

**Environmental Justice Task Force
Meeting Summary
August 22, 2014 – 10am to 3pm
Willamette University Law School**

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Jennifer Coleman (phone)
Robin Morris Collin
Will Collin (Phone)
Scott Dahlman
Ben Duncan (Phone)
Jon Ostar
Mariam Stephenson (Phone)
Julie Samples (afternoon only)

ATTENDING AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Chris Castelli, DSL
Nina DeConcini, DEQ
Gabriela Goldfarb, Governor's Office
Rob Hallyburton, DLCD
Gary Lynch, DOGAMI
Alyssa Mucken, DWR
Rod Nichols, ODF (Phone)
Sharon Watkins, OHA
Rebecca Williams, ODOT

VISITORS

Laura Stewart, EPA
Sheryl Stohs, EPA
Ryan Bellinson, University of Oregon

Task force members discussed the results of their August 14 visioning retreat and identified a number of EJTF goals and action steps. These include:

1. Determine status of cultural competency language adoption. Draft letter to agencies and governor, identifying issue as priority, seeking status report and progress (Ben)
2. Request budget information from agencies to determine FTE percentage allocated to EJ (Ben or Jon)
4. Meet with DEQ and ODOT staff to identify staffing and opportunities to advance EJ (Jon)
5. ID potential agency staff with EJ competency for Citizen Advocate positions (Jon)

6. Finalize planning for demographic mapping symposium to facilitate ID of EJ communities (Jen and Robin)
7. Request any feedback on “best practices” handbook by end of year and finalize (to be disseminated in conjunction with symposium) (Jon and Jen)
8. Request participation from named agencies that have failed to engage (i.e. Dept. of Ed) (Gabriella to talk to Dept of Ed and OSHA and DCBS)
9. (2015-2016) Develop EJ training curriculum for agency staff and managers. Establish framework for cumulative impact assessments, including qualitative health risks (EPA has been working on a risk assessment template –there are other models in the country: cumulative impact assessment models to document and inform decision-makers on aggregate and multiple stressors)
10. Create a People of Color community organization directory (Jen and Jon)
11. Engage OSHA/BOLI on an informal ad hoc basis (Julie and Ben)
12. Revisit OEJTF bylaws from 2008 (Gabriella to dig up and send for next meeting)
13. Present EJ to advocacy commissions, Coalition of Communities of Color, ROP (next year in August commissions) (Jon, Ben, Robin to present to CCoC) and Ben to reach out to rural organizing project
14. Establish 2015 meeting schedule – to set at next task force meeting (October) Ben and Gabriella
15. ID external coordination and fundraising ops: we need a staff person in a member organization who can put FTE towards coordinating and implementing “friends of” (Mariahm is going to work towards this)
16. Articulate ongoing issues/concerns in annual report cover letter (Ben and Jon and Jen)
17. ID and engage potential legislative champions (Jon to do one-page)

Ben Duncan noted that in addition to reinforcing agency accountability, spirit of retreat was about elevating EJ issues to Governor, to communities, and thanked Jon Ostar and facilitator Jessica Hamilton Keys.

OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED

- There is a need to develop the next generation of EJ leaders by establishing ex-officio members to participate in EJTF.
- Revisiting the issue of agency adoption of cultural competency language in management-level job descriptions and evaluation forms is a high priority, model on DEQ.

- Demographic information constraints are a problem, there are no demographic maps broken down by census tracts for the whole state, have Regional Equity Atlas for Portland Metro and DEQ Region 1. Everyone should draw from the same data sets, ideally centralized. Will require training to understand how benefits and burdens are distributed. Each agency will have different approach because air has different pattern than groundwater, transportation is very complex - land use, air, that is trigger for targeted outreach.
- EJTF will update matrix of community based organizations.

AGENCY UPDATES

- Agencies are taking on the task of developing implementation guidelines, a concrete how-to complement to the manual, which provides context and intellectual framework. The task force will asked to review and comment on the guidelines.
- Portland wood burning survey results are expected from PSU in mid-September.
- Gabriela Goldfarb noted the following items to be worked on by the Governor's office: post agency advocates on the website, provide draft implementation guidelines to Jon Ostar and Jen Coleman, reach out to Dani Ledezma to get Dept of Education engagement, ask DSL to provide briefing on the Port of Morrow coal terminal decision, find out about budget for EJTF to have travel expenses covered, find and distribute bylaws, work with Ben Duncan to set 2015 calendar of meetings, send letter to DAS regarding limited English Proficiency language issue, ask agencies to identify FTE dedicated to EJ.