

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE MEETING
MEETING DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2014
MEETING SUMMARY

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Ben Duncan; Jon Ostar; Robin Morris Collin; Will Collin; Julie Samples; Jen Coleman; Jack Johnson (attended via telephone); Scott Dahlman (attended via telephone); Cynthia Gomez (arrived approx. 1:25pm)

AGENCIES IN ATTENDANCE

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODOT), Curt Melcher (participated by telephone til 2pm, then arrived in person); Oregon Health Authority (OHA) - Curtis Cude, Sharon Watkins, Kate Levins (Kate attended via telephone); Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) - Alyssa Mucken; Oregon Department of Education (ODOE)- Karin Moscon; Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)- Rose Kachadoorian, Grant Jackson; Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)- Rebecca Williams; Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)- Sadie Carney; Oregon State Fire Marshall (OSFM) - Sue Otjen; Oregon Department of Forestry - Rod Nichols (phone, 1:40pm)

VISITORS

Amanda Zuniga, Oregon State University (OSU); Laura Stewart, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region X; Ankita Guchait – Portland State University (PSU)

MEETING NOTES

Ben Duncan remembered Ruben Ochoa, OWRD's citizen advocate who passed away in October, 2014.

Karin Moscon, a newly assigned ODOE citizen advocate described her role as Civil Rights Specialist with ODOE; with responsibility for Title 2, Title, 6, ADA, other compliance issues.

REVIEW OF MEETING SUMMARIES FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2014

Action Items:

- Correct August to show Julie Samples was in attendance in the afternoon
- Correct Rose Kachadoorian's name at top of October summary
- Correct August summary to say "meeting summary" and delete "Agenda"
- Meeting summaries were approved with above-noted corrections.

MILL CITY FIELD BURNING

Rose Kachadoorian presented the joint ODA-DEQ response letter sent to the community leaders. Will Collin raised questions about opportunities for citizen monitoring and the cost of additional DEQ monitors. Jon Ostar raised the concern that the response letter addresses policy and

environmental issues, but not environmental justice because it does not discuss the population makeup of the community. Jack Johnson raised questions about Oregon statute governing the field burning program. Julie Samples suggested reviewing Oregon OSHA information for population characteristics. Robin Collin stated it is not acceptable to sacrifice a poor Latino population for benefit of large population. Ben Duncan requested that ODA provide demographic information for the community, provide specific statutory exemption allowing field burning in the Silverton Hills, and that the topic be put on the agenda for the next EJTF meeting.

CLIMATE RISK REPORT

Curtis Cude reported that OHA completed its climate risk report as first step to preparing for public health adaptation requirements in response to climate change. Next step is to do social vulnerability assessment related to profile report and develop adaptation plan. He made two requests: 1. Want opportunity to present results of profile report to EJTF; and 2. Want help in identifying additional audiences, looking for advisory group members. Ben Duncan agreed to include on the agenda for next EJTF meeting for a 45 minute presentation, at which time EJTF members can suggest advisory group members.

CULTURAL COMPETENCE POLICIES

Ben Duncan wants to see sincere and robust efforts from state agencies to adopt cultural competency practices in employment.

OWRD - Alyssa Mucken [missed what she said].

ODOT - Rebecca (Becky) Williams explained she is taking over from Jessica Santiago, will be a 1 person show, there may be some limited duration positions to help. Will Collin noted that Hal Gard at ODOT has good information and that with federal funding, there are obligations. Jon Ostar noted the need to make the case that ODOT needs to beef up its capacity. Ben Duncan stated there is a need to answer question about whether cultural competency is consistently in ODOT management/personnel practices. Need to identify where the gaps are, and what the pathways are to broader consistency across the board. Becky noted that her position is environmental justice and limited English proficiency, she is budgeted to work on this as needed, hard to pinpoint exact FTE w/so many job duties. She looked at her job description, and it is not in her description. She will reach out to ODOT HR Manager.

ODOE – Karin Moscon noted there is a new Equity Unit focused on cultural competency and equity, bilingual, Native American, and other areas of strategic focus. Ben Duncan suggested it would be good to bring Environmental Justice issues to that Unit.

OSFM - Sue Otjen met with new State Fire Marshall to speak w/him about EJTF, he is committed to incorporating the materials regarding cultural competence.

ODA - Rose Kachadoorian shared the model employment agreement w/Deputy Director Lisa Hanson, will meet with Directors and have a bigger conversation. Do not have positions w/EJ written into them, do not have a citizen advocate position, or funds dedicated. Have hired bilingual person to do farmworker/pesticide engagement, have hired in food safety multilingual

staff, but have not had positions assigned. Will Collin noted that ODA needs to get involved in rural organizing, rural people are getting disproportionately impacted.

ODFW - Curt Melcher commented on the constraints imposed by the EJTF not having any funding associated with it. He noted that ODFW works extensively with tribes, Legislative commission on Indian Services – everyone in the agency has the job of being a tribal liaison. Goal is not to have one citizen advocate, but that everyone is a citizen advocate. ODFW has the cultural competency elements in the queue, agency is in a state of transition, developing a tribal cooperation policy, and a position description needs to be developed based on a developed policy, think it should be in every position description, not just managers. While not identified in his own position description, he has been the person tasked w/citizen advocacy. Ben Duncan agreed that is the vision - that everyone is an environmental justice advocate. Package is intended to be adaptable. Overall policy would be powerful. We keep coming back to FTE percentage and importance of designation in job description and percentage of someone's time in position description. Jon Ostar noted that the environmental justice law was passed, but there is a need to make it happen on the ground, and Task Force has decided that way to do that is to have the Citizen Advocates designated, and position descriptions changed - which managers does it make most sense. Will Collin noted that EJTF did not go after money on purpose, to keep profile low, if there is a way to help w/legislature, we can help. Becky Williams offered that the bigger issue is training, people don't know how to address EJTF. Ben Duncan stated that putting it in the job description and evaluation will prompt training. Things like respectful workforce policy is an opportunity. Robin: point about funding is something agencies should be considering themselves; document time each of you advocates have spent and outcomes gained, include in request for agency budget. Think it is less likely for EJTF to get funding. It is less transparency and accountability if there is not a designated position.

GIS FORUM

* Curt Melcher has reserved two rooms at ODFW headquarters May 28 & 29 - commission room and classroom, though neither one works great for telephone participation. The EJTF agreed to hold May 29 for the event. Ben Duncan commented that this will be a time for agencies to identify what resources they have for identifying EJ communities. Jon Ostar said. DEQ's PATS overlay is what we want to highlight

COMMUNICATION

Cynthia Gomez requested having the EJTF use Google Docs or some other way to make documents accessible.

BYLAWS

Julie Samples found meeting notes Interest was to develop expectations

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jon: summarized earlier discussion, basically need to better document environmental justice demographic overlay to verify whether low income or people of color concentration exposed to disparate risk. Will send them copy of notes.

Gay Stuntzer: Appears to be doing a good job of organizing state agencies, but how does Task Force address concerns of individual citizens? Do others come w/EJ issues? Would not have known about EJTF were it not for Dave Leach. One encouraging thing was evaluating an air quality monitoring system in Mill City. We can't go farther until that is accomplished.

Will: Committed to helping. Should empower you with citizen monitoring, but need to do that in a way the state could accept, need to talk about mitigation. Will be helpful

Dave Leach: Letter explained well the reasons, but did not address environmental justice issue.

Ben: That was the crux of the conversation. As a task force, you are not unique in coming to EJTF, ability to respond feels insufficient often, TF is tasked by statute to advise the agencies and the Governor's office. Earlier discussion resulted in request to agencies to provide demographic analysis of who is in community, not just census data, to ensure accuracy - first essential step. Next step would be to make recommendations reflective of findings. TF is willing to work w/communities, we then advise agencies and

Gay: Grateful for EJTF listening.

Robin: By statute, have been successful in raising consciousness in the agencies, trying to find capacity in agencies to understand the issue and respond appropriately. For past 7 years, have been working hard to make agency capacity increased. Also want to foster collaboration, e.g. bucket brigade for AQ monitoring that will be considered valid. Want to have a hearing, we don't have financial resources.

Will: need to be sure to count undercounted populations, don't rely only on reports, make sure numbers are right.

Gabriela: will circulate excerpt of today's conversation EJTF, if approved will email to Gay.

2015 CALENDAR DATES

February 27 - ODA Field Burning, OHA Climate Change Presentation, Legislative Update, Implementation Handbook

May 29

September 18 or 25

December 4

ODA FOLLOW UP

Regarding worker protection standard training video

- ODA will be presenting to Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs (OCHA)
- Oregon Occupational and Health Administration (OSHA) will present the protection standard training video to Oregon Law Center