

CJWG Meeting Notes

WebEx - 1.10.22

Meeting Commence 3:00pm

Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings
2. Public Comment/Hearing process review
3. Public Education Sessions
4. Future Meetings and Engagement
5. CAC Engagement
6. Next Steps

Introductions:

- Alanah Keddell-Tuckey, EJ Director, Office of Environmental Justice, DEC
- Jill Henck, Clean Energy Program Director, (ANCA) Adirondack North Country Association
- Sonal Jessel, Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, WEACTION for Environmental Justice
- Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
- Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE
- Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Executive Director, PUSH Buffalo
- Lisa Covert, General Counsel, (DEC)
- Chris Coll, Director of Energy Affordability and Equity Program, NYSERDA
- Neil Muscatiello, Director of the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Center for Environmental Health, DOH
- Joe McNearney, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, DOL
- Sameer Ranade, Climate Justice Advisor with Climate Action Council
- Donathan Brown, Assistant Provost and AVP for Faculty Diversity and Recruitment at the Rochester Institute of Technology
- Amy Klein, Chief Executive Officer, Capital Roots
- Jared Snyder, Deputy Commissioner of Climate, Air and Energy, DEC
- Mary Beth McEwen, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Oneida County

Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of minutes, approved by: Rahwa, Amy, Chris, Donathan, Elizabeth, Neil, Joe, Mary Beth.
- Seconded by Amy Klein
- Jill and Eddie have abstained from voting

Public Comment / Hearing Process Review

- We will hold minimum of 6 regional public hearings.
 - 3 meetings upstate and 3 meetings downstate NY followed by a 120-day comment period.

- We can hold additional meetings as needed.
 - Virtual format is preferred.
 - We are open to in-person provided we have a space that can ensure everyone's safety.
- Goal: a more traditional legislative hearings format with an ALJ presiding over the proceedings.
 - They would give an opening and closing statement.
 - Everyone will be allowed 3 minutes to voice their concerns.
- To accommodate the upstate downstate regional divide we would:
 - 1) schedule the hearings by focusing on comments from a specific area
 - 2) give priority to the regional representatives. Let them speak first then everyone remaining will be able to speak next.

Elizabeth: What does the population density look like for NY city?

Alanah: We'd try to find a location that can accommodate all. We may have to hold multiple meetings so we can prioritize specific boroughs. We want everyone to have an opportunity to speak.

Joe: I had a question about the ALJ presiding. Would they be doing a presentation of the draft criteria?

Alanah: No, this will be a straight hearing. They would do an opening statement of purpose. Then we would go straight into public testimony. We plan to supplement this with public education sessions.

Joe: I think that's a great format.

Eddie: I think virtual for the sake of public safety. Do you anticipate/expect there would be a role for us in these hearings?

Alanah: No I do not. If you have specific testimony you can but it's not necessary.

Draft Public Comment Process: -Alanah

- Once we release the draft criteria, list of census tracts, and maps, the public comment phase will be triggered.
- Comments will be collected for 120 days.
- Estimated date of May 2022 for public comment period to end.
- In addition to public education sessions we want to have WebEx session/s that explain the maps. This will be recorded and remain on climate.ny.gov's site most likely.

Alanah: Comments/Questions on this process?

Eddie: How are Indigenous communities and leaders being engaged in this process?

Dave: Yes, Eddie you are right. The census tracts are either overlapping with Reservation territories or contain at least 5% of their territories being owned by an Indian Nation such as Oneida Nation. They are being included as a DACS right off the top. Regarding continued outreach we have reached out to the Nations. NYSERDA has met with the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force. We have another meeting in May 2022. We are trying to finalize the date with the EPA. Latest update; we are waiting on the Nations decision if they'd like to engage on this particular forum.

Eddie: Thanks Dave. Alanah you are doing an amazing job of summarizing 2021. Did we decide what we are doing about folks with language barriers?

Alanah: If there are language barriers we can use Language Line. I believe WebEx has an option to provide a line where interpretation can be provided for them. I can double check on this. The goal is to have enough time between registering for the event and the start of the event to acquire interpreters. Obtaining interpreters could take a few weeks.

Public Education Sessions -Alanah

In lieu of ½ hour presentations to start we'd like to dive right into the testimony. It is better to have separate public education sessions.

Format:

- host 2 sessions in WebEx with the opportunity to hold more if they are popular.
- create pre-recorded video explaining the documentation, maps, and information for reference

Eddie: If we sit in on some of these public sessions, who can provide technical background talk. Illume, perhaps? Can we pull them in?

Chris: The intention is to have staff from agencies and Illume.

Elizabeth: Regarding the materials and graphics will those be available in other languages? How can folks access those?

Alanah: We can definitively make sure those are available for folks. ie) If someone needs one of our presentations translated we can have it translated and sent out to them.

Elizabeth: That's great. Thank you.

Alanah: Does the group feel additional information is beneficial to provide to the public? If so please email me, Amanda, or Alex. If there is a call for specific information definitely please let us know.

Future Meetings and Engagement

Alanah: To the group: Is it still best to meet monthly?

Jill: I would be open to shorter meetings.

Amy: What would the agenda for the upcoming meetings be? This would dictate the frequency and length.

Alanah: Air monitoring is a topic that would arise.

Eddie: I wanted to share perspective from last year. We didn't realize until May the extent of our role and it was truncated. We had to get up to speed quickly. It was a bit much since we are all volunteers. We'd like to know the CAC's timetable. We're trying to avoid a similar crunch working with them.

CAC Engagement

Alanah: Right now I believe the CAC does not have any meetings scheduled. They are looking to start their public hearings process more so in April 2022.

Jared: I am happy to jump in here Alanah. We are entering a 120-day comment period. This is an ideal time for engagement between Council and the CJWG. Once that process is done then the Council will consider the input that came in from the 120-day process. It would be best to have some of those conversations over the next 4-month period.

Alanah: I will definitely take the concerns we had from the previous interactions to the CAC. Let's see if there is a better way to schedule meetings making them convenient for folks.

Jared: If the working group is ready to provide some input say in 30 days or 60 days we can schedule a meeting with the Council accordingly. We really want to hear from the working group and make it a process that works so the CJWG members are not rushed.

Alanah: Is a shorter format better for working group members to discuss issues?

Chris: Over the next week or so can we pull together a work plan with timelines and milestones?

Alanah: Absolutely.

Eddie: What is the intention for our state partners to publicize this? Will there be a public notice through the Media?

Alanah: Our goal is to make sure this is publicized as widely as possible.

Elizabeth: Can you be intentional about reaching out to ethnic media and Spanish language media since that's the largest readership and viewership in NY? I feel they are often neglected.

Eddie: I am glad to hear this. There is the parallel Biden justice 40 initiative where they are moving much slower than we are. In my opinion they are not being as expansive or intentional as us. I don't want to be held accountable for someone else's bad implementation. That's part of why I am pushing this.

Alanah: My goal is to make sure the information that goes out will be digestible for folks. We want to hear 'NY did it right'.

Chris: As we think about outreach, I wonder if we can work with members of the working group to craft announcements that can be distributed to everyone's network? Should this be a follow-up meeting?

Alanah: I definitely want to make sure that happens. FYI, Haley Viccaro(DEC) is listening in and she wants to make sure everyone knows we will be targeting diversity. It is a priority.

No further comments/concerns from working group

Next Steps

- Staff and Illume are working to create a work plan to ensure all information is completed and sent out.
- Have conversation with the CAC to ensure they schedule meetings that are convenient for CJWG members
- **(Future Discussions)** Discuss what future engagement of the CJWG will look like. ie) How often do we want to meet for 2022 and 2023.

End: 4:15pm