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, Cheryll 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 **Cheryll 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 Taunton, 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.**