

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 3, 2003
Room 105, Rachel Carson State Office Building
Harrisburg, PA.

In the absence of the Interim Chairperson Edward Thomas, Alisa Harris called the Environmental Justice Advisory Board meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Members in Attendance:

Mr. Edward Thomas
Mr. Jerome Balter, Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
Mr. Wilder Bancroft, Allegheny County Health Department
Mr. Patrick O'Neill, City of Philadelphia Law Department
Ms. Ayanna King, Ayanna's Consulting & Concepts
Ms. Alisa Harris, Pa. DEP
Ms. Deborah Kilmartin, Kilmartin Environmental Consulting, Inc.
Mr. Edgar Howard
Mr. Gary Horton, Sons of Lake Erie

Members not in Attendance:

Mr. Truong Phuong, International Service Center
Mr. Alfred Ryan, PECO Energy
Mr. Sis-Obed Torres Cordero, Council of Spanish Organization
Mr. Eli Brill, Dechert, Price & Rhoads
Dr. Stephen Kauffman, Center for Social Work Education
Mr. Mark Freed, Langsam Stevens, LLP
Mr. Calvin Little

Others in Attendance:

Marcus Kohl
Stan Sneath
Michael Corbin
Bill Cluck
Janis Dean
Katie Fonte
Krishnan Ramamurthy
Holly Cairns
Lou Guerra, Jr.
Michael Terretti
Justina Wasicek
Alice Wright

Karen Unruh
Janine Legg
Bob Diehl
Ann Miller
Toni Flora

Alisa Harris made a motion to approve the minutes of April 1, 2003. The minutes were approved by all board members.

There were discussions on how to expand and recruit members for the Environmental Justice Advisory Board.

Patrick O'Neill suggested monthly conference calls and re-establish subcommittees. He also suggested that the board look at the regular attendance at meetings. Anyone missing more than two consecutive meetings without prior notice, should be asked to resign from the board.

Alisa Harris said that Ed is working on getting new members. She also said that if any of the members know of anyone who is interested in joining the advisory board, contact Ed Thomas.

Patrick O'Neill suggested that the board look at the original work group membership as potential members to the advisory board.

Edward Thomas distributed a current composition of the advisory board to all members present. He suggested that the board increase its size to 21 members, adding 4 women, two of from Hispanic/Latino, one from community groups, one from Academia and one Caucasian from community groups, and one African American from Academia and one from northcentral regional office.

Edward Thomas suggested that the board members concentrate on membership in the area of gender, community representation and the need for Hispanic/Latino representation on the board.

Alisa Harris suggested that community organizations be added when looking for members to the advisory board.

Edward Thomas Also suggested to the board that Dr. Stephen Kauffman and Truong Phuong be asked to resign from the advisory board because of lack of attendance. He said that Calvin Little may move to Delaware and that would leave another vacancy on the board. Ed's suggestion was to replace 3 members and add four new members to the board to make a total of 21.

A suggestion was made to have a representative on the board from City of Chester.

There were various names given as potential members to the advisory board.

Edward Thomas suggested that a conference call be scheduled to discuss potential members to the advisory board. A date of July 8 for the conference call was approved by the members. There will be a final decision on new board members at the next Environmental Justice Advisory meeting on August 5.

The board will submit an article in the Weekly Update for solicitation of new members for the Environmental Justice Advisory Board.

Jerome Balter expressed his concern about what the advisory board wanted to accomplish and what direction was the board going. He suggested that the board pick two or three issues to concentrate on and then members could be assigned to the specific issues to resolve.

Alisa Harris said that Ayanna King suggested regional work groups to accomplish the goals of the advisory board.

Bylaws

The interim Bylaws were passed with a quorum of 7 members.

Mission Statement

Jerome Balter suggested that the first paragraph read, "The Environmental Justice Advisory Board provides a forum for protecting the health of all communities."

Edward Thomas said the focus is on environmental justice communities first then public health.

Deborah Kilmartin said we are not a public health advisory board; we are the Environmental Justice Advisory Board.

Michael Corbin suggested "The Environmental Justice Advisory Board focuses on human health and the environment in low-income minority communities.

Wilder Bancroft suggested that #3, last phrase should read compliance monitoring program.

Stan Sneath suggested that # 3, last phrase should read compliance monitoring and assurance program.

All board members with the approved changes approved the Mission Statement for the Environmental Justice Advisory Board.

There was discussion among the board members over the accepted definition of Cumulative Impact Analysis.

The information on cumulative impact analysis was distributed to the board members for discussion purposes only. This was to make sure that everyone on the board had a clear understanding what cumulative impact analysis involved.

There was a disagreement concerning the definition of cumulative impact analysis. Whether the Board should use the definition that was part of the original work group or the definition adopted by Deborah Kilmartin's subcommittee.

Jerome Balter suggested trigger permits and opt-in permits, etc. be added to the section "under what circumstances are cumulative impact analyses conducted"?

Deborah Kilmartin and **Krishnan Ramamurthy** will work out a more complete definition for Cumulative Impact Analysis.

PUBLIC COMMENT

William Cluck an environmental attorney spoke to the board concerning the Harrisburg Incinerator.

END OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Justina Wasicek: gave a presentation on Environmental Justice Complaint/ Grievance Procedure.

Justina Wasicek: explained to the board members what the Department is doing to formalize an environmental justice complaint and to make sure that bureaus throughout DEP are responding to environmental justice issues.

Alisa Harris said that Jerome Balter asked if DEP had a procedure that would allow a community or citizen to complain. The department relies on the Environmental Hearing Board appeal process.

Alisa Harris asked the advisory board what type of process a citizen or a community should have to complain about a problem?

Alisa Harris and **Justina Wasick** will develop a process for the board on complaints from citizens and communities and what direction and procedures that complaint should flow.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.
Minutes taken by Lorraine Wagner