

# **CJWG Internal Meeting Minutes**

## **WebEx - 2.23.22**

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

**Meeting Commence 3:00pm**

### **Agenda:**

1. Introductions CJWG members
  - o Introduction of Adriana Espinoza
2. CAC Engagement
3. Next Steps

### **1)Introductions:**

- Alanah Keddell-Tuckey, EJ Director, Office of Environmental Justice, DEC
- Adriana Espinoza, Deputy Commissioner for Equity and 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
- Randi Walker, Research Scientist 3, Air Resources, DEC
- Alex Dunn, Illume Consultant
- Tyler Picard, Project Manager, Energy and Climate Equity, NYSERDA
- Saran Bernard, Administrative Assistant, Office of Environmental Justice, DEC

### **Introduction of Adriana Espinoza**

- She is from NY city mayors' office. She was appointed by mayor DeBlasio's office in 2020 to be NY city's first senior advisor for environmental justice. She recently transitioned to DEC.
- Her portfolio includes EJ, CJWG, Indian Nation Consultation & Cultural Affairs, and larger diversity equity inclusion and justice work for DEC.
- Her background involves being trained as a social worker. She is originally from Texas.

## CJWG Scoping Plan -Sameer

Discussion of focus of content. Working group presented with 6 options to choose from.

*Goals:*

- The sooner the better. eg) By conclusion of the public comment period.
- Align with scoping plan. Public comment period estimated closing date April 2022.
- Optional: Present input before CAC in public meeting

## Public Comment Period

- There are active conversations to extend the comment period.
- Recap: We will hold minimum of 6 regional public hearings.
  - 3 meetings upstate and 3 meetings downstate NY followed by a 120-day comment period.
- Discussion of the scoping plan
- Discussed verbal feedback sessions
- CJWG as a whole provides an analysis document
- Does the working group want to offer verbal or written comment or both?
- What content should the CJWG focus on?
- What is the timeline?
- By when will the working group decide? Will it be now?

## 2)CAC Engagement

**Eddie:** CAC has never responded to our recommendations in writing. CAC only responded to some of the CJWG's recommendations. Feels like wasting time to offer feedback when it is not completely accepted, addressed, or incorporated.

**Alanah:** Thanks Eddie. Anyone else have comments?

**Elizabeth:** If CAC is comfortable ignoring and not responding to our questions then for the people in our communities they can expect even less. Issues Eddie brought up are important.

**Alanah:** Thank you Elizabeth.

**Sameer:** I was thinking a time and place to address this lack of communication from CAC could be the verbal feedback session. Could be the opportunity to speak directly with some of the CAC's members. eg) CJWG members could pick a few chapters and we could go through their recommendations on them point by point.

**Eddie:** Is verbal feedback from the CJWG to the CAC one of the options?

**Sameer:** Yes, verbal is one of the options.

**Rahwa:** CAC is supposed to overlay EJ principles on the recommendations. If those recommendations will cause more harm to EJ communities then how do we reconcile that?

**Sameer:** One way we ensure EJ is embedded in the scoping plan is by amending the scoping plan with the Barriers Report. eg) This can be achieved by providing a guiding framework for the entire scoping plan.

**Rahwa:** Can we get what you just said in writing?

**Eddie:** What EJ principles are we discussing imbedding in the scoping plan?

**Sameer:** It's the themes of the Barriers Reports. eg) codesigning with communities.

**Eddie:** What EJ principles are we discussing imbedding in the scoping plan?

**Sameer:** The broad interpretation is we are discussing the themes in the Barriers report around ensuring inclusive processes. eg) Co-designing programs with communities.

**Eddie:** I am hearing that the Barriers Report addresses a piece of EJ, not all. This hits me as process heavy. I am talking about actual policies with disparate impacts the CAC decided to pursue as part of its scoping plan. Policies that we outright said have disparate impacts and this is why. Example provided. I would find it useful to finally get a response to our recommendations. At minimum if state employees could review our recommendations and see what was accepted into the scoping plan. What did CAC do with the last 6 months of our recommendations?

**Elizabeth:** This is clearly a conflict of interest within members of CAC. This undermines the CLCPA and almost feels unlawful to pursue areas that EJ communities have said no, this is not a solution for our community. eg) TCI.

**Alanah:** Let's take this back to the CAC leadership and see what other options there are to ensure these issues are addressed sufficiently in a meeting. It's hard to give recommendations when you feel they will not be listened to. Other comments?

**Adriana:** Has the CJWG convened with CAC previously in 2021 regarding getting that feedback? eg) In a virtual form such as this or in writing?

**Eddie:** We were asked (springtime, around May) to provide feedback on all of the working groups that sent in their recommendations to the CAC. It took a lot of work to find people to achieve this task. We provided recommendations and did not receive written or verbal explanations for why they embraced TCI, for example.

**Adriana:** Was the feedback submitted by the CJWG publicly available or just submitted to the CAC?

**Eddie:** I believe it was only submitted to CAC. We verbally submitted to the public.

**Sonal:** I think the slide deck Sameer put together to represent our submissions is next to the scoping plan on DEC's website; but not the pages of items we submitted.

**Sameer:** Just want to point out the Barriers Report may be able to address all of these concerns. I want to follow up with CJWG members.

**Alanah:** We definitely will not come to a decision today.

**Eddie:** Touched on how NY state is leaning heavy into hydrogen hubs proposal. Why is hydrogen being pushed for everything if we know there are emissions problems? The country is looking at NY. If NY does a deep dive into hydrogen without precautionary principles then I do not know what we are doing with the rest of this.

**Eddie:** Is there an estimated time on getting the DACs published?

**Alanah:** They should be available in the coming weeks, less than a month. If anyone has any questions please email Sameer, Chris or myself.

### **3)Next Steps**

1. Everyone please fill out the doodle poll from Alanah for our next meeting.
2. The CJWG's concerns will be taken to the CAC. Let's have a conversation and get answers to your questions. Mainly why didn't CAC take some of the suggested recommendations?
3. We will have a discussion with CAC before we move forward with any recommendations on the scoping plan.
4. Alanah will send out an update once DEC connects with CAC.

- **End: 4:04pm**