

**Environmental Justice Council (EJC)**  
**Meeting #6**  
**Monday, November 21, 2022**  
**9:30 AM**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Meeting location: Zoom webinar

Meeting documents: [Agenda](#), [slides](#), [meeting minutes \(11/09/2022\)](#)

**Council Members present:**

- Marcos Luna
- Melissa Ferretti
- Caroline Hon
- Kalila Barnett
- Peter Maathey
- Lydia Lowe
- Ari Zorn

**EOEAA Staff present:** Rishi Reddi, Vallery Cardoso, Carline Lemoine (EJ Office)

Meeting began at 9:30 am.

**Welcome and Overview of Meeting Logistics**

Rishi welcomed panelists and attendees. She provided an overview of the meeting logistics, including use of the question and answer (Q&A) box, and availability of interpreters. Members of the council were asked to put their names in the chat.

**Roll call; Approval of prior meeting minutes**

Vallery Cardoso called out the names of EJ Council members in attendance. At the start of the meeting, the following Council members were present: Marcos Luna, Melissa Ferretti, Caroline Hon, Kalila Barnett, Peter Maathey, and Lydia Lowe.

Rishi asked for feedback or amendments to the November 9, 2022 meeting minutes. Marcos commented that he appreciated the inclusion of the public comments in the minutes. He asked if we could include the names of the commenters as well. Vallery responded that we can.

No other comments were provided. Rishi opened the floor for a motion to adopt the minutes with Marcos' amendment to include names of the commenters.

Melissa motioned to adopt. Lydia seconded the motion. Rishi took a vote by roll call.

**Announcements**

Rishi announced the upcoming in-person and remote EJ Strategy public listening sessions. These are scheduled for December 15, 2022, 6-8 pm at the UMass Amherst Center, 1500 Main Street, Springfield, MA and January 19<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm at Bolling Municipal Building, 2300 Washington St., Boston, MA. Information on the remote sessions and submitting comments can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/eeas-draft-environmental-justice-ej-strategy>

### **EEA EJ Strategy: Discussion and/or Questions regarding EJC Review**

Rishi asked council members what metrics should EEA agencies use to measure progress and what other EJ initiatives should exist in common across the agencies? The following were comments from the council members:

Lydia: It would be beneficial to know what and how many expenditures, not only grants, are being made in different communities throughout the state.

Rishi: Every department could make a commitment to do this analysis as part of their EJ strategy.

Rishi proposed a path forward for the EJC to review the draft EJ Strategy. EJC members will submit their feedback to staff who will compile the feedback for discussion at the 12/13/2022 meeting. A second document will be created. The EJC will vote to submit the comments at its 1/26/2023 meeting. Council members discussed this approach and were supportive.

*Ari Zorn joined meeting at 9:57 am. Due to a Zoom issue, the meeting was interrupted at 10:00 am. Meeting resumed at 10:07 am.*

Kalila asked if we can use part of the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to hear public comments on the draft EJ Strategy. Rishi and other council members were supportive of this suggestion.

### **Comprehensive Analysis of “EJ Population” Definition: Continued Discussion (Who / What is missing from current definition of EJ Population?)**

Council members continued discussion from previous meetings by reviewing their previous comments. Lydia commented that we should consider having an additional section for Indigenous people in the definition instead of getting rid of census block groups.

Discussion then moved to the limited English proficiency (LEP) criteria of the EJ definition. Marcos commented that LEP is one of the most predictive of where you find environmental burdens in the state.

Caroline asked how communities can petition for designation as EJ.

### **Questions /Comments from the Public**

Questions/public from the comment came verbally and through the Question and Answer (Q&A) box on Zoom. They are as follows:

Sarah Freeman: All projects are supposed to be looked at with an EJ lens. Would like advice on how to bring attention to a specific project.

Questions Submitted Through Zoom Q&A Box:			
#	Question	Asker Name	Answer
1	Based on my experience at the November Massa. Environmental Managementt Commission which only allowed public comments om items in the meeting. agenda, I would hpoee that the Ma. EJC meeting on December 13 would allow folks a less constrained dialog on EJ concerns. When I participated in an EPA EJ Council meeting, there was a lot of interaction between members of the public concerns and members of the Council (which is missing from the Ma. EOEEA meetings which are tightly constrianed by the Ma. EOEEA moderator and staff).	David Dow	live answered
2	I appreciate all of the insightful thoughts and questions that have been shared thus far. I arrived late to the meeting due to traffic issues, so I'm not sure if my question was previously answered, and if so I apologize. Regarding the community grants/funds, will there be more programs and regulations developed to help PREVENT activites and businesses that damage communities from being able to operate, rather than placing the burden of remediation after the damage has been done on the communities?	Wendy Morrill	live answered

### Next Steps and Adjourn

Marcos motioned to adjourn. Melissa seconded. All council members voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.