

Environmental Justice Advisory Board Meeting

February 21st, 2012

Rachel Carson State Office Building, 14th Floor Conference Room

8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Attendance	
Erlinda Aguiar	Dr. Clea Patrick Hollis
Laureen Boles (via phone)	Dr. Horace Strand
Eli Brill	Mary Vuccola
Nora Carreras	John Waffenschmidt
Dr. Arthur Frank	Dr. Mark White
Hazem Hijazi	Adam Cutler

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Arthur Frank called the meeting to order. Arthur had a couple of announcements for the group. Since the last meeting, Ann Morrison resigned from her position due to work changes. He encouraged members to nominate people that they thought would be a good addition to the board, although the Philadelphia region is now well represented. He asked the members to go around the table and introduce themselves and explain their backgrounds and regions.

Approval of Minutes of August 2, 2011 Meeting

The approval of minutes was delayed until later in the meeting.

DEP Updates & Reorganization

Dr. Arthur Frank introduced Alisa Harris, Special Deputy Secretary for External Affairs.

Ms. Harris thanked the Board for taking time away from their jobs to come to the meeting. She informed the board that the Citizens Advisory Council was meeting today to appoint their new Executive Director and she would be in attendance for both meetings.

Ms. Harris informed the Board about the WebEx schedule that is coming up and will also be posted on the DEP website. The Department WebEx's will be a training tool, compliance assistance tool, an

important initiative. The Department would also like to reach out to the communities that EJAB members work with to make sure they receive information. She encourages members to suggest topics that they feel need to be addressed with the public. Board members should also help identify resources and venues to explain new regulations, and educate about commenting periods for new regulations.

The plans for 2012 / 2013 were discussed. Title 58, Act 13 has been signed by the Governor, which deals with many of the environmental issues that the state currently faces. This Act entails impact fees. Some of the monies that will come from the impact fee will be set aside for Growing Greener and many other projects, covering something for everyone.

There are no major surprises coming for the agency with the 2012 / 2013 budget. Jeff Logan, Executive Deputy Secretary for Administration and Management, has been cleaning up accounting procedures and working with coding. We expect about \$6 million a year into DEP from the impact fees.

The floor was then opened for the Board members to ask Ms. Harris questions. Arthur Frank inquires about the 5% budget loss and how it plays out for the programs with the \$6 million coming in. Ms. Harris explains that this numbers are only predictions and the final amount is not in the hands of the Agency.

Ms. Harris answers that there has been major effort to get suppliers from across the state involved with the Marcellus Shale supplies. They are looking into suppliers across the state to provide materials for the Marcellus Shale pipeline, instead of getting these items elsewhere. There is also a job fair being planned in the Southeast part of the state in an effort to get people trained and certified.

Approval of Minutes

Motion of approval was made. There are a few changes. Motion is called to approve minutes, as amended, and approval is seconded and all are in favor.

Election of Officers

Laureen Boles is dialed into the meeting via conference call. Arthur Frank opens the floor to nominate any additional candidates for Chair and no motion is made. The Board conducted elections, also announcing that two years from today a new election will be held. For Chair, the nominations are Arthur Frank and Horace Strand. Arthur Frank is voted to remain Chair. For Vice Chair, the motion is made to add Horace Strand to the ballot. Dr. Strand is nominated to be Vice Chair. For Parliamentarian, Mary Vuccola receives a nomination from a board member and accepts the nomination to be on the ballot. Laureen nominates Terri Davin to be parliamentarian. Arthur nominated Adam Cutler, but he declines. Mary Vuccola is voted in to be parliamentarian. Reverend Strand was elected the new Vice Chair.

OEA Staff Reports

There was a meeting on emergency planning for the City of Philadelphia Health Department, City of Philadelphia, and County Health Department, in regards to the two storms that hit recently. They suffered the worst and needed emergency kits. They are currently providing resources to homes.

A group from the University of Pennsylvania gave a presentation about academia working with community based organizations. They discussed funding that was cut, grants that can be offered, partnering to provide services, and raising funds for projects that are currently not funded.

Ardmore Community is experiencing some issues with an Act 2 site. The community wants DEP to commit to further testing based on the initial testing results. There was discussion on stormwater management issues in relation to an Act 2 site. There are six properties that need to be tested, but the community wants more than six tested. Act 2 provides the applicant with options and it is voluntary. Residents are not allowing testing until commitment for more testing. The community has concerns. There are discussions on testing and sampling.

Use of Acid Mine Drainage for Hydraulic Fracturing

Kelly Heffner and John Stefanko give their presentation on the use of Acid Mine Drainage. Multiple departments were pulled together to come up with a White Paper on the subject. The review team put out a White Paper on November 18th and they had conducted internal and external feedback sessions. The White Paper was requested to be finalized by the end of February. After the presentation, they open the floor for questions and answers.

Act 13 Discussion

Dan Lapato, Deputy Director of External Affairs, joins the meeting. Mr. Lapato discusses Act 13 pertaining to the fee discussions and distribution. Dan gives the Board a breakdown of what funding different programs will receive and what the counties and municipalities that have to enforce the impact fee will receive.

There are discussions pertaining to revenue and budget, where the funds come from, and specifics on how the money will be used.

Public Comment Period

There is no public comment given for the meeting.

OEA Staff Reports Continued...

Holly Cairns gives her staff report. Holly encourages the Board to send suggestions on ideas that will educate an environmental group, their constituents, and items in relation to the DEP. Her idea for an introduction WebEx could be an introduction to DEP and a plain language breakdown of all the programs that the Department encompasses. The members should email ideas or suggestions and to prioritize WebEx sessions. Once Holly receives all the topics, she will send out an e-mail to the Board

Members containing all the proposed topics. Nora Carreras explains what WebEx's entail and how they work.

Arthur Frank mentioned that there are programs which will not receive additional funding, including the Asthma Prevention Program. He encourages members to stand up for programs that they think need to keep funding.

Nora passes around information for the Environmental Justice Work Group. They are also updating the website, framing it as a tool to be used by the public.

EJAB Bylaws

The option of proxy voting is brought up and what needs to be changed with it. Any announcement of proxy must be made before the meeting or during the meeting and sent to a staff, non-biased person. Voting can be made by proxy, conference call or another option. There is a motion made to make suggestions for next meeting and then to discuss then. This motion was seconded and passed.

Lunch

The board breaks at noon for lunch.

EJAB Planning for 2012

Mark White wants to hear concerns from other groups and the academia and to increase the public impact. Arthur Frank seconds that interest, to invite folks in and take some of the cases and invite those involved to the meeting. Clea Hollis wants the group to have more visibility to the public. They can discuss Act 2 and the Public impact to groups. They can use new technologies include the WebEx sessions to educate about what the board entails. Arthur Frank inquires about civic organizations in the state that are dealing with Environmental Justice and the EJ mission. A consortium of Universities (PERC) used to be run by DEP and Arthur Frank is interested in educating people by using this consortium again.

Alisa Harris suggests that the Board can probably combine several suggestions given. Educate the public about EJ and the role of the board, go into the communities, EJ 2014 going forward need feedback from communities. She inquires what written materials are going to be in different languages that can be distributed. The group may want to think about website and marketing. What is EJAB? What does the Board do? People are not coming to EJAB with problems. Get people to attend meetings and hear their concerns. There is a suggestion that the Board has a meeting offsite. Alisa asks if some board members would be willing to travel, much like the Citizens Advisory Council does for their on-site visits and public meetings across the state.

There is a suggestion that they send out notice for listening sessions in future. Members can host in their respective areas. They may want to consider a more formal approach. Identify others to get involved.

The EJ 2014 documents are reviewed. The Board considers having committees. They want to research if there are limits to invite groups/public to meetings.

The Board would like to get input from Environmental Health Sciences, especially regarding the Marcellus Shale health information. Alisa Harris brings up that the Department recently got a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Health (DOH). The Department is coordinating their responses of health matters with DOH. Also, due to the Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission, there was a recommendation that more health information be shared and dispersed due to the link between health and the environment.

New and Unfinished Business

Facilitation for discussion of Bylaws must be attended by a neutral party. Two weeks to make bylaw comments. The comments are to be emailed to Mary and to be discussed at next meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn.