

CJWG Meeting Notes

Webex - 1.21.25

Meeting Commence 2:10pm

*Disclaimer: *Please note this is not a word for word translation.*

Agenda:

1. Opening remarks
2. Roll call
3. Approve minutes
4. DAC review
5. Continued deliberation on new indicators
6. Next Steps

CJWG Members in Attendance:

- Alanah Keddell-Tuckey, EJ Director, Office of Environmental Justice, DEC
- Amy Klein, Executive Director, Capital Roots
- Michael DiRamio, Assistant Director, Energy and Climate Equity, NYSERDA
- Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE
- Elizabeth Furth, Empire Fellow, DOL
- Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
- Abigail (Abby) McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director, Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region
- Amber Johnson, Organizing and Training Director, New York Energy Democracy Alliance
- Neil Muscatiello, Director of the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Center for Environmental Health, DOH
- Rahwa Ghirmatzion, EJ Advocate

In-Person Event Locations (NY) :

- NYSERDA Headquarters, Albany; NY Green Bank, Alistair W.C.Clark Boardroom, NY city; Broome County Public Library, Binghamton; DEC Region 8 Office, Avon; DEC Region 5 Office, Ray Brook

Opening Remarks:

Open Meetings Law reminder from Lisa Covert: Members can participate remotely if they have an extraordinary circumstance. Otherwise members will need to be in a location open to the public. If members do not have an extraordinary circumstance they will not be able to deliberate, vote or provide questions. They will be able to listen in only.

Open Statement from CJWG members:

Eddie Bautista, Elizabeth Yeampierre, and Rahwa Ghirmatzion gave individual statements. They have resigned from the CJWG effective today.

Eddie: I am resigning from the CJWG. This decision is not reflective of agency staff. I have lost confidence in this Governor. This decision stems from frustration that's been building for months.

Rahwa: I would like to thank all the members of state agencies on this call. I feel this decision to resign from the CJWG is necessary. Governor Hochul delayed progress. I need to focus on my local community. Today is my last meeting.

Elizabeth Y.: We were excited to see New York leading. That is not what is happening now. Thank you for the opportunity. I resign from this committee.

Alanah's response to Eddie, Elizabeth Y. and Rahwa: I respect your decision. I cannot thank you enough for all the work you have done. I ask that you stay in touch. My email, door and phone are always open.

Elizabeth Y.: Thank you for all your support. I will always be in gratitude.

Roll Call

- At opening remarks there were enough members present for quorum. Roll retaken 2:30pm after the three above resignations. Quorum remained.

Approval of Minutes from previous meetings 2024:

Alanah: Does anyone have any changes before we move forward? -No changes.

Vote: Neil, Amy, Amber, Elizabeth and Alanah yes. Abby abstained. Not enough members voted yes therefor a re-vote will be taken at our next meeting.

DAC (disadvantaged community) criteria review:

Layout: Overview of below indicators and discussion on whether to include them or not followed by a vote on including them. This will include reviewing maps.

- Review of factors:
 - Diabetes
 - Proximity to airports
 - Proximity to rail

Alex: Do we want to include diabetes or not? From there we can look at new combinations of things.

Review of maps followed by discussion

Abby: The process of looking at the maps is so valuable. Its valuable only if people know the areas we are talking about. All I can speak to is Rochester. I will abstain from any voting on this. This may affect our quorum. I am sorry Alex and Alanah. I am not willing to vote on it.

Alanah: If you are identifying Abby that you are uncomfortable then in no way am I going to force you to vote. I would like to try to get through this. This is a procedural step. I understand your discomfort with voting on areas outside of your familiarity. We may need to take time and move the vote to March. As you have indicated you are abstaining from voting, moving forward with a vote in February is unlikely. We will revisit.

Abby: Did we vote on using new data? Is that a one time vote? It's the adding of additional indicators I would abstain from voting on. I would certainly vote on using the updated data.

Alex: To verify, we did an interim vote. Do you agree we go through this and see if no new added indicators is a good thing? If we go through this at least the interim votes can be a temperature check. Then we can assess voting time for February or March. How does that sound to everyone?

Amy: If we go through this today to no avail what is the point?

Alanah: We are required to review annually but not to vote annually. We do have three additional members who were unable to be here today. They should be present in February. They are Sonal representing NY city, Jill representing rural communities, and Julie representing rural communities.

Amy: How are we going to get new members that quickly?

Alanah: We have some folks interested.

Abby: I think having Sonal and Jill in the conversation would be very helpful. They are critical to have as part of this.

Alanah: I agree. I know Sonal expressed concerns and I do want to address them. Are we comfortable saying we will look to vote in March? Is anyone uncomfortable with that?

Abby: I am comfortable with the intention. I feel we really need them.

Adriana: I am hearing deliberate through the scenarios in February with a goal of being comfortable to vote in March. Because we cannot further delay this process members have the choice to not make any changes. We can review the criteria again during the next annual cycle.

Amy: Is there a deadline on including new criteria?

Alanah: Under the CLCPA we do have to review on an annual basis.
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Neil: I don't recall seeing a description for the indicators. I am familiar with diabetes. I'd like to understand the justification for them. Is this written up and shareable?

Alanah: Oliver did a presentation and we can share that.

Alex: I will say proximity to airports and railways was requested by members for review. Oliver found a really cool way of estimating it. We can go through the nuts and bolts whenever you would like.

Alanah: Do folks want to call it for today and restart in February including review of maps?

Vote taken: Majority said yes we are more comfortable moving forward in February's meeting. No further comments/concerns from the working group.

Next Steps

- Regroup at next meeting Feb.11,2025
- Discussion of new elements in February with a goal of moving forward with a vote in March.
- Alanah will be in touch with meeting room and location updates.

○ **Meeting Adjourned: 3:06pm**