

Oregon Environmental Justice Taskforce

Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2013

I. Call to order

Ben Duncan called to order the regular meeting of the Oregon Environmental Justice Taskforce at 10:15 on September 6, 2013 at Willamette University, Putnam Univ. Ctr. Alumni Lounge, 935 Mill St. SE, Salem, OR.

In attendance: Ben Duncan (chair), Robin Morris Collins (task force member), Cynthia Gomez (task force member), Jen Coleman (task force member), Gabriela Goldfarb (Governor's office), Mary Peveto (guest: Neighbors for Clean Air), John Krallman (guest: Neighbors for Clean Air), Christine Svetkovich (DEQ), Rose Kachadoorian (Department of Agriculture), Jessica Santiago (ODOT), Debbie Benavidez (ODOT), Rob Hallyburton (DLCD), Bob Rindy (DLCD), Lucy Baker (visitor: Administrator, Oregon Advocacy Commissions), Jevra Brown (Department of State Lands), Sharon Watkins (DSL)

In attendance via telephone: Julie Samples (task force member), Dan Postrel (department of forestry), Jason Miner (visitor: 1000 Friends of Oregon)

Joining in the afternoon via telephone: Jon Ostar (task force member), Jae Douglas

II. Agency Updates

A. Rose Kachadoorian (Department of Agriculture):

- Spanish language exam for pesticide applicators is of a smaller type size than English exam and is written at a high literacy level. How do we seek a culturally competent translator through DAS?
- Recommendations: ODOT staff recommend contacting DMV translators. Gabriela: recommends that the scope of work include specifications for cultural competency. Task Force member Cynthia Gomez recommends contacting Victor Salinas at Latino Network for recommendations.
- **ACTION ITEM** Gabriela Goldfarb will contact DAS to identify the person overseeing translations and ask that person to address the task force regarding standards for cultural competency, literacy level and ADA-compliance for type face and readability.

B. Christine Svetkovich DEQ:

- Wood smoke: Conversations are underway with Washington and Multnomah County to work in communities with greatest impacts to address wood smoke.
- Brownfields: DEQ working with cleanup program, using EPA funds to target East Portland communities in identifying and cleaning up properties that previously housed dry cleaners.

C. Debbie Benavidez (ODOT):

- EJ Mapping: Agencies that are doing compliance reviews are looking to ODOT for help, using their TransGIS system to do mapping of environmental justice communities. This tool will be publically available. We met with Coalition for a Livable Future and Metro to discuss limitations and learn best practices. We then hope to provide training on EJ for transportation planners and local government agencies using this tool.

D. Jevra Brown (Department of State Lands):

- Availability of mapping tools will increase momentum for additional management and staff EJ training.
- Momentum is growing for management training on EJ.
- Suction Dredge Mining: 2013 legislators set a moratorium on the practice, limiting permits to 800 (down from 2000 current permits) while the state undergoes rule making process. Tribal officials tracking the issue and will be engaged through a process facilitated by the governor's office.

E. Jae Douglas (Oregon Health Authority):

- We are doing a soft-launch of environmental public health tracking portal – putting health and environmental data into one portal, including environmental justice data and also birth anomalies.
- Wind energy development: we were asked by Harvard to give them a case study on health system reform and health impact assessment for wind farms.
- EPA is also working on cross-jurisdictional collaboration, looking at cross between environmental health and chronic disease work. Jae is now the director for center for prevention and health promotion, which includes environmental health. We recognize that public health engages communities

in identifying threats to health, and it is important that environment be part of that. We are beginning next week to interview candidates for director.

III. Mapping/Data proposal:

- Robin Morris Collins proposes a conference/symposium, organized by the task force, on available tools for mapping Environmental Justice and setting key metrics for assessing EJ impacts of projects and proposals. **ACTION ITEM**
- Robin will convene task force members Ben Duncan and Jen Coleman as well as ODOT staff Jessica Santiago and Debbie Benavidez to identify invitees and stakeholders—both Agency staff to attend, and experts to present resources. **ACTION ITEM**
- Mary Peveto suggests that NGOs may also be invested in this outcome and want to be aware of tools.
- It is suggested that the Oregon geographic information center, a consortium of agency GIS folks , would be an essential resource to tap for this process.
- Tentative timing for symposium: May 2013

III. Task Force Annual report (ACTION ITEMS)

- Ben will submit our report with existing input in December 2013.
- In 2014, Robin Morris Collins will take the lead in creating guidance for agencies on how to structure reports for submission in December 2014.
- In 2015, the task force will further explore means to leverage the report and distribution for greater public accountability and to encourage greater agency participation.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING: Presentation by Mary Peveto and John Krallman of Neighbors for Clean Air

- Neighbors for Clean Air (Neighbors) is a grassroots group concerned about industrial air emissions of hazardous air pollutants, as well as the barriers and limitations for addressing toxic hot spots.
- Neighbors negotiated good neighbor agreement with ESCO in Portland, but is concerned that communities with fewer resources would have less capacity

to engage, such as the environmental justice neighborhoods near Precision Cast Parts in Portland, recently named #1 polluter in America.

- Neighbors forwarded HB3492 in 2013, to expand DEQ's Toxic Use Reduction Program to include Hazardous Air Pollutants.
- **ACTION ITEM** Robin Morris Collins will connect with advocacy commission partners to consider legislative advocacy on this issue, identifying action steps for future legislative sessions.

V. Land Conservation and Development Coalition policy agenda, Rob Hallyburton (DLCD), Bob Rindy (DLCD)

- LCDC is taking comments on their priorities for policy in 2014, for discussion at the September 25-26 meeting. The September meeting will focus on the short term agenda, and LCDC will spend more time reviewing comments on the process for setting a long term agenda.
- LCDC has a citizen involvement action committee comprised of appointees that has periodic openings. Gabriela Goldfarb recommends that LCDC contact Frank Garcia in the governor's office when it is time to seek CIAC candidates to ensure word gets out to opinion leaders.
- Rob will continue to represent LCDC at task force meetings and report on citizen involvement strategies.
- Robin asks whether it is possible to revise LCDC goals to include environmental justice. Bob notes that it may be easier to change administrative rules. Jen asks if there is an opportunity to include EJ metrics in measuring progress on long term goals; Bob notes that it has not been proposed but it is possible.

VI. Community updates:

- Jon Ostar OPAL on DEQ rulemaking: DEQ is proposing a change to the way they calculate the requirement for increasing transit as part of a control measure plan for carbon monoxide. Instead of calculating the increase on a five year average, the proposal is to calculate average over 10 years. OPAL submitted comments suggesting that this change would be a failure in responsibility to ensure ridership.

- Jon Ostar OPAL on inclusionary zoning: A 2013 legislative proposal related to inclusionary zoning failed in committee but will be tee'd up for 2015, with Tina Kotek holding informational meetings in the interim.

VII. Task Force business:

A. Governor's office administrative assistance:

- I. We are now updating the web site. Tammi, assistant to Gabriela Goldfarb, will update web site. ACTION ITEM Gabriela will ask whether Tammi is available for note-taking at task force meetings.
- II. Posting information ACTION ITEM: Tammi will update the web site with meeting date and location 30 days before the next meeting and make a call for agenda items. Two weeks out, she will post the meeting agenda.
- III. Agency participation: Gabriela Goldfarb is tasked with ensuring agency participation.
- IV. ACTION ITEM: Tammi will send a doodle poll to set a November task force meeting. It will not be on November 8 as previously suggested.

B. Task Force appointments ACTION ITEM: Gabriela will explore who will fill the seat of an industry representative to the task force. Appointees in attendance recommended that she explore whether Scott Dahlman of Oregonians for Food and Shelter might be a good candidate. Other candidates mentioned were Maurice Rahm of O'Neill Electrical, Dave Harvey, Elando Simpson from City of Roses Disposal.

C. PSU/Task Force join event ACTION ITEM: Cynthia and Ben will take the lead on exploring a joint event celebrating the 20th anniversary of the original environmental equity committee, bringing equity leaders including Avel Gordley and Bruce Watt in to talk about history, lessons learned and a path forward. The event would include an opportunity for students to interface with task force members and agency reps. Timing is proposed for December or January.

D. Past agenda item: Still on the to-do list is to explore the potential for an event or “Academy” to build environmental justice engagement capacity. Robin is lead.

ADJOURNED: 3 PM.
