

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD

May 6, 2026

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Adam Cutler called the meeting to order. Chair Cutler took roll call, and quorum was established and was able to proceed.

MINUTES:

Vice Chair Rashida Lovely, made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jackie Omotalade, motion carried and was approved.

Attendance:

EJAB MEMBERS PRESENT in person: Chair: Adam Cutler Vice Chair: Rashida Lovely • Jenn Baka • Bobby Hughes • Jerome Shabazz • Sophia Lee • Lisa DePiaoli • Maurice Sampson • Hear Bedi • Rafiyqa Muhammad • Mia Ray • Jackie Omotalade EJAB MEMBERS NOT PRESENT • Ramon Johnson • Curtis Jones • Tom Torres	DEP STAFF PRESENT IN PERSON: • Fernando Treviño • Justin Dula • Jordi Comas • John Roper • Nikolina Gaudin • Lena Smith DEP STAFF on Teams: • Eli Downie • Emily Green • Elspeth Koehle • Maria Tavera Vilchis • Ian Irvin
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PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of the public commented during the open public comment period.

UPDATES FROM DEP / OEJ

Special Deputy Treviño provided updates to the members on the recent activities of the Office of Environmental Justice, including participation in national working groups, attending and presenting at conferences, attending and convening community

engagement events, and providing updates and trainings internally and publicly on the final EJ Policy and PennEnviroScreen. An EJ Project Portal is available on the OEJ website with regular monthly updates on the Department's Enhanced Public Participation activity.

Questions:

Chair Cutler asked for clarification about Opt-In Requests origins, specifically if the request is community based or if the opt-in is an internal request and Special Deputy Sec. Treviño briefly went over the opt-in process and where the origin of the opt-ins came from.

Jenn Baka asked which facility is undergoing enhanced public participation? Due to concerns around Data Centers in her area and Special Deputy Sec. Treviño responded that the two trigger projects from the northeast are waste related. One is a waste transfer facility in Hazleton, the other a waste reduction and recycling facility.

Mia Ray asked for clarification on the broad language used to describe proactive engagement and Special Deputy Sec. Treviño responded that proactive engagement is designed to be broad and fluid to ensure we can meet the public constituencies of all demographics and walks of life, where they are. Allowing us to best engage with the various communities through the commonwealth.

The members had a general discussion about OEJs community outreach work, Data Center projects proposed in their area, and opportunities to provide information to members of the community while balancing their roles as members of EJAB.

Rafiyqa Muhammad raised the issue of illegal dumping and E-Waste in the South-Central Region, and members echoed her concerns about this statewide issue and opportunities for EJAB to address the issue.

DEP RECOMMENDATION REQUESTS:

PennEnviroScreen Working Group

Jordi Comas provided an update on the PennEnviroScreen Working Group and asked for recommendations on additional individuals to participate.

Assessing Enhanced Public Participation Effectiveness

Chair Cutler provided an update on the "Assessing Enhanced Public Participation Effectiveness Working Group." He summarized the working groups sentiments that the community feels like they are not heard, and they would like to hear more directly from

the community. The members and OEJ staff discussed opportunities and examples to draw on to evaluate the effectiveness of public participation.

SUBCOMMITTEE/PLANNING DISCUSSION

The members held an open planning discussion about potential topics EJAB could work on. Discussion topics included EJ considerations of Data Centers, opportunities to address illegal dumping and E-Waste, and considerations of outdated DEP documents relevant to EJ that could be updated. The EJAB board agreed to research Conservation Districts and Eco-Zones (Green-Zone).

NEW BUSINESS

- Chair Election - Rashida Lovely, EJAB Vice Chair
 - Due to a lack of quorum, the election did not take place and was scheduled for the next public meeting.
- Other items from the Board - Adam Cutler, EJAB Chair
 - No other items were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Cutler adjourned the meeting at 1:05PM