

CJWG Meeting Notes

WebEx - 11.14.23

Meeting Commence 2:06pm

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

Agenda:

1. Roll Call
2. Approve minutes from previous meetings
3. Vote on Bylaws
4. Draft DEC Policy on CLCPA 7(3) (DEP 23-1)
5. Draft Investments and Benefits Strategy & Interagency Guidelines
6. Discussion of DAC criteria review
7. Future meetings
8. Next steps

CJWG Members in Attendance:

- Alanah Keddell-Tuckey, EJ Director, Office of Environmental Justice, (DEC) Department of Environmental Justice
- Jill Henck, Clean Energy Program Director, (ANCA) Adirondack North Country Association
- Rahwa Ghirmatzion, Executive Director, (PUSH) People United for Sustainable Housing, Buffalo
- Michael DiRamio, Assistant Director for Energy and Climate Equity, (NYSERDA) New York Energy Research & Development Authority
- Elizabeth Furth, Empire Fellow, (DOL) Department of Labor
- Joe Henriquez-McNearney, Director of Stakeholder Engagement, (DOL) Department of Labor
- Elizabeth Yeampierre, Executive Director, UPROSE
- Eddie Bautista, Executive Director, NYC Environmental Justice Alliance
- Abigail McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director, Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region
- Neil Muscatiello, Director of the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology, Center for Environmental Health, Department of Health (DOH)

Attendees Board Rooms :

Albany, NYC, Ray Brook Region 5, Avon Region 8, Buffalo Region 9

Vote on Minutes:

- Quorum reached. Vote on by-laws.
- No changes or amendments prior to voting.
- Vote passes on the bylaws.

Draft Policy Update:

DEC has a draft policy out relating to permitting. The draft provides guidance on how and when to consider the impact on DACs under the Climate Act section 3. The policy is based on the requirements under section 73 and CP 49 which applies to major permits, modifications and renewals. The draft is out for public comment which ends 11/27/23.

Eddie: I recall last time we were waiting on DEC's response to the Comptroller's audit. Will there be a response before these comments are due? Will an extension period be granted for folks who feel we need that conversation with DEC?

Alanah: You can put in a request for a comment extension period. The goal is to get this briefing scheduled asap. If anyone is concerned yes, please put in a request for an extension.

Eddie: Thank you.

Annual Review

- We will be assessing data availability
- We will be looking to update existing data sets as well as availability of new data
- We want to consider ideas from folks outside of the CJWG
 - how do we solicit information from the community?
- We will share findings after assessing all data. eg) adding data sets on diabetes
- We will convene a working group for deliberation on the recommendations as well as anything working group members want to suggest. A quorum will be needed for any recommended changes.

Eddie: Some CJWG members received letter/s from Southeast Queens concerning questions about the criteria that was adopted. Southeast Queens felt none of their community was included in the criteria. What is DEC doing or any other official doing to correct these assumptions?

Alanah: We have had meetings with residents, activists, and legislators on the criteria and how it is applied. We agreed to look at criteria suggested in the past and see if it is applicable now. Additionally we've spoken to elected officials and community members about alternative funding sources.

Eddie: Thank you.

Jill: We should absolutely give the public the opportunity to comment. Will the public comment period be ahead of the analysis and decision if we change the criteria?

Alanah: That is what we are trying to work out. Currently there is no requirement under the Climate Act to provide this. We are building additional public participation into the process.

Michael DiRamio Presentation

- Reported on the progress of investments and benefits for DACs
- Reported on statewide interagency accounting of investments and benefits
- Discussed what they propose to include in the framework
- Reported on co-benefits
- Gave explanation of place based benefits.

Jill: How are we incorporating people who make 60% of the state median income into our programs? Have you looked to see if any individual subscribers are low income?

Michael: Yes, we would look at low income subscribers as eligible.

Sonal: Ownership is missing to me. Ownership within DACs specifically. We should find a way to track this. It is key to us doing our part concerning wealth gaps. How are we tracking who owns the companies and non-profits doing this kind of work?

Michael: I don't know that ownership will be tracked and reported.

Discussion of Draft Statewide DAC Investments and Co-benefits Interagency Reporting Timeline -Michael

- The plan is to release a draft of all the documents associated with these guidelines for a 30-day public comment period.
- Goal is to publish information on this by May 2024.

Jill: Do we have an option to include a form on the CJWG website where folks can submit their comments online? We can then have an official public comment period after?

Alanah: That does sound doable. I do not want to say yes and make that statement ahead of time. I do not run that website.

Abigail: With this being our first year we will need to evolve the process as the years go on. It would be useful to start with a briefing on how we are doing.

Eddie: I don't know how best to adjust the criteria. Should it be incremental or overt?

Amy: My thought is if there is some glaring error based on the criteria that would be something to look at.

Jill: I've spoken to a lot of people with concerns and suggestions. I am hopeful we can improve the data informing the criteria this year. I was disappointed with transparency last year when we voted on the criteria.

Alex: We want to refresh things to the 2020 census and update the data we can. On the working group website you can see all the data we've ever considered.

No further comments/concerns from working group

Next Steps

- CJWG please submit blackout dates for 2024 to Alanah
- Be on the lookout for emails about the next Comptrollers audit and report

Adjourned 3:43pm