

Minutes of EJAB

Meeting Date: May 5, 2009

Call to order: The quarterly meeting of the Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJAB) 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	Eli Brill
Laureen Boles	Patrick O'Neill
Hazem Hijazi	Mary Vuccola

Members absent (excused):

Clea Hollis	Mario Browne
Erlinda Aguiar	Laureen Boles
Ann Morrison	Reverend Rocky Brown

Members absent (unexcused):

C Nolan Howell

Non-members:

Marylou Barton	Holly Cairns
Nora Carreras	Alice Wright
Doan Barefield	Rob Altenburg
Janis Dean	

Welcome and Introductions

Arthur Frank, Chair welcomed everyone.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Arthur Frank to approve the minutes.
- Seconded by: Mark White
 - Motion carried

OEA Staff Reports

Arthur Frank asked for a brief summary of the Office of the Environmental Advocate (OEA) staff reports.

- Ayanna King, OEA Director, informed the group about the State EJ Cooperative Agreement (SEJCA). The Agreement came out in February and the deadline was April 10, 2009. Rob Altenburg, Office of Policy, played an instrumental role in preparing the application for submission. The SEJCA would address indoor asthma triggers and out-door air quality by supporting the in-home asthma training by community cleanups centered on where the children live in the City of Chester. The SEJCA is \$160,000 over a three year period. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will partner with Crozer's Kid Asthma Management Program (KAMP) and the Chester Environmental Partnership (CEP).

The Agreement was accepted by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to move on to the next phase; DEP should hear something by this summer.

- SE Advocate, Alice Wright-Bailey mentioned that an Environmental Excellence Award nominating Reverend Strand, from Chester, PA will be submitted to EPA. The deadline for submissions is May 13.

Wright will forward her submission to the Board for further review in hopes the Board will write a letter of support.

- Motion to send a letter of support made by Mark White
 - Seconded by: Ayanna King
 - All in favor: motion carried
- King asked Wright to update the Board on how the General Permits (GP) process has increased in her region.

Wright mentioned that the GP's are being submitted to Central Office therefore creating some confusion in who should attend the public meetings. The Region is not allotted overtime to attend the evening meetings when scheduled. Technical questions are being asked and she is not equipped to answer the technical GP questions. Wright has asked for a fact sheet to be developed for her to use at these meetings.

It was suggested to have Ken Reisinger, Bureau of Waste Management, come and explain the GP process to the Board.

Public Comment Period

Chair opened the floor for any public comments.

- none

Conference Debriefing

Over a year ago, the outcome of the EJAB's Strategic planning session was to hold a Statewide EJ Conference. The OEA staff took the lead and made things happen.

A round of applause was given to the OEA Staff after Frank mentioned what an outstanding job they did at the conference. He also thanked the Board for stepping up, manning the registration tables, chaired meetings, and networking with participants.

Discussion took place on the next steps based on the conference outcomes. Some talked about having another conference in two years. King openly disagreed with this suggestion and explained that the overall purpose was to build a statewide EJ coalition and it would be more feasible to build the coalition and do a conference in four to five years to grant them the opportunity to develop workshops around the work they are doing. King also suggested that if the EJAB is interested in a future conference that they must hire a conference planner because it's too demanding on the OEA staff. In addition, these coalition members could participate on climate change policies and represent Pennsylvania in the NE Environmental Justice Coalition led by WEACTION.

Michael Shoff, Chief, Division of Technical and Financial Assistance

Arthur Frank introduced Mr. Shoff who gave a power point presentation on Chapter 302, Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Operators Certification Program.

Shoff talked about the initiative to revise the Operators Certification Program, which began in 1996 with amendments to the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Certification was put in place in 2002. There are nine key elements that EPA requires, the requirements are as follows: Classification framework for community water systems and non-transient, non-community water systems, operators and systems; standards for certification, education, examination and experience; continuing education and process control decisions. Each operator has three years to complete the requirements. Authority is divided between DEP, the Environmental Quality Board (EQB), and the Certification Board.

There are currently ten thousand active operators; an additional one thousand operators are needed. The operators average cost to obtain a certificate is \$235 and \$360 to maintain the license.

Strategic Plan Review & Next Steps After Conference

The Board discussed different ideas on how to keep those who attended the conference engaged and enthusiastic.

New/Unfinished Business, Questions, and Comment Period

King mentioned she is in the process of having all conference presenters who had presentations posted to the EJ web site, along with some photos.

White asked the Board if they periodically wanted to receive updates on the projects he is working on that may affect DEP/EJ? The Board thought it to be a good idea.

Agenda for August meeting: Discussion of Strategic Plan; invite someone to talk about general permits.

- Motion to adjourn meeting by: Mark White
- Seconded by: Patrick O'Neill
- All in favor: motion carried

Adjourned at 11:45 am