

CJWG Meeting Notes

Webex- 11.16.20

At a Glance:

- Welcome and Roll Call
 - State Updates
 - Discussion on Disadvantaged Communities Criteria and Potential Methodologies
 - Agenda Topics for Next Meeting
 - Next Steps
 - Information regarding meetings and materials can be found on – www.Climate.ny.gov
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Participants:

- Amy Klein, CEO, Capital Roots
 - Dr. Donathan Brown, Assistant Provost, Rochester Institute of Technology & CEO & Co-Founder, Adirondack Diversity Solutions
 - Jerrod Bley, Clean Energy Program Director, Adirondack North Country Association
 - Mary Beth McEwen, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension Of Oneida and Madison Counties
 - Neil Muscatiello, Director, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Center for Environmental Health, DOH
 - Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE
 - Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
 - Abigail (Abby) McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director, Rochester People's Climate Coalition
 - Chris Coll, Director of Energy Affordability and Equity Program, NYSERDA
 - Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Executive Director, PUSH Buffalo
 - Rosa Méndez, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, DEC
 - Alex Dunn
 - Amanda Dwelley, Director, Illume Advising
 - Jeff Herter, Assistant Director, Division of Community Resilience and Regional Programs, NYS Department of State
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Meeting Start 12:10PM

Opening Remarks – Commissioner Basil Seggos

Review of timeline for scoping plan for panels

Suggestions and Comments:

- Abby- Advisory panels should send brief updates to the council so when the two groups meet they can have discussions as opposed to presentations of progress
 - Chris Coll - create a repository for collecting priorities and information

- Jerrod Bley - Create an historical account for panels
 - Jared: slides from 3 panels will be available

- Eddie: would be good to hear from agencies also on 35 40 mandate- Maybe repository of CJWG thinking on sectors? Make sure notes reflect the committee members example of TCI on transportation committee.

- Elizabeth – living document of where we are and where align/differ
 - agreed - a historical account on alignment across advisory panels and CJWG would be helpful to check back from time to time

- Rahwa - Create a list of indicators available that go beyond income

- Elizabeth – can't use just income; terms used by census are not reflective of communities (for example Hispanic) differences between PR and Cubans is vast.
 - Need to look at other data vs. census

- Chris – alignment on factors 1st step
 - Mitigating gaps within agencies
 - Burdened by cumulative pollution – go bucket by bucket

- Eddie: We may want to consider disproportionate COVID deaths as an overlay

- Elizabeth – does it exacerbate risk? Baseline isn't the event, it's the vulnerability of the communities, the history of community. Etc. susceptibility. Poor health. The question of exacerbating risks should be used as a rubric

- Sonal – for data, is it sufficient? Must make sure data available is sufficient, complete and accurate

- Amy – when evaluating data and indicators statewide data should be used

- Mary Beth – Does agriculture have a primary contribution to economic system/economic driver? Agriculture is most vulnerable to climate change.

- Abby – To what extent are we defining communities by geography? Are we confined to geography? Is tied to benefits? If we get too far down the road without benefit to community assessed its something missing. Gov announcement on EV fast charging – within half mile... Migrant farm workers.
 - Chris- If we target benefits at the household level we'll be able to reach more people more efficiently than if we're trying to get benefits to a geographic area (i.e. census block level)

- Eddie – Have we talked about proximity to manufacturing? Clusters of permits for pollution emission?

- Sonal – Equitable monitoring, new discussion on community centered programs. Should reflect what communities have raised as a concern.

- +++ Abi . I think that another indicator that occurs to me from these last statements is to identify the ability of communities to access opportunities for investment. And if they meet the criteria as a "disadvantaged community" what TA support can they access? Is it possible to build that into our definition, not just the what but also the how both geographically but also for households?

- Look at NY data similar to CalEnviroScreen

- Factors that should be used in criteria of disadvantaged communities
 - nutritional inequality/food deserts
 - Children who get free/reduced price school lunch
 - green space/tree canopy
 - Rahwa: technical capacity. Comment above.
 - Industrial areas
 - Cumulative pollution burden – proximity to heavy duty truck; water pollution: relates to ability to fish
 - Move forward with all the criteria in law – red line communities; (Eddie) - Using old redlining maps as well as the locations of heat islands and NYC air tracking maps
 - Educational Attainment
 - Lyme disease in rural and agricultural communities
 - Vulnerability to climate change:
 - Algal blooms in freshwater lakes

Questions:

- Amy- should we have vetting to include how the different factors correlate?
 - Could possibly use EPA Screen for vetting
- Eddie- How to evaluate major proposed construction projects? Hudson clean up?
- Jerrod- Discussed what's vulnerable to or at risk of power grid intermittency?