

**Minutes of the
Environmental Justice Advisory Board
February 8, 2011**

Call to Order: The quarterly meeting/conference call of the Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) was held in the Delaware Room of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA.

The meeting convened at 8:45 am with Dr. Arthur Frank presiding as Chair.

Members on conference call:

Erlinda Aguiar
Laureen Boles
Nora Carreras
Dr. Arthur Frank
Ann Morrison
Jason Rissler
Rev. Horace Strand

Members absent (excused):

Eli Brill
Mario Browne
Terri Davin
Hazem Hijazi
Dr. Clea Patrick Hollis
Mary Vuccola
Dr. Mark White

Non-members:

Tammey Adams
Rob Altenburg
Holly Cairns
Bo Reiley
Sue Wilson
Alice Wright
Carlos Gasca, The Kingsley Association

Welcome and Introductions:

The Chair, Dr. Arthur Frank, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves around the room.

Approval of Minutes:

It was discussed that the November 2010 minutes could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum to vote.

Office of Environmental Advocate Regional Staff Reports:

Dr. Arthur Frank requested highlights on the three regional Office of Environmental Advocate (OEA) reports.

Alice Wright mentioned her involvement in the EPA Brownfields 2011 Conference at the PA Convention Center. She also gave an update on the situation with the residents of Eddystone. The Board agreed to review the large quantity of questions/comments submitted by the residents of Eddystone to Camden Iron Metals for response. The Board felt they could offer assistance to the residents by reviewing questions/comments. It was also suggested that a “Best Practices” webinar be created to be distributed across the state for EJ organizations.

Holly Cairns mentioned that EPA is close to finalizing the Land Revitalization Grant for the Herron Avenue Corridor Coalition. She discussed the issues the Herron Avenue Corridor Coalition is currently facing. Ms. Cairns also mentioned the receipt of complaints from individuals who live in communities where Marcellus Shale drilling is occurring.

Nora Carreras mentioned the creation of the Plain Language Guide to Rulemaking for educating communities in understanding a regulation package when it is published. She also mentioned that the department is still waiting to hear from EPA in reference to the Bed Bug Grant submitted in October.

There was a discussion among the Board in reference to the length of time it takes a grantee to receive federal grant money from the department.

Citizen’s Advisory Council Update:

Dr. Arthur Frank introduced Susan Wilson, Executive Director of the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), who mentioned that the Council met the day after Inauguration and welcomed Acting Secretary Krancer to his position. The Council is currently working on identifying their priorities for a discussion with the new administration.

Conference Evaluations and Future Conference Discussion:

The Board discussed the detailed evaluation results that were received at the end of the conference. The overall consensus of the Board was that the 1st EJ Conference was a success. Dr. Arthur Frank mentioned the possibility of coordinating a second conference. It was also suggested that we offer a webinar to EJ communities to discuss basic EJ issues. A webinar would offer EJ information to communities that lack resources for traveling.

Rev. Strand mentioned the ‘EJ Caucus Night’ of the EPA Brownfields Conference on April 3 in Philadelphia. He is the Chair of this event and feels that the Board should be represented by sponsoring a portion of the evening. Dr. Frank stated that the Board does not have funds available to sponsor this type of event. Nora Carreras mentioned that this national conference will be highlighting environmental justice with various tracts. The discussion of support for the community event will be continued later in the meeting under New/Unfinished Business.

Laureen Boles made the suggestion of using the remaining conference funds for scholarships to community members to attend the upcoming EPA Brownfields Conference in Philadelphia.

Policy Office Update

Nora Carreras introduced Patricia Allan, Director of the Policy Office, who gave a brief synopsis of her career with state government and DEP. She mentioned that the Chapter 78 - Oil and Gas Casing and Cementing regulations became final on February 7. Ms. Allan also mentioned that the Department's regulatory agenda was submitted to the Governor's Office and published in the *PA Bulletin* on January 29. The Board requested copies of Governor Tom Corbett's "White Papers on Energy and the Environment" which highlight the various Marcellus Shale issues affecting the Commonwealth.

Introduction and Q&A with Acting Secretary Krancer:

Dr. Arthur Frank introduced Executive Deputy Secretary Jeffrey Logan and explained the functions of the Board. Dr. Frank also introduced Secretary Michael Krancer to the Board and everyone introduced themselves and mentioned their affiliation. Secretary Krancer explained how he participated in the creation of the Environmental Justice Work Group Report. He feels that the work of the Board is critical to all communities. Secretary Krancer also mentioned the Governor's new Energy Executive, Patrick Henderson, who will oversee the Commonwealth's energy issues. Dr. Frank extended a standing invitation to Secretary Krancer to attend EJAB meetings.

Imagine Larimer:

Holly Cairns introduced Carlos Gasca of The Kingsley Foundation who gave a power point presentation on Imagine Larimer. Imagine Larimer is a community sustainability project being developed for a neighborhood in Pittsburgh. The community sustainability project will rebuild the area by making the neighborhood self-sufficient. The community would generate its own electricity with solar panels and produce food utilizing community gardens and urban farms. The sustainable community concept will be presented to community members through various workshops.

Marcellus Shale & Forced Pooling Legislation:

Dr. Frank introduced Scott Perry, Director of the Bureau of Oil and Gas Management who gave a presentation on Marcellus Shale and forced pooling legislation. He gave an update on the increased oil and gas permitting and explained forced pooling legislation. Mr. Perry mentioned that Pennsylvania does have a forced pooling law in place since 1961 called the Oil and Gas Conservation Law which governs wells deeper than Marcellus Shale wells. Forced pooling means that if the home owner doesn't have a lease with the operator drilling in the area, they can forcibly integrate themselves into their activity or the operator can forcibly pull the home owner into their activity.

Public Comment Period:

The Chair opened the floor for public comments. There were no public comments presented.

New/Unfinished Business, Questions and Comment Period:

Dr. Frank mentioned the upcoming EPA Brownfields Conference and asked how the Board could assist. Ann Morrison suggested that the Board offer Carlos Gasca of The Kingsley Foundation a scholarship for the EPA Brownfields Conference in April. It was also suggested that other regional community groups be considered for scholarships to the conference.

Rev. Strand withdrew his original request for sponsorship for the EJ Caucus. Dr. Frank recommended that the Board prepare letters to encourage conference participation.

Ann Morrison mentioned that the bylaws for the Board need to be revised. Ms. Morrison will make a few language changes regarding voting procedures. Nora Carreras mentioned the policy on residency for Board members. It was suggested that Ms. Carreras check the legal policy of the department's residency policy for membership. There was also a discussion on the current number of board members and past attendance records. It was agreed that this item will be discussed at a future meeting. It was suggested that utilizing a conference bridge for each meeting would allow for more members to participate.

Dr. Frank adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm.