



Meeting Minutes

Monday February 28, 2022 - Virtual Meeting

At 3:02pm, Vice Chair Dr. Marian Johnson-Thompson called the meeting to order, read the ethics statement, and asked Ms. Renee Kramer to call the roll.

Board members present:

Vice-Chair Dr. Marian Johnson-Thompson

Jeff Anstead

Veronica Carter

Carolina Fonseca Jimenez

Randee Haven-O'Donnell

Dr. Danelle Lobdell

Marilynn Marsh-Robinson

Naeema Muhammad

Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler Jr.

Carlos Velasquez

Sherri White-Williamson

La' Meshia Whittington

Board members absent:

Chairman Dr. Jim Johnson

William Barber, III

Dr. Deepak Kumar

Elke Weil

Old Business:

Hearing no proposed adjustments to November 30, 2021, meeting minutes, a motion was made by Ms. Randee Haven-O'Donnell to accept the November 30, 2021, meeting minutes as printed, which was seconded by Ms. Sherri White-Williamson.

New Business:

1. Opening Remarks, DEQ Secretary Elizabeth S. Biser

Secretary Biser welcomed new board member, La' Meshia Whittington, as well as shared a few DEQ updates to the members: 1. Members of the Board have received a copy of the revised EJE Board's charter which membership requirements have been modeled after the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) charter; 2. Executive Order 246 was signed by Governor Cooper in January, an overview of which will be presented by the Governor's Policy Advisor, Jimmie Bellamy, during the meeting today; 3. There will be four public hearings in April on Biogas Digester General Permits. 4. DEQ has been doing extensive outreach related to the Division of Water Infrastructure funding. Shadi Eskaf will be providing an update on these details in this meeting. 5. Updates on the Clean Transportation Plan will also be shared in the meeting today.

2. New Member Introduction, La' Meshia Whittington, NC Black Alliance

Ms. Whittington provided an overview of her background to the members of the board and is thankful for this opportunity.

3. Executive Order 246, Jimmie Bellamy, Policy Advisor, Governor's Office

Mr. Bellamy provided an overview of Executive Order 246, while highlighting economy wide goals, transportation goals and the importance of environmental justice and equity.

4. Assessing Water Quality and Public Infrastructure Access: A Focused Analysis on Sampson County, Dr. Courtney Woods, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

Dr. Woods provided a presentation on her research on the water quality surrounding landfills in Sampson County.

Ms. Carter commented that coal ash sludge from Bladen County was transported to the landfills in Sampson County, therefore affecting the cumulative impacts in two EJ communities.

Ms. White-Williamson commented that DEQ's Division of Waste Management (DWM) has authority to investigate these areas.

Ms. Haven-O'Donnell asked if there are conservations within DWM to have counties be more responsible for their waste.

Ms. White-Williamson answered and was unaware of the happenings within DWM.

5. Division of Water Infrastructure Funding update, Director Shadi Eskaf

Mr. Eskaf presented an update on the process and outreach related to Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI) funding. The DWI ARPA Administration Plan was presented in early February and is now available on DEQ's website. An update to the state budget is the addition of funding to "project construction grants for public water systems and wastewater systems NC DEQ categorizes as at-risk of becoming distressed." Spring 2022 grant applications are due May 2nd. Listening sessions for stormwater funding priorities are happening March 4th and 10th. DWI will be meeting with Historically Underutilized Business Program Offices to ensure their participation in the DWI funding opportunities. Funding application trainings are happening until March 3rd and recording will be available on website.

Mr. Anstead offered to arrange Mr. Eskaf to meet with Greg Richardson and the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs. Mr. Anstead also asked if DWI has and/or can present to the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs and North Carolina Tribes.

Mr. Eskaf responded that we have not presented this to the Commission of Indian Affairs, but we would love an opportunity to do that. Mr. Eskaf would like to follow-up with Mr. Anstead on presenting to North Carolina Tribes and organizations.

6. Water Infrastructure Outreach Subcommittee update, Veronica Carter

Ms. Carter provided an overview of what was discussed at the latest water infrastructure outreach subcommittee. Subcommittee decided to focus on: education (EJ and Equity trainings to DEQ staff), behavioral change within DEQ, EJ trainings, stakeholder meetings, and meaningful engagement. Subcommittee would like to know more about the Public Participation Plan and DEQ Leadership training.

7. Clean Transportation Plan/Medium Heavy-Duty Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) State Action Plan Update – Jen Weiss, Department of Transportation

Ms. Weiss provided an update on the North Carolina Clean Transportation Plan (NCCTP) starting with an overview of Executive Order 80 and 246 with a clean transportation lens. The objectives of NC Clean Transportation Plan are to increase zero emission vehicles, decrease vehicle miles traveled, share best practices and increase awareness. The NCCTP Stakeholder Plan includes an Advisory Committee, Public Stakeholder Group, Targeted Outreach, and Workshops. Ms. Weiss is also open to suggestions from members of the board regarding outreach. NCCTP action plans are due September 30th, 2022, and final report is due April 7th, 2023.

Ms. Barrows provided an update and overview of the Medium Heavy-Duty (MHD) ZEV State Action Plan. The goals of this plan are to have 30% sales of MHD vehicle be zero emission vehicles by 2030 and 100% sales by 2050. NESCAUM will release MHD Action Plan for Public Comment beginning of March. Clean Transportation Plan will be developing their own MHD ZEV Plan for NC. The final plan will be developed by September 30, 2022, to align with the CTP.

Ms. Carter suggested Ms. Weiss and Ms. Barrows present this to the North Carolina League of Municipalities. They are meeting April 26th-28th in Wilmington.

Mr. Anstead recommend Ms. Weiss and Ms. Barrows also attend the Annual Indian Unity Conference into to meet and share these clean energy plans with Tribal Leaders of North Carolina. Mr. Anstead also offered to serve on one of the NCCTP Stakeholder Committees or Workgroups.

Ms. Weiss agreed to follow-up with Mr. Anstead regarding the specifics of the Indian Unity Conference.

Vice Chairwoman Dr. Johnson-Thompson asked to be provided the presentations' slides from today's meeting.

Ms. White-Williamson reminded the members of the board about the cumulative impacts subcommittee and welcomes any EJE board members who would like to join.

Ms. Marsh-Robinson asked for a status update on the RGGI EJ analysis.

Ms. Kramer responded the RGGI analysis hasn't been sent out to members of the board yet but for Board members to keep an eye out for that.

8. Adjourn

At 4:47 pm, Ms. Muhammad made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Carter.