

Environmental Justice Council (EJC)

Meeting #17

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Location: Taunton Public Library, 12 Pleasant St, Taunton MA
6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting location: In-person

Meeting documents: Agenda, Slides

Council members present:

- María Belén Power, EEA Undersecretary of EJ & Equity (In-person)
- Kalila Barnett (Absent)
- Madeline Fraser Cook (Absent)
- Melissa Ferretti (Remotely)
- Cheryll Holley (Remotely)
- Caroline Hon (In-person)
- Namrita Kapur (Absent)
- Lydia Lowe (Remotely)
- Marcos Luna (In-person)
- Peter Maathey (Remotely)
- Sofia Owen (Remotely)
- Jen Salinetti (In-person)
- Patricia Spence (Remotely)
- Ari Zorn (Absent)
- Miles Gresham (Absent)

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) staff present:

- Caroline Lemoine, EEA Deputy Director
- Jonathan Guzman, EEA Director
- Martha Grover, Policy Advisor for Building Decarbonization

Other staff present:

- Dylan Voorhees, Senior Consultant with VEIC

1. Welcome and Overview of Meeting Logistics

Kecil John provided an overview of the meeting logistics, including the use of the question and answer (Q&A) box and the availability of interpreters. María Belén Power welcomed all attendees.

2. Agenda Overview

María Belén Power reviewed the meeting agenda.

3. Roll Call/Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

María Belén conducted a roll call of the EJC members. At the start of the meeting, the following council members were present: **Kalila Barnett, Madeline Fraser Cook, Melissa Ferretti, Cheryl Holley, Caroline Hon, Lydia Lowe, Marcos Luna, Peter Maathey, Sofia Owen, Jen Salinetti, Patricia Spence and María Belén Power.**

The following council members were not present: **Ari Zorn, Miles Gresham, and Namrita Kapur.**

María Belén opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. **Melissa Ferretti** motioned to approve. **Jen Salinetti** seconded the motion. All present council members accepted the minutes except for **Cheryl Holley and Caroline Hon** who abstained due to not attending the previous meeting.

4. First Public Question and Answer Session

Both virtual and in-person public participants provided comments, inquiries, and suggestions.

- Multiple participants shared their experiences of environmental injustices their community is facing in Berkley, MA. Participants detailed their communities experience facing the environmental repercussions of living near a variety of industrial plants. Communities experience noise, dust, extensive traffic, and health impacts, particularly respiratory issues. Communities have difficulty engaging their local and federal agencies to respond to these impacts.
- One participant was interested in finding out why the EJC implements two comment periods. The participant requested a follow-up as to how the EJC came to the conclusion to include two comment periods during the meetings.

5. Presentation from the VEIC, Clearinghouse project

Guest speaker **Dylan Voorhees** provided a presentation on VEIC's, a consulting firm, Clearinghouse Project. VEIC, a nonprofit energy servicer firm, works internationally on clean heat projects. The Clearinghouse Project, with advice and direction from EEA, has formed a temporary equity advisory committee to include equity perspectives from across the state. The

advisory committee has served to help decide how to equitably establish a clearinghouse for alternative energy options. This clearinghouse will ultimately serve customers in guidance toward the correct alternative energy options.

Council members inquired about the program design addressing a landlord and tenant dynamic, clarification on the goal of the clearinghouse in Massachusetts, and requested additional background on stakeholder engagement.

Comments from the Q&A are listed below

#	Question	Asker Name	Answer
1	Outer Cape Cod voters in the recent election opposed a petition item to construct more offshore wind farms in the ocean. How will MA EOEEA reach out to address this opposition to renewable energy?	Anonymous	N/A

6. Next Steps and Adjourn

María Belén reminded council members of the next meeting date on **January 9th in Lowell**.

María Belén informed council members that the EEA will soon be posting a Request for Responses to procure approximately 5 equity partners to assist communities with the MVP Planning 2.0 process and responses will be due in mid-December.

María Belén requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Caroline Hon** motioned to adjourn. **Jen Salinetti** seconded. The meeting adjourned at **7:40 pm**.