

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD
RCSOB, 16TH FLOOR, DELAWARE ROOM
HARRISBURG, PA
May 3, 2016

Members in Attendance

Arthur Frank, Adam Cutler, John Waffenschmidt, Eli Brill, Hazem Hijazi, Clea Hollis, Kirk Jalbert, Allison Robinson, Mark White (via telephone)

Members Absent

Horace Strand, Lauren Boles

Department of Environmental Protection Staff Present

Carl Jones, Jr., Environmental Justice Director

Nora Alwine, Environmental Justice Western Regional Coordinator

Call to Order

Chairman Arthur Frank welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Acting Chairman Adam Cutler made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2016. The motion was seconded by Clea Hollis and unanimously approved. Minutes adopted.

Update from Carl Jones

Nora Alwine has been added as the newest member of the Director's office. Nora will be located in the Southwest Region.

There will be internal workgroup sessions held with the Regional Directors, Assistant Regional Directors, Bureau Directors, and other individuals within the Office of Program Integration regarding the integration of environmental justice into every facet of the Department.

Presentations

Oil & Gas in Pennsylvania

Kirk Jalbert, EJBA Board member and manager of community-based research and engagement at the FracTracker Alliance, an environmental nonprofit organization that advocates for information transparency presented an introduction to oil and gas extraction in Pennsylvania, offered an overview of the shale gas extraction process, discussed risks and community impacts, and provided thoughts about adapting environmental justice to oil and gas.

Ambler Superfund Site

Steve Sinding the Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Manager from the Southeast Regional Office provided a brief history of Ambler, the remediation process that is currently occurring at the Ambler location pursuant to CERCLA including the Act 2 process and EPA Superfund management.

IT Initiatives

Sean Crager the Chief Information Officer at DEP gave an overview of the current state of DEP IT and the modernization effort that is underway including e-permitting and interagency collaboration to develop mobile applications based off of other agencies existing mobile successes.

Legislative Director

Sarah Clark the Legislative Director at DEP gave an update on legislation currently pending.

Pipeline Taskforce Update

Ann Roda the Director of the Office Program Integration gave an update on the pipeline taskforce. Specifically, through the Taskforce, a report was generated and nearly 200 recommendations were identified. The report was submitted to the Governor's Office, and the Governor's Office is continuing to review it. The Department is beginning to sit down and look at the recommendations that were identified for the Department of Environmental Protection, reviewing the recommendations, what do the recommendations look like for the Department, can a timeframe be identified.

Board Strategic Planning

Discussion regarding what the Board would like to do.

- Need accountability by DEP back to the Board.
- Transparency and accountability between the Board and the public.
- Include environmental justice representatives in the areas where listening sessions will be held.
- What is the current working definition of EJ? Minority percentage and poverty is insufficient.
- Listen to what people have to say, but the reverse should be anticipated. “What can DEP do for us? What can EJ and the EJ Board do for us in the community or as an organization?” The Board must have answers for those questions.
- How can we create support systems and the resources that would allow communities to find the experts that they need?
- Expertise is needed, either a departmental employee or someone on loan or part-time from the Department of Health, to be able to talk about health and toxicology. DEP worries about the impact of exposures in a community with no way to measure health.
- Address health associated with economic level. Health and economics are missing from the general EJ equation. Overwhelming data shows a direct link between the economics of an individual and the health outcome.

Chairman Frank made a motion that the Board ask DEP, through Carl, to provide to the members of the Board the process by which DEP does health risk assessments and, specifically, DEP’s health risk assessment for Ambler.

Motion seconded by Clea Hollis. Motion approved unanimously.

Kirk Jalbert made a motion as follows:

The board makes the following recommendations: 1) that the DEP review the siting of Range Resources’ oil and gas wells according to the state’s environmental justice indicators; 2) that the DEP reevaluate

criteria used by the state to designate “areas of concern” and “trigger permits” under the Enhanced Public Participation Policy; and 3) that the DEP make known what steps will be taken to include public participation in this process. The board makes these recommendations in order to ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, income, and cultures in Pennsylvania with respect to development and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, including residents living in oil and gas communities.

Motion seconded by Clea Hollis. Motion carried, with one abstention (John Waffenschmidt).

New/Unfinished Business:

- Act 2
- Definition of EJ
- How can you have fair treatment and meaningful involvement be accomplished with a 45-day review time?
- Clash of policy between the will of the elected body and EJAB
- Overall policy of the State is fundamental issue
- Find EJ champion in legislative body to work with the Board

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Environmental Justice Advisory Board is planned for Tuesday, August 2, 2016.

Adjourn:

**Chairman Frank made a motion to adjourn.
Seconded by Adam Cutler.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.