framework
- Collaborations include:
 - o National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Collaborative Science Project: The Deal Island Marsh & Community Project
 - o Integrated Coastal Resiliency Assessment
 - o Engaging Faith for Coastal Resilience
 - o Deal Island Shoreline Project
 - o Ditch Drainage Assessment
- Project aims to address all facets of life on Deal Island and meaningfully engage with the residents and stakeholders

Partners: DIPP is coordinated by representatives from the University of Maryland (UMD), Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD-DNR), and Maryland Sea Grant and work with over 50 local and non-local partners including Deal Island Peninsula communities

Outcomes: The Deal Island Project is an ongoing initiative to continue engaging communities in programs and plans that aim to reduce their vulnerabilities. As listed above, in addition to the collaborative learning aspects, DIPP has four main research foci and more information is available at the website link above. The interim findings of a research study under the Heritage umbrella follow below:

- Role of Heritage in Climate Change Governance – *Elizabeth Van Dolah, Ph.D. Candidate*
 - o Focused research on how heritage is used to mobilize individuals in decision making for the future.
 - o Identifying where heritage is a strength and also a vulnerability in climate change adaptation planning

Interim findings of priorities from community engagement:

- Heritage, and the tie to their history
- Flooding and shoreline erosion
- Marsh restoration

Collaborative Learning can be tailored to the needs of the community in question. Lessons learned, example approaches and how to integrate community expertise and scientific knowledge is found on the DIPP website.

Lessons Learned: Collaborative learning

- “The implementation and integration of scientific and local expertise results in projects that are valid, meaningful, and more sustainable due to increased accuracy and community/stakeholder ownership of the process.”
- Community engagement is critical to understand the values, and priorities of the communities and heritage studies are one way to approach this engagement need.

Appendix: DIPP Website: [https:// www.dealilandpeninsulaproject.org/](https://www.dealilandpeninsulaproject.org/)

Integrating Environmental Justice and Social-Ecological Resilience for Successful Adaptation to Climate Change: Lessons from African American Communities on the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake Bay

Focusing on the Eastern Shore in Maryland, the fourth largest region vulnerable to sea level rise along the Atlantic and Gulf Coast, the following research questions were explored. The first, what is the level of resilience and adaptive capacity for social-ecological systems that are characterized by environmental injustice in the face of climate change. And second, what is the role of the environmental justice approach in developing adaptation policies that will promote social-ecological resilience? Through a multi-stage research approach that included exploratory research, community workshops, community interviews and questionnaires, researchers were able to identify key themes, community-level variances, and insight into how best to address climate change adaptation on the Eastern Shore.

Highlight: The research findings identified the following key themes in the population of interest: 1) importance of faith and the church; 2) rootedness in the landscape; 3) complicated reality of race relations. Additionally, the nuances of both discussing and implementing a climate adaptation approach were elucidated. The findings of this research justify a cultural approach to vulnerability assessment, which is a necessary precursor to climate adaptation.

Partners: University of Maryland College Park School of Anthropology

Outcomes: Systematically eliciting cultural knowledge about climate change and connecting to a scientific framework of vulnerability can yield nuanced insights about local vulnerability. The identification that the social-ecological factors play out differently in different communities emphasizes the need for adaptation strategies to be tailored to the local circumstances.

Lessons learned:

While there are many lessons learned, it is important to highlight the obstacles and opportunities identified for employing EJ in the development of adaptation strategies. The following is a list that was published in the dissertation findings:

Obstacles for increasing justice:

- Lack of resources in flood prone communities
- Lack of preparedness for flooding emergencies
- Lack of collaboration
- Lack of transparency
- Lack of representation in government and non-governmental organizations
- Lack of understanding and information
- Lack of appreciation and utilization of community knowledge and experience

Shoring Up Resiliency Through Education (SURE) (2017 - ongoing)

Shoring Up Resiliency Through Education (SURE) seeks to train and support teachers in integrating climate change and relevant content into the existing curriculum. The SURE program capitalizes on the current education requirements for Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs) and Maryland Environmental Literacy Standards (ELit), both of which align with and contribute to meeting Next Generation Science Standards. Through these education requirements, the SURE program hopes to support the integration of basic climate science and how it applies to local environmental, cultural and economic issues for all students systematically in various grade levels.

Somerset County is the home to the SURE program, with teachers from grades 5, 7, and 9 participating. The goal is to integrate these pillars of knowledge into multiple ages and school curriculum to ensure all students, regardless of school or teacher, learn of the critical need to understand and address climate change and what it means to be resilient coastal communities on the Eastern Shore. Within the context of different topics specific to their local landscapes, natural resources, economy, and both natural and cultural heritage, students learn about climate impacts on the places they love and the effects on fishing, farming, recreation, tourism, and other valued aspects of their community, through studying shoreline erosion and protection, oysters, local biodiversity, and marine debris in the Bay and ocean.

Typically, community engagement focuses on adults in the community; but by offering a program for youth, they highlight a potential model for expanding stakeholder engagement throughout the community, with youth voices eventually enlisting the interest of families and others. By building buy-in and stewardship from within the community, the SURE project ensures they are working alongside those impacted by climate change, not just giving them a project to deploy - a key component to addressing climate and environmental justice. This could serve as a model for how to integrate climate change, vulnerability, resiliency and environmental justice, into the school curriculum to establish these premises in the youth of Maryland

Partners: Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Somerset County Public Schools, with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Maryland Department of Health, Chesapeake Bay Trust, Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Outcomes: The SURE program has hosted teacher professional development days, training teachers on resiliency topics and how to develop instructional units for their students. These instructional units include scientific issues investigation in the classroom and during outdoor field experiences, as well as stewardship action projects to address stresses observed on natural resources. These experiences also include interaction with science experts as well as trusted messengers of local cultural heritage, storytellers from within the community who can share what they have witnessed as a result of climate change. Additionally, SURE has been able to support multiple local field experiences since 2018, helping to enrich students' education with investigations related to the concepts of resiliency, climate change and how the culture of the Chesapeake Bay coastal communities is intertwined with the health and resiliency of the coastal ecosystems.

The SURE team has worked closely with teachers and administrators as well as scientific and education experts to understand and refine how best to integrate these topic areas into curriculum and meet the state educational requirements (i.e., environmental literacy and MWEs). The program is evidence of a successful engagement process in a vulnerable community (the Eastern Shore) with a vulnerable population (children and their families) around climate change, culture, resiliency and what it all means to the students and to the whole community. They have also established a feedback loop between the educators, SURE program staff and experiences of the field trips to ensure information is shared with all stakeholders throughout the process.

Since its inception (2017), the SURE program has:

- Hosted three teacher professional development days and numerous planning meetings with teachers
- Trained 20 teachers
- Supported nine field days for students during the 2018-19 school year, with at least 12 days planned for 2019-20
- Served more than 600 students each school year
- Supported the development of curriculum in classrooms in three grade levels at six schools (all public schools in the county)

Lessons learned:

- Interest exists within the school system for inclusion of climate change content.
- Climate change has variable levels of applicability to teachers' curriculum, with the lowest applicability for non-science teachers.
- Student stewardship opportunities offer a means to empower youth by having an impactful voice in their community, and a sense of accomplishment at making a difference.

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**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park Baltimore, MD
January 22, 2019
9:30 am-11:30 am**

AGENDA

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

- 9:30 am Welcome and Introductions
- 9:40 am Presentation by Tamara Toles-O'Laughlin from Maryland Environmental Health Network
- 10:10 am CEJSC Recruitment of New Members/ CEHPAC Meetings/Legislative Session
- 10:20 am Goals for 2019 : Short term, Medium term and Long term
- 10:30 am Mapping out the Outreach Plan 2019: Joseph Griffiths Maryland Department of Planning
- 11:30 am Meeting adjourned

Next Schedule Meeting March 26, 2019

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park Baltimore, MD
March 26, 2019
9:30 am- 11:30 am**

AGENDA

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

- 9:30 am Welcome and Introduction
- 9:40 am Approval of January Meeting Minutes
- 9:50 am Legislation Update
- 10:15 am Legislative Black Caucus Meeting (Meeting or not Meeting)
- 10:30 am MACo Updates
- 10:40 am Eastern Shore Study Update (Alive or Dead)
- 10:50 am Discussion on CEHPAC joint meeting location (May)
- 11:00 am Outreach Plan Update
- 11:25 am Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting May 28th

**Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
Annual Retreat July 23, 2019 9 am-3 pm
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)
14501 Sweitzer Lane, Maryland 20707**

Conference Call# 7127705505 access code 951633#

- 9:30 am Welcome and Introductions
- 9:40 am May Meeting Minutes Approval
- 9:50 am Darlene Mitchell-Director of Professional Development Maryland Department of the Environment
‘Recharging the Spark’
- 10:20 am Paula M. Dannenfelt- Chief Administrative Officer
National Association of Clean Water Agency (NACWA)
- 10:45 am Break
- 11:00 am Veronika Carella- Health In All Policy & Children’s Environmental Health Protection
Advisory Council (CEHPAC)
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Outreach Plan Discussion
- Communication Guidelines document
 - How to move forward
 - Community Liasons/Ambassadors
 - Next Steps
- 2:00 pm AKousa- Prince George County Department of Health
- How can CEJSC partner with PG County EJ Commission
- 2:30 pm Jaqueline V. Norris- Psychological Engineer Strategist Consultant
- 3:00 pm Public Comments
- 3:15 pm Adjournment

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities
October 29 2019 9:30 am-11:30am
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Blvd

Conference Call# 7127705505 access code 951633#

- 9:30 am Welcome and Introductions
- Membership
 - Ethics Forms completion
 - New Website-<http://efds.ethics.maryland.gov>
 - Newly passed Environmental Laws. Included below 2019-2017
 - 2020 Legislative Session
 - See Newly passed Legislation below
 - Moving forward
- 9:50 am Retreat Meeting Minutes Approval
- 10:00 am Eastern Shore Case Study
- 10:15 am Vaping info and Update (Impact on People & Communities)
- MD currently has 23 cases on Vaping Associated Lung injury. Nationally, there have been over 800 cases with about 15 deaths. MD is actively participating in National efforts to compose a response. MD participates monthly calls with CDC & FDA on identifying products & sources of issues to coordinate efforts. Most cases are associated with nicotine, THC, cannabinoids however there is still work to do and studies to conduct. Extensive product testing in underway nationally. There is no statewide Vaping ban. Vaping is prohibited on MARC Commuter Trains.
 - Children should NOT vape under any circumstances.
- 10:30 am Outreach Plan Discussion-Picking up Where we left off
- Communication Guidelines document
 - How to move forward
 - Community Liaisons/Ambassadors
 - Next Steps
- 11:15 am Public Comments
- 11:30 am Adjournment

2019 Legislative Session

The following are bills passed during the Maryland's 2019 Legislative Session that relate to Land and Materials Administration's programs.

- **HB 0036 Ch. 136 - Surface Mining - Zone of Dewatering Influence - Remedies.** Requiring a surface mining permittee, on the discovery of a sudden subsidence of the surface of the land, to immediately implement appropriate safety measures to protect public health and safety; requiring a surface mining permittee to permanently replace a water supply within a certain zone of dewatering influence within 45 days of the date on which the permittee knew of the water supply failure; authorizing a surface mining permittee to seek reimbursement for water supply replacement costs under certain circumstances; etc. Sections 15-801, 15-812, and 15-813 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- **HB 0109 Ch. 579 - Environment - Expanded Polystyrene Food Service Products - Prohibitions.** Prohibiting a person from selling in the State an expanded polystyrene food service product on or after July 1, 2020; prohibiting food service businesses or schools from selling or providing food or beverages in expanded polystyrene food service products on or after July 1, 2020; confirming the authority of local government entities to establish standards that are at least as stringent as those in the Act; requiring the Department of the Environment to conduct a public education and outreach antilittering campaign; etc. Sections 9-2201 through 9-2207 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- **HB 0510 Ch. 366 - Organic Waste - Organics Recycling - Collection and Acceptance for Final Disposal.** Prohibiting the owner or operator of a refuse disposal system from accepting loads of separately collected organic waste for final disposal unless the owner or operator provides for the organics recycling of the organic waste; authorizing that loads of separately collected food waste that are determined by an organics recycling facility to be unacceptable for recycling due to contamination may be accepted by a refuse disposal system for final disposal; etc. Section 9-1701, 9-1723, and 9-1724 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- **HB 1233 Ch. 341 - Environment - Reduction of Lead Risk in Housing - Elevated Blood Lead Levels and Environmental Investigations (Maryland Healthy Children Act).** Reducing the elevated blood lead level that initiates certain case management, notification, and lead risk reduction requirements in owner-occupied and affected properties; altering certain notification requirements triggered by the results of a certain blood test; requiring the Department of the Environment to adopt certain regulations, on or before July 1, 2020, for conducting certain environmental investigations in accordance with certain requirements; etc. Sections 6-304 and 6-305, 6-801, 6-819, 6-846 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- **SB 0370 Ch. 500 - Environment - Recycling - Office Buildings.** Requiring a county to address, in a recycling plan required to be submitted to the Secretary of the Environment, the collection and recycling of recyclable materials from buildings that are 150,000 square feet or greater of office space; requiring each owner of an office building to provide recycling

receptacles for the collection of recyclable materials and for the removal of certain materials for further recycling by October 1, 2021; authorizing certain enforcement units to conduct certain inspections; etc. Sections 9-1701, 9-1703, and 9-1714 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

- **SB 0546 Ch. 760 - Agriculture - Nutrient Management - Monitoring and Enforcement.** Requiring that a summary of each nutrient management plan be filed and updated with the Department of Agriculture at certain times; authorizing the Department to require an updated summary to take the form of an annual implementation report; requiring a manure broker to provide certain information to a certain person; requiring a person who holds a certain certificate or license to comply with certain reporting requirements and deadlines related to implementation of the Phosphorus Management Tool; etc. Sections Article - Agriculture (8-801.1, 8-803, 8-803.1, 8-807); Article - Environment (9-301, 9-323, 9-325); Article - Natural Resources (8-2A-05) 9-1707, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- **SB 1031 Ch. 772 - Environment - Maryland Oil Disaster Containment, Clean-Up and Contingency Fund and Oil Contaminated Site Environmental Cleanup Fund - Funding, Reallocation, and Reimbursements.** Altering the basis for calculating a certain license fee credited to the Maryland Oil Disaster Containment, Clean-Up and Contingency Fund and the Oil Contaminated Site Environmental Cleanup Fund; expanding, to include fiscal years 2020 and 2021, the purposes for which the Department of the Environment may use money in the Maryland Oil Disaster Containment, Clean-Up and Contingency Fund; etc. Sections 4-411 and 4-705 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

2018 Legislative Session

The following are bills passed during the Maryland's 2019 Legislative Session that relate to Land and Materials Administration's programs.

- **SB 844 Ch. 630 - Environment - Newsprint Recycling Board.** Repeal and Transfer of Authority. Repeals the Newsprint Recycling Board within the Maryland Department of the Environment and transfers the board's responsibilities to the Secretary of the Environment. Section 9-1707 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

2017 Legislative Session

The following are bills passed during the Maryland's 2019 Legislative Session that relate to Land and Materials Administration's programs.

- **HB 66 Ch. 385 - Environment - Lead and Mercury Wheel Weights.** Prohibiting certain persons from using, allowing to be used, or selling certain lead or mercury wheel weights. Section 6-501 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

- **HB 171 Ch. 384 - Environment - Yard Waste, Food Residuals, and Other Organic Materials Diversion and Infrastructure - Study.** Requiring the Department of the Environment, in consultation with specified persons, to study, review, explore, identify, and make recommendations regarding specified matters that relate to the diversion of yard waste, food residuals, and other organic materials from refuse disposal facilities, including the status of infrastructure in the State; requiring the Department to provide a final report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by July 1, 2019.
- **B 504 - Products That Contain Mercury - Prohibition on Sale of Electric Switches, Electric Relays, and Gas Valve Switches.** Prohibiting a specified marketer from knowingly selling or providing electric switches, electric relays, and gas valve switches that contain mercury to a consumer on or after October 1, 2018. Sections 6-905, 6-905.3 through 6-905.6 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- **B 1309 -- Environment - Recycling - Special Events.** Requiring the State, a county, a municipality, or any other local government to provide a written statement before issuing a permit for a special event that describes the requirements and penalties under the special events recycling law, and altering the maximum penalty a local government may collect under the special events recycling law. Section 9-1712 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- **B 1349 Ch. 374 - Environment - Compostable, Degradable, and Biodegradable Plastic Products - Labeling.** Prohibiting a person from selling a specified plastic product that is labeled as biodegradable, degradable, or decomposable on or after October 1, 2018 unless the plastic product meets certain standards. Requiring a person that distributes or sells certain compostable plastic products for certain purposes to label the product in a certain manner. Sections 9-2101 through 9-2105 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

Taken directly from MDE website(<https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/LAND/Pages/LMA-Legislation.aspx>)

Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park Baltimore, MD
January 22, 2019
9:30 am-11:30 am

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Duane Johnson, Camille Burke, Subha Chandar, Robert Hackman, Lesliam Quira-Alcala, Joseph Griffiths, John Pagagni, Malachy Rice
- **Participants:** Stephanie Cobb-Williams, Tamara Tooles O’Laughlin

Introductions

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

Camille Burke made several announcements

- Camille is now the Children’s Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) representative for CEJSC. She suggested to the Commissioners that if anyone would like to get involved with the CEHPAC to let her or Duane know.
- She mentioned that there are several vacancies on the CEJSC Commission and if anyone knows of anyone who would be interested to let Duane know.
- Duane will send out the names of various interest groups being sought after by the Governor’s Appointment Office.
- Camille mentioned that the Commissioners voted to have meetings bi-monthly.
- She announced that Derience Pate- Bennett resigned from the Commission and asked the Commissioners to continue to recruit new Commission members.
- Camille indicated that she and Duane have reached out to the PG County EJ Commission about partnering with them but have not yet received a response.
- Robert Hackman thought it would be good if Senator Clarence Lam could still be associated with the Commission since he was previously associated with the Commission as a House Delegate.

Presentation-Upcoming Legislative/Policy Issues

Tamara Tooles O’Laughlin Executive Director of the Maryland Environmental Health Network (MDEHN) provided an overview of the upcoming 2019 Legislative Session and of MDEHN’s priorities that include- climate and energy, vulnerable population health and toxics and chemical exposure protection.

- Tamara shared information on several lead bills being introduced this session.
- She talked about the Environmental Justice Legislative Team and its founding members including: The Community Church, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Partners for the Chesapeake Bay, the Sierra Club and others.

- She said another program they work with is called Community of Communities is made up of communities affected by gas that have joined forces to build defenses and protections through regulatory and legislation.
- Tamara talked about the National Green Amendments and Policy Models
- She described Health Impact Assessment as a combination of procedures or methods by which a policy, program or project may be judged based on the impact it may have on the health of a population.
- She also talked about Rapid Health Impact Assessments and the- Community Science Data Bill.
- Duane will get the slide presentation and send it to the Commissioners.

Duane asked how the Commission can help with the work MDEHN does?

- Tamara said the Commission could talk with the Community of Communities and tell them what the Commission's mission is and talk about what's on each other's priorities, and also join EJ legislation ca ls.
- Joseph Griffiths suggested using the MDEHN model as guide instead of trying to recreate the wheel since MDEHN seems to be so far ahead in their work around outreach.
- Joseph said he will reach out to Tamara to get more information on the MDEHN outreach plan and how they interact with the community.
- Tamara said it would be great if the Commission could come to their network meeting and speak to the people. She said they have four meetings with their network each year.
- Tamara said the Community of Communities meets bi-weekly and that they can make time to come to the Commission, the Commission can go to them, or a webinar could be done.
- Duane asked if MDEHN has a calendar of events. Tamara said one is on their website.

Goals 2019

- Continue to work on the 2019 outreach plan
- Determine what to do with the PG County EJ Commission
- Continue to work on the survey for the legislators
- Recruitment of Commissioners

Mapping Out the 2019 Outreach Plan

- Joseph feels as though more works needs to be done especially after listening to Tamara's presentation.
- If MDEHN has done most of the work it may be a good idea for the Commission to latch on to the MDEHN plan instead of creating a totally new outreach plan.
- Joseph mentioned an important piece identifying who will do the work once the plan is developed.

- Malachy Rice said let's just amplify the work that's already done.
- It was suggested that maybe a Senator or House Delegate could assign a staffer to look into the survey suggestion, or maybe Delegate Robyn Lewis or Senator Clarence Lam could help.
- The question of conflict of interest was addressed by the Commission's lawyer she didn't see any possible conflicts.

Meeting Adjourned

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)

March 26, 2019

9:30 am- 11:30 am

Maryland Department of the Environment

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Duane Johnson, Janet Moye Cornick, Richard Fairbanks, Joseph Griffiths, Steve Levitsky, John Quinn, Paula Dannenfeldt, Robert Hackman, Malachy Rice, Camille Burke
- **Participants:** Steve Charles, Jeaneen Maxwell, Paulette Hammond

Introductions

- Camille Burke started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking everyone to introduce themselves.
- January meeting minutes were approved.
- Camille talked about vacancies indicating there are 3 on the Commission.

2019 Legislative Session

- Camille discussed environmental bills that were introduced during this year's legislative session and she would send copies of the bills to the Commissioners.
- Duane said he would continue to try to set up a meeting with the Legislative Black Caucus, if not now, then in the near future.
- Robert Hackman suggested having a post-legislative meeting around June 2019 to find out what happened this legislative session.
- John Quinn suggested it would still be a good idea to meet in Annapolis even if it is for one month instead of three and that he could help facilitate this meeting.

MACo Update

- Richard Fairbanks said he is planning on contacting the MACo folks within the next week. He continued to stress the importance of building on the relationship with Les Knapp.
- John Quinn suggested having a table at the next MACo conference and said he would help facilitate this.
- Joseph Griffiths said MACo also has a winter conference also and that he would reach out to Les Knapp about future ideas.

Eastern Shore Study Update

- Steve Levitsky said the Eastern Shore Study is essentially completed and that the Commission can look forward to seeing it soon.

Children Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) update

- Camille briefed the Commissioners on several bills that CEHPAC either support or does not supports such as: HB 70, HB 124, HB277, HB27 and HB275. Camille said she's not exactly sure which of these bills passed.
- Camille asked the Commissioners what they would like to discuss at the May 28th joint meeting and she will ask Cliff Mitchell to speak on asthma in Maryland.

Announcements

Duane announced that the new Commissioner representing the Senate is Senator Obie Patterson.

Joseph Griffiths announced he will be participating in the UMD EJ Symposium on May 11.

Outreach Plan Update

Joseph Griffiths said he had a long discussion w'th Tamara Toles O'Laughlin from the Maryland Environmental Health Network (MEHN). Some of the topics they discussed were:

- The MEHN website has an extensive library of informationa documents. Things for CEJSC to consider include:
 - Can we post our research (case studies, etc.) there?
 - How can we use the materials that MEHN has already created?
 - These resources are expansive. Should we leave this level of research and education to MEHN?
 - Should we write one or more articles for the MEHN blog?
 - Do we want to post anything on their events page-or involve ourselves with events they are already putting on?

Joe said that Tamara is leaving MEHN to work for an organization called 350.org where she-going to be developing the " Unchurched, Unbanked, Unaffiliated (UUU) Network"-which can feed into the work of CEJSC.

Tamara will also be working with the Climate Change Commission.

Joe said he also asked Tamara some specific questions such as;

- How does MEHN solicit local input on EJ issues?
- Does MEHN conduct outreach?

Tamara said yes, primarily by relationship building through Community of Communities and providing practitioners with technical assistance (Joe said he needs to follow-up with her to get more details on this.)

Tamara said- their meeting minutes and workshop notes are on their website but, Joe said couldn't find them.

MEHN disseminates information on a list serve, which should be shared with the whole CEJSC. Joe asked if anybody from the Commission is on MEHN's list-serve and Camille said that she is.

Joe asked if Tamara if the Commission could use MEHN's network to send out communications or surveys. She said yes, a new network should be coming out soon and if Joe reached out to her next week she could connect him to the network.

Joe said the Commission should begin to think about how we can use this offer?

Paulette Hammond from the Citizen Campaign for the Environment asked if CEJSC would be interested in joining them for some discussion or getting involved in their organization.

Joe said he also asked Tamara about the idea of regionalism and localism and if MEHN has priorities broken down by region or community. She said they do but that they are coordinated by distinct groups or subject areas and not compiled generally. She said this information is also on the list-serv.

Tamara also said infrastructure is an issue everywhere but it differs by area (water, energy etc).

A final question asked of Tamara was- How can CEJSC support her work or piggyback on it? She said CEJSC could:

- Develop a platform
- Convene different groups
- Develop a framework for collecting information and gathering people and groups
- Help factor human health into the development of any state level process

Joe said these are some questions CEJSC should consider:

- How do we want to use the MEHN network for communication or outreach?
- What would our role as convener or platform developer for the UUU look like?
- How can we compile regional and local information, analyze it, and develop recommendations?
- How do we use the list serve information?
- Do we want to set up a liaison to MEHN or 350.org? How do we support the UUU?
- Can we offer or develop any form of technical assistance?

Robert Hackman asked is the Commission's job is to provide recommendations to the Governors or to do the actual outreach. Camille said she would look for clarity on this and get back to the Commission.

Steve Levitsky suggested that the Commission begin to consider a replacement for the MEHN representative.

Duane said Tamara showed some interest in joining the Commission after the legislative session.

Public Comments

Paulette Hammond asked- What is the genesis of the CEJSC commission?
Duane said he would send Paulette some literature by email.

Meeting Adjourned

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park, Baltimore, MD
May 28, 2019
9:30 am-11:30 am

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Duane Johnson, Camille Burke, Paula Dannenfeldt, John Papagni, Robert Hackman, Dick Fairbacks, Janet Moye Cornick, Joseph Griffiths, Malachy Rice, Subha Chandar, Crystal Faison, Lesliam, Camille Burke
- **Participants:** Paula Hammond, Jeaneen Maxwell, Steve Charles, Veronika Carrella, Dr. Gitterman, DR. Clifford Mitchell, Ensa

Introductions

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

CEJSC Business

- March meeting minutes were approved
- Camille asked for suggestions on holding the July 23rd retreat by June 15th.
- Dick suggested a park location with a great mansion on hand but without an air conditioner. This idea did not go over well with the Commissioners.
- Camille asked Crystal Faison to look into the airport location and to put a hold on it if possible.
- Camille suggested that she or Duane will contact the Commissioners within 10 days to inform them -where the retreat will be held.

CEJSC Outreach Plan Discussion

- Camille briefly talked about forming a partnership with the Maryland Environmental Health Network (MEHN) because they have a built in list serves.
- Joseph Griffiths indicated that the Commission would need to decide why we are using MEHN networks to do outreach.
- He suggested taking time to look at MEHN's resources and the work they have already done.

CEJSC Legislative Update

Camille gave an overview of HB1233 which will require jurisdictions to lower the blood lead level that triggers lead risk reduction requirements when testing children for lead poisoning from 10 ppm to 5 ppm.

The regulations for this bill are being written by the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Camille indicated that since no funding attached to HB1233, finding a way to implement it locally will be a challenge.

- Dr. Clifford Mitchell from the Maryland Department of Health said it has been the priority of a lot of organizations to get the state to conform more closely with the CDC's guidance on lead.
- Dr. Mitchell gave a brief history of blood lead level exposures in children and talked about where lead exposures come from, like spices, dishes, soil and makeup.
- Dr. Gitterman said he is worried it will be two tiers of inspections -one for 5-6 ppm and one for 12-13 ppm- which could give folks a false sense of security. Because of this he said there should be the same level of investigation for both tiers.
- Camille said Baltimore City inspections cover just about everything when they go into a house.
- Dr. Mitchell said that due to the many sources of lead it makes investigations more complicated- especially with no funding.
- Dr. Mitchell said historically lead has always been an important issue medically and environmentally.
- Dr. Mitchell said Medicaid is doing several things related to prevention of lead poisoning by providing grants to agencies.

Children's Environmental Health Protection Advisory Council (CEHPAC) discussion

- CEHPAC had 10 council members on hand
- Meeting minutes for the January and March meetings were approved
- Two letters sent to the FCC concerning radiation and pesticide levels in young people have not received a response yet.

Legislation Update

- Veronika Carrella talked the about the pesticide application laws. She said CEHPAC approved a letter sent to the Department of Agriculture in 2016.
- She talked about 181 laws that went into effect in 2019, specifically HB 275 and SB 270 that talk about the application of pesticides. She said CEHPAC and CEJSC have a responsibility to respond to these types of bills.
- It was suggested that both Commission's work together on writing letters to legislators. The attorney on hand said that the for Commissions working together should not be a problem.
- There was also some discussion about the Health in and All Policy group work.
- There was discussion that data sharing across state agencies could solve some problems.
- Veronika made a motion asking that a letter be written to the Secretary of Agriculture asking the Secretary to review the 2018 and 2019 Health in All Policies Report and to report back with a itemized response.
- The motion passed.

- Lead certification was discussed- any building built with state fund must be lead certified. Veronika made a second motion for CEHPAC to record supporting indoor lead certification in the 2018 HIA report.

- The motion passed

Lead in drinking water

There was some discussion on lead in drinking water by Dr. Mitchell.

- He suggested that depending on the location of the source , county by county appears to be a 5% increase of lead levels in drinking water in the schools.
- If there appears to be an elevated blood lead level, two additional tests are done to confirm.

Joint efforts by both Commissions

- Dick Fairbanks talked about incineration in Baltimore City and asked if both groups be thinking about it.
- Dr. Mitchell said it is a hot topic and has been discussed as a complicated environmental justice issue. He said if both Commissions want to discuss it they should but they would need briefings from other agencies.
- Veronika suggested putting the incineration issue on a future CEHPAC meeting agenda and doing a presentation.
- Ensa from CEHPAC talked about compression stations and how both Commissions can have some input as it relates to notification of these stations.
- Veronika said both Commissions should look at the 2018 Health in All Policies.
- Joseph Griffiths suggested that both Commissions could get involved in comprehensive planning as it relates to housing in 2020.

- Camille said CEJSC needs to be more proactive on legislative issues.

- Cliff suggested that both Commissions should meet twice a year instead of once, with the possibility of one of the meetings being by phone.

No public comments

Meeting adjourned

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park Baltimore, MD
July 23, 2019
9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Camille Burke, Subha Chandar, Janet Moyer Cornick, Joseph Griffiths, Robert Hackman, Dick Fairbanks, John Papagni, Paula Dannenfeldt, Duane Johnson, Lesliam A'Quiro
- **Participants:** Paula Hammond, Veronika Carrella, Darlene Mitchell, Emily Wezik, Kamita Gray

Introductions

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

July meeting minutes were approved.

Maryland Department of the Environment

Darlene Mitchell- Director of Professional Development-Highlights of speech on 'Recharging the Spark'

- A motivational moment.
- Decide what kind of difference you want to make.
- Why are you here?
- Why would you accept the responsibilities of sitting on the EJ Commission?
- Understanding the purpose of the EJ Commission.
- Walk In your integrity.
- Create a Facebook page for the Commission and record a video of your elevator speech to help with recruitment.

National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)

Paula Dannenfeldt-Chief Administrative Officer

- Paula said NACWA has about 320 members which include nearly 300 public wastewater and stormwater utilities, also known as "clean water agencies" that encompass agencies of all sizes nationwide.
- Their vision is to represent every utility as a NACWA member, helping to build a strong and sustainable clean water future.
- Paula provided the report "Opportunities for Municipal Clean Water Utilities to Advance Environmental Justice & Community Service" which highlights their involvement in environmental justice issues.
- Paula said NACWA does not include hazardous waste dumps.

- Camille Burke asked Paula how the average person connects with NACWA Paula said they don't in terms of the association, but do so through their member utilities, fairs and award programs, and through education centers.
- Paula indicated that NACWA is not directly involved with ground water, but MDE is per Darlene Mitchell.
- Someone asked what involvement NACWA has with the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay Paula said their representation is at the federal level and that a number of their members are discharged the bay.
- Camille asked if Paula could bring back any legislation related to NACWA back to the Commission and if there are any national trends that could affect the environment locally. Paula said Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).
- Subha Chandar asked if there is any regional activity going on with local members. Paula said not through their association but there might be with other organizations.

Children's Environmental Health Advisory Council (CEHPAC)

Veronika Carella-Commissioner CEHPAC

- Veronika gave an update on her work with CEHPAC which is centered on the Health in All Policies (HiAP) workgroup.
- She talked about a statue of environmental justice based on state law and what the responsibilities of the EJ Commission should be. One responsibility being to report back to the Governor on our findings.
- Veronika said HiAP is a framework through which policymakers and public and private stakeholders collaborate to improve health outcomes, and reduce health inequalities in the state by incorporating health considerations in decision making across sectors and policy areas.
- She talked about a "data sharing process" and provided documents from EJ, DNR and HiAP.
- There was some discussion around why the Health Department is or isn't involved in the Health in All Policies issue.
- Veronika talked about the Department of Agriculture's involvement in pesticide spraying and there are safer ways to introduce pest management into our community environment.
- She said a key question for HiAP is- What is the impact on public health? And talked about the role of public health in protecting kids from environmental health impacts:
 - She said there are no state or federal safe guards to protect kids during construction or renovation in their schools.
 - The only people protected by OSHA laws are the people doing the work.
 - In terms of public health, she said children's health is going in the wrong direction and that kids are getting sicker and sicker.
- She also talked about Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for buildings that meet certain requirements related to the use of green products.

Miscellaneous Topics

There was some discussion about lead in housing by Camille Burke and Subha Chandar.

Camille said she will look into vacancies on the Commission and gauge the current Commissioners involvement. A list relating to the type of vacancies will be provided.

Subha Chandar said the Eastern Shore Case Study will hopefully be completed before August.

Kamita Gray- Discussion on the Community of Brandywine.

- Kamita talked about the Title 6 complaint with EPA and said an Agreement which took about three years was reached with several agencies in 2019.
- She gave an update on what led to the complaint which was an influx of several power plants in the community.
- She said the Agreement puts policies in place with all the state agencies.
- Kamita said she expects CEJSC to give voice to it by looking at affected communities.
- She said the Commission needs to rethink the positions the Commissioners represent like the position on affective communities for example.
- Joseph gave his thoughts on the PSA and any legislation put forward around local zoning.
- Camille asked Kamita to submit four lessons learned when dealing with agencies.
- Veronika suggested including a question on how EJ can help a community like Brandywine on the next CEJSC agenda.
- Veronika suggested that EJ hold a session on Title 6 for the communities.

Joseph Griffiths- Outreach Plan Discussion

- Joseph said there is a lot of work that needs to be done before CEJSC can go out and do outreach.
- He said outreach is getting the right people at the table to communicate.
- He asked where the balance is between outreach and the education component and talked about 3 phases of questioning:

-What is the Purpose?

- Raising Awareness
- Finding out what is going on-Information gathering
- Gaining local contacts

-What is the Caution?

- Expectations
- Delivery on Commitments
- Takes you in a new directions
- What is in it for them?-Motivation
- Negative news travels fast
- Resources

-Who is the Audience/Targets

- Community leaders
- HOA's
- Youth groups
- Faith based groups
- Environmental groups
- Planning departments

Camille suggested reaching out to Paula of MDE to get some ideas around outreach since she's already doing outreach.

Joseph said a potential outcome could be to not to do outreach considering what's already out there, but we haven't reach that conclusion yet.

Someone suggested letting the community define what outreach is to them.

Joseph said something to think about is -What is my information going to do? Is it going to change my work plan, is going to affect legislation, what are we going to do with the information?

No Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC)
Montgomery Park Baltimore, MD
10/29/19
9:30 am – 11:30apm
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

- **Commissioners:** Camille Burke, Subha Chandar, Joseph Griffiths, Dick Fairbanks, John Papagni, Paula Dannenfeldt, Jeneen Maxwell and Senator Obie Patterson. Those who called in were: Crystal Faison, John Quinn, Robert Hackman and Lesliam A'Quiro, and Crystal Faison.

Introductions

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

Housekeeping

- Camille requested a list of vacancies on the Commission to gauge the current Commissioners involvement. A list relating to the type of vacancies will be provided by MDE.
- Commissioners were also reminded to complete their Ethics Forms at their earliest convenience.

Eastern Shore Case Study

Subha Chandar discussed the case study and suggested that the Eastern Case Shore study be included in the minutes. Duane Johnson will share the case study with MDE officials for comment. Those members worked on the Case Study will be de-identified.

Commission members requested that the case study:

- Re organize items within Case Study
 - Add Brief History/ Background
 - Add Executive Summary
 - Add fact sheet about CESJC
 - Add fact Sheet about Eastern Shore
 - Add an implementation piece and/or Next Steps
- Share with Climate Change Commission, CEPHAC and other pertinent MDE Commissions.

Vaping

Camille briefly gave vaping update for Maryland and provided information from CEPHAC for informational purposes. Vaping may also be a burgeoning environmental concern.

Legislation & 2020 Legislative Session

Camille briefly reviewed environmental legislation provided prior to meeting that was included as a part of agenda. She also requested that members be prepared to provide comments or concerns regarding upcoming legislation. Letters may also be needed and or requested

Children's Environmental Health Advisory Council (CEHPAC)

Members were asked to attend a joint meeting on 12/10/19. Most Members could not attend. This Information will be conveyed to Dr. Cliff Mitchell, Chair of CEPHAC.

January Joint Meeting

Senator Patterson introduced himself, provided a little of his personal background, jurisdiction that he represents, and apologized for his absence. Camille Burke thanked him for his participation and stated that CESJC welcomed a seasoned legislator. Camille then inquired about a possible meeting with the Health Education Environmental Committee on which he serves. Camille Burke suggested that this possibly be joint meeting with CEPHAC to familiarize ourselves with committee members. Senator Patterson advised that the meeting should be on a Monday and no longer than an hour in Annapolis. Senator Patterson suggested that we reach out to his staff member Deborah Robinson.

Communications Plan

Joseph Griffiths- Outreach Plan Discussion

Joseph once again reminded CSECJ members that:

- A significant amount of work to be done before CEJSC can go out and do outreach.
- He said outreach is getting the right people at the table to communicate.
- He asked where the balance is between outreach and education.

Camille suggested again that CESJC reach out to Paula Montgomery of MDE to get some ideas around outreach since she's already doing outreach. In addition, Camille suggested that some outreach had been done in the form of: Regional Case Studies, Joint Committee meetings, and letters to legislators. A closer examination of what outreach look should like and who our audience will be done.

Joseph said a potential outcome could be to not to do outreach considering what's already out there, but we haven't reached that conclusion yet.

Finally, Dick Fairbanks requested that we reach out to some of the affected community members in Brandywine to obtain updated and next steps. Camille Burke suggested that CESJC obtain a multi-agency update in case any State questions were asked during the proposed conversation. Duane Johnson will be contacted to obtain updates and or representatives who can provide updates on Brandywine.

No Public Comments

Meeting Adjourned