

## Minutes of EJAB

**Meeting Date:** February 3, 2009

**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 8:50 am, Arthur Frank presiding.

### **Members in attendance:**

Arthur Frank	Ayanna King
Mark White	Reverend Rocky Brown
Erlinda Aguiar	Patrick O'Neill
Ann Morrison	

### **Members absent (excused):**

Clea Hollis	Mario Browne
C Nolan Howell	Hazem Hijazi
Mary Vuccola	Laureen Boles
Eli Brill	

### **Members absent (unexcused):**

Luvennise Gamble

### **Non-members:**

Marylou Barton	Holly Cairns
Nora Carreras	Alice Wright
Doan Barefield	Christina Simeone

### Welcome and Introductions

Arthur Frank, Chair welcomed everyone.

### Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Ann Morrison to approve the minutes with changes from the November 19, 2008 meeting.
- Seconded by: Mark White
  - Motion carried

### OEA Staff Reports

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

SW Advocate, Holly Cairns talked about the Geo-thermal project, which she has been working on with the Hill District. In the next few months an event will be held to roll out the project.

### **Public Comment Period**

Chair opened the floor for any public comments.

### **Conference Update and Next Steps**

Chair is very pleased with the planning of the conference, with the exceptions that it has been DEP Staff working on conference. Since the EJAB requested the conference in the strategic plan, he would appreciate their participation.

Carreras gave the Board an overview of the conference's web page. She showed them the newest addition to the web site, which was the volunteer link. People interested in volunteering for the conference can download a form and submit it to us. As donations are received the list will be updated.

Deadline for scholarship applications was January 30, 2009. A selection committee (Advocates, Mark White, Patrick O'Neil, Mario Browne, Ann Morrison and Marylou Barton, as an alternate reviewer) will review and score each application. Once this process is completed those awarded will be notified.

All EJAB members should register for the conference, this way the committee will be able to keep track of how many spaces remain. Members should also make their hotel arrangements as well for the conference.

King will assign EJAB members to perform introductions and oversee conference breakout sessions.

Cairns informed the EJAB members that exhibitor letters and contracts were mailed or e-mailed to several Businesses. The EJAB was asked to forward additional businesses or organization's contact information to Holly for potential exhibit space.

- A motion was made by Erlinda Aguiar to fill empty booth space at a reduced rate to fill empty spaces.
- Seconded by: Mark White
  - Motion carried

### **Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance**

Chair asked EJAB member, Mark White for a report on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry (ATSDR), which is a federal health agency that funds the Health Assessment Program at PA DOH. ATSDR has a program grant currently called the Hazardous Substances Emergency Events Surveillance (HSEES). States can apply to receive funding to conduct reporting activities on certain releases or spills of certain

chemicals. ATSDR has a list of hazardous substances that they want reports on; the program will not fund any new States. White has contacted ATSDR and would like to know when funding comes available.

### **Climate Change Update & EJ Presentation Report Out**

Chair asked for updates from Christina Simeone, Policy Office and Mark White, EJAB member. Mark gave a brief overview about his experience presenting the environmental justice concerns to the Climate Change Advisory Council (CCAC) and how well it was received. Simeone talked about the PA Climate Change Act of 2008, whereas the Climate Change Advisory Committee's report is due October 2009. The CCAC will monitor the Effect of the Federal Law by reviewing EPA's proposed CO2 Underground Injection and the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking to regulate Green House Gas (GHG) under the Clean Air Act. Simeone elaborated on options for the EJAB, which included:

- Presenting GHG reduction options the CCAC for consideration
- Review and analyze current GHG reduction options for potential impact to environmental justice (EJ) communities. Present the CCAC with a list of potential EJ concerns that correspond to specific GHG work plans or general policy issues
- Attend CCAC meetings and subcommittee meetings to raise awareness of EJ concerns
- Attend regional outreach meetings

Christina elaborated throughout her PowerPoint presentation how these options can be done as well as gave good examples of what is happening in California. The Chair asked Simeone to come back and give the Board an update in May.

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

- Doan Barefield advised the Board of the new procedures for hotel arrangements and gave everyone a copy of the preferred hotel list for Harrisburg.
- Motion to adjourn meeting by: Rocky Brown
- Seconded by: Mark White
- All in favor: motion carried

Adjourned at 12:35 pm