

# **CJWG Public Meeting Minutes**

## **WebEx - 4.20.22**

### **Meeting Commence 2:00pm**

#### **Agenda:**

1. DAC Education Sessions and Hearings Update
2. CAC Update
  - a. Public hearings on draft Scoping Plan
  - b. Meetings
3. Disadvantaged Communities for Air Monitoring Screening
  - a. Proposed Communities
4. Next Steps

#### **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
- Mary Beth McEwen, Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Oneida County
- Randi Walker, Research Scientist 3, Department of Air Resources, DEC
- Amanda Dwelley, Consultant, Illume Advising
- Tyler Picard, Project Manager, Energy and Climate Equity, NYSERDA
- Abigail McHugh-Grifa, Executive Director for Climate Solutions Accelerator
- Marilyn Wurth, Research Scientist, Department of Air Resources, DEC
- Dirk Felton, Research Scientist, Department of Air Resources, DEC
- Margaret LaFarr, Assistant Director, Division of Air Resources, DEC

## Updates

### **Public DAC Education Sessions: Alanah**

- 2 sessions held: April 13 & April 19 (event translated in Spanish)
- Both recordings will be available on [www.climate.ny.gov](http://www.climate.ny.gov)

### **Public Hearings: Adrianna**

- 10 hearings statewide May-June 2022
  - focused heavily on outreach and education
  - short accompanying fact sheet is being developed
- Mix of in-person and virtual WebEx
- Legislative hearings format with brief and targeted DAC overview
- Registration for hearings is recommended to give priority to local residents
- Two-minute time limit, full remarks can be submitted for the record
- Proposed schedule for Hearings on Draft DAC Criteria shared during this meeting

### **Public Hearings and related engagement process: Sameer**

- We've had 4 well attended public hearings in the Bronx, Brookhaven, Albany, and Binghamton
- To date we've received 8000 public comments
- We have 4 remaining in person and 2 virtual hearings
- On April 1 CJWG members were sent a toolkit to help promote the scoping plan and public commenting opportunities.
- Deadline for public comments is June 10,2022

## Discussion

**Eddie:** The CAC's formal response to our recommendations has not happened yet. Correct?

**Sameer:** That is correct.

**Elizabeth:** Sameer do you have an idea of when CAC will respond to the CJWG?

**Sameer:** The formal response from Commissioner Seggos and President Harris a while ago laid out the intent and importance of getting CJWG's input into the plan going forward.

**Adrianna:** That is correct. A letter was sent from Commissioner Seggos and President Harris. We are looking at next steps from there.

## Presentation from DEC's Division of Air Resources

Presenters: Jared Snyder, Margaret LaFarr, Marilyn Wurth

### Overview of Air Quality Monitoring program- Jared

- Purpose is to provide information so that we can identify and address disproportionate air pollution impacts in disadvantaged communities across NY state.
- 2 parts to this program:
  - Statewide screening effort in 10 communities burdened by air pollution
  - Community driven monitoring in 4 communities led by grass roots organizations

### Overview of Air Quality Monitoring program -Margaret

- The community air monitoring screen proposed for NY will include high resolution sensors.
- Purpose of screening is to identify air quality issues in DACs.
- Presentation of pollutants measured in our regulatory monitoring
- We've contracted with ACLIMA who will be collecting the air monitoring data. They are a San Francisco based public benefit corporation.
- Discussion of ACLIMA's platform.
- Discussion of Bloc Power Partnership

### Overview of Air Burdened Communities -Marilyn

- Last meeting we proposed an initial screening approach to select DACs for air monitoring
- Presentation of 12 environmental indicators used to calculate the air pollution burden score
- Presentation of how the air pollution burden score was calculated

### Overview of Air Burdened Communities -Margaret

- Overview of reporting and response actions
- After a year of collecting data a final report will be shared with communities

### Next Steps Air Monitoring -Adrianna

- April-May 2022 doing outreach to community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Outreach will help to define boundaries of areas to be monitored and the structure of stakeholder engagement
- Discussion of community-led/driven efforts
  - e.g.) recognizing Camp EJ and discussion of including their efforts
  - DEC is working on grant opportunities to support community-based organizations
    - We want to ensure that these CIGs (community impact grants) support front line community-based efforts.

## Discussion

**Abigail:** For round 2 of these grants you mentioned a September 2022 start. I'm wondering if with the capacity building funding, will that be in place in time for the September deadline?

**Adrianna:** We are working on that process now and rolling it out as quickly as we can.

**Eddie:** We've heard of instances on the West Coast and NY that show not great experiences between EJ groups and ACLIMA. Some groups have made direct complaints. We hope DEC will communicate these concerns to ACLIMA and ensure adjustments for problems we've seen in prior modelling.

**Adrianna:** I share the commitment on making this an equitable process. Our immediate next step is to meet with stakeholders in these EJ communities to firm up the details of what a just partnership will look like.

**Jared:** We really see this as a partnership between DEC and the communities. ACLIMA is our contractor but DEC will be working with these communities to design the program in each of these communities.

### ***Announcement from Amanda Dwelley:***

She will be leaving Illume effective today and stepping down from the CJWG. She would like to thank everyone for all the work that members have put in on this endeavor. It was an incredible amount of work and it is all appreciated.

## Next Steps for CJWG

- Posting today's meeting on [www.climate.ny.gov](http://www.climate.ny.gov) as soon as feasible.
- Finding an improved way to schedule upcoming CJWG meetings.
- Up next, community based outreach in April and May 2022.
  - Phase 1 of outreach includes: Western NY, Capital Region, Queens, Bronx, Manhattan. We will use data from this phase to define boundaries for the areas that will be monitored.
- We want to share the Hearings schedule as soon as possible.
- We want to continue the conversation about engagement with the CAC on the scoping plan.

**End: 3:30pm**