

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD**  
RACHEL CARSON STATE OFFICE BUILDING, DELAWARE ROOM  
400 MARKET STREET, HARRISBURG, PA  
NOVEMBER 5, 2014 MINUTES

**Members in Attendance**

Dr. Arthur Frank, John G. Waffenschmidt, Laureen Boles, Dr. Mark White (via telephone), Dr. Horace Strand (via telephone), Eli Brill (via telephone), Hazem Hijazi (via telephone), Adam H. Cutler (via telephone).

**Members Absent**

Erlinda Aguiar (unexcused), Marcia Hinton (unexcused), Mary Vuccola (unexcused), Clea Patrick-Hollis (excused).

**Non-Members**

Kimberly Morewood, Alice Wright, Glenda Davidson

**Members of the Public**

Yasmunah Beebeejan, Tracy Raymond

**Call to Order**

Chair, Arthur Frank, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30.

**Approval of Minutes**

Dr. Frank asked if there were any comments or corrections to the August 5, 2014 Minutes. Dr. Frank then called for a motion for approval of the Minutes. Motion passed to approve the minutes.

**Environmental Advocate Updates**

Director Kim Morewood informed the members of the appointment of Acting Secretary Dana Aunkst.

Ms. Morewood gave a presentation to the CAC to explain about the Office of Environmental Advocate and also demonstrated maps of EJ areas that will be displayed at each regional DEP office. CAC is also interested in having a joint meeting with EJAB. OEA worked with the Foundation for PA Watersheds to complete the map project.

The proposed Shell plant in Beaver County is progressing with their public meetings and Ms. Morewood received notice of additional meetings coming up. Shell is opting into being an EJ participant in terms of enhanced public participation even though they are not required.

Ms. Morewood discussed the proposed Tenaska natural gas power plant with the group. The air permit for the facility triggers the EJ policy but the NPDES permit does not. Nonetheless, the region is doing a joint public meeting for the requirements for those permits because the area

impact for the air falls into an EJ community. The meeting most likely won't happen until after the holidays.

Ms. Morewood introduced the possibility of a new format for community meetings that the Board would like to do more of in the future. For example, have an open house where we provide tables and people working in the environmental justice communities could show the resources that they offer. Ms. Morewood had a list of the potential partners and listed the partners to the group.

### **Alice Wright's Update**

Ms. Wright spoke about accomplishments. In West Philadelphia, the Overbrook Environmental Education Center had a "Did You Know" campaign. A video was made which is on YouTube. The other accomplishment is the City of Philadelphia's Soil Safety Advisory Committee reached out to other states to get ideas on reutilizing vacant land and abandoned properties. Ms. Wright also told the board that she would like to see them do something very innovative and look at cumulative impact.

### **Recommendations to DEP**

Mr. Eli Brill saw an entry in the EJAB Regional Report about Delta Thermo. There is a pending appeal before the Environmental Hearing Board on the Delta Thermo air quality permit and then there are citizen appeals. Mr. Brill recommended the entry could be amended to say there's litigation by industry and several citizens or a citizen group.

Dr. Frank recommended the board revise the agenda so that at every meeting we have on our agenda a response to our previous recommendation to see how far we have gotten or what reactions whatsoever to recommendations. Also, the board can assign someone to be responsible for tracking and bringing reports as to how many of our recommendations have been acted on and how many we have not. Alice told the board that there are recommendations available from a conference held at the University of Pennsylvania at which DEP participated.

Dr. Frank motioned for the board to make a formal agenda item to track recommendations and have someone respond at each meeting. The motion was seconded and opened for discussion. Dr. Frank called for a vote on the motion to create an ad hoc committee to track formal motions by way of recommendation from the board. The motion carried. Dr. Frank appointed Dr. Strand as the first chair of the ad hoc committee and Adam Cutler will assist.

### **Chester Listening Session**

Kim told the board that the listening session comments are in the process of being finalized, will be posted to DEP's website and final copies sent to the board.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

John Waffenschmidt discussed cumulative impact with the board. Mr. Waffenschmidt explained that there are some advocates in the environmental justice movement that make the

argument that every single community has its own unique stressors and that those stressors need to be taken into account when you bring in an additional industry element, but this is hard to measure. A recommendation was made for the board to have a session that allows a more open conversation.

### **Drug Disposal Issue**

A member of the board was instructed to speak with Ms. Henry of DEP's Policy Office. The member spoke with her and gave her the information. Ms. Morewood followed up with the Policy Office and informed the board that the response from Policy was that the Secretary is aware of the recommendation, but that change needs to be done legislatively. Mr. Waffenschmidt said he would approach the legislature and ask them to search for a sponsor to go out to the NGO community in Pennsylvania and ask if anybody wants to support it. The board discussed other ways to make their recommendations.

### **EJ Screen Tool**

Ms. Morewood informed the board that the EJ Screen is a tool the EPA developed and it fits into the board's discussion of cumulative impacts. This is a tool that will pull up all of these different factors in a particular community to show the user how that community is currently impacted. There is a potential for a presentation on this tool in 2015. There is a fact sheet about the tool and Ms. Morewood said she could forward that to the board.

### **Brandon Diehl – Foundation for PA Watersheds**

Mr. Diehl reported to the board that the foundation has been working with Ms. Morewood to create a portfolio of projects in the western part of the state. The foundation has identified about 10 projects and about 50% meets their mission statement to be funded. The foundation's expectations are that within the next week, they will find two projects to provide \$15,000 each so they can implement projects. The projects are related to water quality.

The foundation is willing to put \$2,000 towards the board's meeting in Pittsburgh sometime during spring 2015. The funds can be used to help offset the cost of lunch or for the transportation of a guest speaker from, preferably a non-profit, to discuss how members can mobilize to become more of an open advocate to empower communities.

### **Community Listening Session**

Dr. Frank outlined the structure for the Community Listening Session. Dr. Frank will be opening the session and four local leaders from the City of Chester were pre-registered to speak. The goal of the session is to listen to, acknowledge, and thank the commenters. All comments will be captured by a stenographer and then turned into a comment and response document. Once the pre-registered commenters are finished, the floor will be opened around 6:15 pm to any walk-in commenters and the session will close at 8:00 pm, but not later than 10:00 pm, depending upon the number of speakers.

Dr. Strand suggested that should it become necessary to gain clarity from speakers on their subject matter or a recommendation, the Board members could engage the speakers. Dr. Frank

clarified that this approach is acceptable, but the Board is not responding as a representative of the Department.

**Public Comment Period**

Yasmunah Beebejan from the University of London attended the meeting and told the board the reason for her visit is because she is doing research on shale gas extraction and also environmental justice. She has been doing work on comparing America to Europe. She told the board that environmental justice has not been developed in Europe.

**New/Unfinished Business**

There was no new or unfinished business to discuss.

**Adjournment**

With no further business before the Board, Dr. Frank moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 am.