

## Minutes of EJAB

**Meeting Date:** August 5, 2008

**Call to order:** The quarterly meeting of the Environmental Justice Advisory Board was held in the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St, Room 105, Harrisburg, PA.

The meeting convened at 8:40 am, Arthur Frank presiding.

**Members in attendance:**

Laureen Boles	Eli Brill
Rocky Brown	Mario Browne
Arthur Frank	Hazem Hijazi
Ayanna King	Ann Morrison
Mary Vuccola	Mark White

**Members absent (excused):**

Clea Hollis	Patrick O'Neill
KV Singh	

**Members absent (unexcused):**

Michael Walker	Rocky Boone
Erlinda Aguiar	Luvennise Gamble
C Nolan Howell	

**Non-members:**

Marylou Barton	Holly Cairns
Nora Carreras	Janis Dean
Doan Barefield	Christina Simeone
Alice Wright	Jennifer Winston
Ashley Mannings	Elizabeth Fritz
Owen Bradley	Glenn Bradley
Chris Bradley	Jamahal Boyd
Robert Altenburg	Marcus Kohl
Sharon Trostle	Ken Reisinger

### Welcome and Introductions

Arthur Frank, Chair welcomed and acknowledged the guest to the meeting and he asked everyone to introduce themselves.

### Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Mark White to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2008 meeting.
- Seconded by: Mario Browne
  - Motion carried

## OEA Staff Reports

Arthur Frank asked for a brief summary of the OEA Staff reports.

- Ayanna King, OEA Director explained the recent events in Erie in regards to the barriers that faced the ERE facility (Tire-to-Waste) with the local zoning issues. She also spoke about her June trip to Erie whereas she met with John Horan of Erie's Public Housing Authority and about 65 residents who live in public housing. ERE will create approximately 65 jobs through this project but at the same time Curtzee Meat Plant has been very open about closing their facility due to the closeness of the proximity of the project which would lose 300 jobs.

### Conference Logo Award

Arthur Frank acknowledged Nora Carreras, SC Environmental Advocate for her dedication and hard work for the logo contest with middle and high schools for the conference. Owen Bradley graduated this year from Elizabethtown High School won first and second place in the contest, out of 25 submissions. All students who entered the logo contest will be invited to attend the opening night of the conference.

### Conference Committee Report

Arthur Frank pointed out that the Board who made the conference its highest priority in the strategic plan. He requested that the advisory board recommit and commence to get more work done as we progress forward because the OEA staff can not do all the work themselves. Drexel will become the co-sponsorship for the conference as well as handling fiscal management.

### PA Climate Change Activities

Christina Simeone, of the DEP's Policy Office joined the group to report on PA Climate Change activities. On July 9, 2008, Governor Edward Rendell passed the climate change act of 2008. In the act the Advisory Committee must be selected within 30 days, the first meeting will be in 60 days, Friday, September 5, 2008. The meetings will be open to the public. The advisory committee will be responsible for doing a voluntary greenhouse gas registry within 90 days, create an annual greenhouse gas inventory for the Commonwealth and then do an impasse assessment to be established within 9 months and a climate change action plan to be delivered to the Legislature within 15 months.

Eighteen members will be appointed, six by the Governor, six by the Senate four appointed by the Majority Leader and two by the Minority Leader, six by the House of Representatives four appointed by the Majority Leader and two by the Minority Leader. The Secretary of DCNR, DCED and the Chair of the PUC or a designee shall be ex officio voting members of the Committee.

### Jamahal Boyd, Sr, DOH, Director for the Office of Health Equity

Reverend Rocky Brown introduced the Director of the Office of Health Equity, Jamahal Boyd, Sr.

The Office was established via Executive Order May of 2007, the Governor and Secretary Calvin Johnson felt there was a need to create an Office of Health Equity to

address the health disparities within the Commonwealth. Not from a minority health perspective more from a health equity perspective. There are more than 12 ½ million Pennsylvanians, the goal is to ensure all health service are equitable, assessable, affordable, and cost efficient.

Mr. Boyd provided a link ([www.zoomerang.com/survey/?p=web2284uespcxc](http://www.zoomerang.com/survey/?p=web2284uespcxc)) to a survey he would like the Board and Staff to participate in to help them gain information, their thoughts, the opinions of what health equity issues and how they can be addressed. This information will be shared with the Stakeholder group in State College at the end of August. The intended target date to release the plan once the chain of approvals to the Governor has been approved is April 2009.

The Office of Health Equity received funding from the Governor's Office to work on workforce diversity and medical interrupter and cultural competency training programs. Nine contracts have been administered from two grants, each being \$150,000 for a thirty month period of time.

### **Legal Update – Environmental Justice Proposal**

Marylou Barton, OEA's Legal Counsel talked about the continued efforts of the Board working for the past six years on developing a definition for the environmental justice community. Race cannot be a single factor due to the Supreme Court case decision last summer, which says it's unconstitutional. Ms. Barton has been working with Ayanna King, (OEA), Christina Simeone, and Rob Altenburg of the Policy Office to find environmental indicators to identify environmental justice communities that can have a legally definable definition that might be used in regulations.

Ms. Simeone asked the Board if they would e-mail Ms. King their suggestions and they will compile and do the research. Simeone mentioned on census.gov (click on icon labeled census 2000) there is an array of data that you can work with to retrieve different kinds of information.

### **Overview of Draft Revisions to the Municipal and Residual Waste Regulations**

Ken Reisinger explained that the Department has three waste regulations; hazardous waste, residual waste and municipal waste. A committee was formed a year ago to identify the inconsistencies to streamline the regulation packages into one.

We are encouraging recycling and re-use as much as possible to get out of landfill usage. Companies are leaning towards zero waste. There are robust markets for aluminum and metals. There are approximately 500 composting sites throughout the State, some are considering taking food waste from grocery stores for reuse. By recycling we can extend the life of our landfills from 10 to possibly 20 years.

We are looking to develop a series of general permits and permits by rules so that Industry can reuse the material as an ingredient without the heavy burden of the permit application process as long as they can show they will market the product in another way. 52 landfills operate in the State. Mr. Reisinger offered to come back in six months for an update.

## Public Comment Period

Rocky Brown asked if there was anyone here for the public comment period. No one was present.

## Governor's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force

Marcus Kohl talked about Governor Edward Rendell's funding for bridges, roads, and water infrastructure. The Governor met with the Water Management Deputate and said he wanted to look at the water infrastructure and asked what they needed. How do we stop the process of the State or Federal Government giving money every twenty or thirty years to stop the water infrastructure? As a result the Governor created a task force of thirty members. The goal of the Task Force is to educate the public on the value of the service and to make them aware that Government be able to continue to subsidize these services.

Mr. Kohl highlighted the need of certified operators State-wide, 70% of drinking water and waste water operators are over the age of 50. In the next five to ten years we can expect 70% of the operators will retire. We've started a pilot projects with local community colleges (Montgomery Community College has a two year project) and on the high school level for recruitment. The EJAB viewed Mr. Kohl's presentation and gave suggestions and feedback to assist the task force with recruitment.

## New/Unfinished Business, Questions, and Comment Period

- The next EJAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 2008; the Conference Committees will need to provide updates and reports prior to the meeting. Dr. Frank requested to have someone from air quality to speak about air toxins and give a presentation on the proposed Erie Renewable Energy facility in Erie, PA.
- Ann Morrison recommended for the Board to think about what they will do over the next 90 days. The Board has a \$50,000 funding gap for the conference. What are the actionable next steps for the conference?
  - Mario Brown suggested that templates for each committee be prepared and ready upon approval of all paperwork.
  - Identifying Chairs or Co-Chairs to lead the Programming; Logistic & Conference Materials; and Scholarships & Community Outreach.
  - Mario Brown has agreed to Chair the Scholarship & Outreach Committee and will schedule the next conference call.
- Nora Carreras, SC Advocate will update the conference timeline and submit to the committees.
- Ayanna King recommended that we review the by-laws on absentee and implement the by-laws for Members who missed two consecutive meetings.
- Motion to adjourn meeting by: Mark White
- Seconded by: Mary Vuccola
- All in favor: motion carried

Adjourned at 3:00 pm