

MEETING MINUTES

Environmental Justice Task Force

Friday, June 14th, 2019

EJTF Q-2 Meeting | 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Listening Session | 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

NW Health Foundation

Ramona Soto Rank Room

221 NW Second Avenue, Suite 300

Portland, OR 97209

Attendees:

Joel Iboa (Chair); Bob Collin (Vice-Chair); Valentin Sanchez; Jim Krieder; Huy Ong; Scott Dahlman; Quinn Read; Amira Streeter (Governor's Office); Bryn Hudson (Governor's Office); Miles Palacios (Governor's Office)

Welcome & Introductions (Task Force Members)

Meeting Minutes (Task Force Members)

Approval of minutes:

Amendments:

- No amendments

Motion to approve as amended by Bob

Seconded by Valentin

All in favor? – Aye

Approved

Citizens Advocate – Agency Updates/ Reports

- *DEQ – Nina DeConcini & Stephanie Caldera*
 - Looking forward to the La Grande meeting
 - New Staff: Asher, Clean Air Oregon Community Engagement Coordinator
 - Clean Air – the first 20 facilities are being called into the program to provide additional data for health assessments.
 - 6 for first round, process will continue moving forward
 - NW Metals – Nina
 - There were a number of environmental violations
 - Failure of tire permit
 - Failure of manage the tires properly
 - Failure of permit for the shredder
 - Failure of having a management plan

- Failure to clean debris from the fire or presence of residual contamination
 - End of May, had a hearing with an administrative law judge. We are confident the violations will be held but we will find out in several months. Hope to enforce compliance.
 - Air Quality Monitoring – There is an air toxics monitor in the Cully neighborhood near the NW metals location. Hope to continue the monitoring of air quality with the progress of this case and beyond
 - Jordan Cove – Early may, DEQ denied without prejudice, the application from the applicant for the water work (they believe the did not the information was enough to prove the work would meet water standards)
 - BOB: will there be public hearings if the go for application again?
 - Yes
 - BOB: how long?
 - Calendar year
 - Bob: can you deny with prejudice
 - Yes, denied with prejudice or approved with conditions and more options
 - Fire season: DEQ is partnered OHA and ODF to meet and refine protocols to address Smoke intrusion from wildfires. This protocol is to put agencies and necessary folks into motion.
 - June 24th is the next meeting
 - Partnership Agreement with USEPA and DEQ to have a work plan (2years)
 - There are grants that area available to promote reduce reuse recovery. We are looking to expand the net to get other people to apply for these grants that will be out in July. Would you be able to promote these applicant opportunities?
 - Joel: do they have to be a 501c3 to apply?
 - No
 - Bob: provide in Spanish?
 - Yes
 - Leg updates: DEQ budget has go forward, LO did not include budget for new position
 - Valentin: With the wildfire response plan, how is the communication response to the farm worker population? In the past they are not well communicated with and are vulnerable to air comprise of the wildfires.
 - We'll bring that back tell the team about these concerns
- *Oregon Department of Forestry – Andy White*
 - Agency Report is under review and will soon be out
 - Access to translation and interpretation services – we are looking to utilize a telephonic service. Still working with DAS who has open

contracts with Linguista and CTS language. Looking to develop a contract with said groups, should get service by end of September. Also looking at in-person agreements, potentially available in November. ASL to be determined.

- Inmate worker programs: have a working relationship with a variety of DOC institutions, looking to help incarcerated folks develop life/work skills. Just hired an inmate out of incarceration into a seasonal firefighter role. Cool success story!
- Tillamook force service interpretation education center, only facility ODF has. Staff is developing a curriculum to develop internships program that will attract diverse students.
- Training with Exec. Team regarding EJ. The vision is to have this concept integrated with the new generation of leaders in the agency.
 - Bob: utilize EJ screen?
- Realities of Fire Season: 12 protection districts, 7 will be in fire season on Monday (June 17th) but good news is that there is not expected drought conditions but May was not a great month for fires
- *Questions:*
 - Joel: are there standards for hiring for the inmate program? Percentage of workforce?
 - No knowledgeable thresholds or quotas
 - Joel: we should look at finding more opportunities built in for them on these fire teams.
- *Note: Amira-* Governors wildfire council is meeting and the meetings are open to the public and have open comment. Next meeting is June 21st at the world forestry center, 9-11a.m. Good opportunity to participate if you have questions about... but also labor housing and such.
- *Julie Sifuentes – OHA*
 - Talking about organizational differences: as we're not a natural resource agency we deal with the environmental public health section. A high level update/comment: Pat Allen a year and half ago has pushed forward health equity, a result: an investment in this field that is encouraging focused on workforce diversity within the public health world. Not to the point where we can report on any outcomes.
 - Surveillance unit: data/ mapping GiS
 - Assessment unit (Julie manages) health risk assessments i.e. Portland harbor/ clean air Oregon
 - Regulatory unit
 - In the past there has been an EJTF interest in mapping and using an EJ lens on monitoring risks and exposures
 - New mapping tool: **near traffic screening tool**. Identify communities with risk to traffic related air pollution. Displays model, tail pipe exposure, etc.
 - Focuses on air pollution

- Funded by center for disease control: making this data accessible to researchers and communities.
 - Has found new ways to make this data available
 - Will provide data on a wide spread of issues
 - “The Near Traffic Screening Tool”
 - Bob: I believe there is a necessary space for your agency to communicate in this EJ field.
 - Working on a project with Willamette cove (in work with coalition with Portland Harbor Community Coalition)
 - This has become a priority in the community and our agency. These waters are polluted and people are still accessing despite this fact, it is putting them in danger and we need to work state and community on remediation.
- *Michael Heffner – Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshall*
 - Have conducted a number of studies across the state and are participating in the governors wildfire preparedness task force.
 - HB 2219 – excited to see where this bill goes as it has passed out of W&Ms and is headed for third reading on house floor
 - [listen to recording]
 - BOB: thank you for looking at Malheur County, lots of EJ issues with the gold mine out there. ...Evacuation route planning is important, how would the space be defended?
 - Focus tends to be residential, we’ll bring firefighters from all over to send crews in and remove some the debris around homes in the line of fire to ensure we can protect those spaces.
 - Farm worker communities? Labor housing?
 - I would say there is no distinction on the resident themselves but we have to look at access and whether we can sustain fire fighter capabilities
 - Bob: assistance for evacuations?
 - We work with sheriff’s department and other community groups to ensure proper evacuation routes
 - Huy: Do you guys work with Immigration services in the support work you do? Is there a standard/communication in times of emergency?
 - Will circle back and get back to you
- *Michael Wood – Oregon OSHA*
 - Continuing to move forward on potential revisions to our agricultural rules
 - Fire siting,
 - Conference (Offered in Spanish)
 - Target audience of this conference is on worker rights and how to access this system
 - State fairgrounds in Salem

- Spreading this vulnerable workers conference beyond just agriculture, looking into many different fields
 - Acknowledging the issue that within this agricultural field, we know that not having Spanish speaking accessible is why we are trying to address this and then also address trying to integrate indigenous languages
 - Trying to grow and step up as much as possible.
 - Amira: have you considered translation capabilities that connect more on a direct translation with individuals
 - We have used this tech before, but the capacity of this big event is hard to make it work
 - Valentin: thank you, great step in right direction. Indigenous farmworkers are an extremely vulnerable population. There is a significant portion of farmworkers in Oregon. This is the most vulnerable and least likely to know their worker rights, there is a lot of fear with this group and working in this field. WE need to learn how to make it work better, thank you for working together on this front.
 - We will have a conversation and connect more to discuss this further. Prepared the first time to eat the cost to make this work. I need the worker advocacy groups and union groups to make the message clear that it is safe to attend this. The state fairground is a great facility is very accessible, hopefully no groups that can access the feds
 - Quinn: what kind of internal resistance? Reframe: how did you get buy in to get approval from the agency?
 - In this context: I'm the administrator of the agency, able to get an enthusiastic response from Director. Outside, great support. Internal, some concern from bilingual staff because they don't have the training for a conference. Overall, lots of wonderful support and proper questions about feds/ICE. 20 years ago, New York put on a fake one of these events to round up, there is a lot of bad will, so the trouble is to produce a feeling of comfort and safety again.
 - Hoping to do this event in November
 - Joel: please send to us so we can spread throughout our networks
- *PUC – written update*
 - *ODA – written update*
 - *ODOT – written update*

[BREAK]

Governor's Office Updates:

Amira Streeter

- Budget/Legislative Priorities:

- Sine Die: projected to end on 21st, may be June 28th or the 1st or 2nd
- Quite a few bills on the horizon:
 - HB 2619/ HB 3058: chlorpyrifos pesticide – EPA was going to ban but then pulled back. Other states have put in policies to phase out pesticide over 5years time. They use it for Christmas tree protect them. Both bills will not move out of committee. Amira has been working with ODA to discuss what can be done
 - Joel: where did it die? A- House rules/ joint ways and means
 - SB 928: died in Ways and Means. Discussion to bring back depending on what happens with HB 2020. Would have created an agency
 - HB 2020: Climate Policy Office will be established in DAS. House Floor for a vote on June 17th.
 - Governor signed on May 24th – Clean Air Act?????
 - HB 2242: authorizes PUC to.... Currently in Ways & Means, passed out of House in March.
 - Chair Iboa: we drafted a letter to support the passage and movement of this bill to W&Ms.
 - SB 792 - Auto Dismantlers: makes changes to ODOT auto dismantlers program
 - HB 2007: Diesel bill – emission standards for medium duty/heavy duty trucks. This is a bill that is a pretty present state of influx. In joint W&Ms
 - HB 2209: Hazardous Rail Bill: third reading in the house on Monday.
- Budget
 - W&Ms committee is finishing up with all the state agencies. Some are out of line for what the Governor wants
 - Support for fire council
 - Support for task force
 - Happy to advocate more funding.
 - Bob: we should be an agency too, and advocate for our budgets
- Executive Appointments:
 - Indian Services Council - Task Force member
 - Joel or someone would like to attend and present on the importance and get a connection. (Huy is willing to go too)
- Strategic planning session
 - One or two members to assist Amira and planning this session
 - Huy and Quinn are willing to coordinate

Questions:

- Joel: Let's circle back on how EJTF can support Gov staff
- Quinn: funding support for Task Force
 - If HB 2020 goes through, a FTE will assist task force

Bryn

- OAHP – up for public comment (10th – July 19th)
 - Roadmap for how they are going to mitigate ocean asphyxiation hypoxia
 - Joel: listening session?
 - Webinar occurring now.
 - One on the eleventh of June.
 - They might schedule
- Territorial Rocky Habitats Plan
 - Dept. Of Land Conservation and Development: they are updating that plan currently.
 - June 26th webinar hour meeting
 - July 17th all day meeting on the coast
- Huy: whenever there is a 30-day comment period please let us know so we can engage our communities
- Joel: capacity to expand more connections to our communities?
- Bob: How can EJTF be more involved in the conversations that are happening around the Climate Cabinet
 - Bring to Kristen Sheeran?
 - Amira: DLCDC is looking to bring into the fold agencies (and maybe groups like task force) to include the conversation around Climate and EJ

EJTF BUSINESS

- Joel: Commission on Black Affairs has done a great job at connecting with what they have wanted to support and have their voice/recommendations heard.
- Bob and I: meeting with Sen James Manning to talk about ongoing EJ legislation but also advocacy commission ability to draft legislation and make recommendations. Asking for support to get the agency to get that power in the Short Session. Get that amendment!
 - Quinn: do we have a set of standards to create a consistent voice on legislation. Have this be a topic at our strategic planning session. (quorum of 3 or more equals public access)
 - Task force vs. commission

Oregon Environmental Council

- Stacey Dalgaard – Outreach for Water Program
 - OEC has been around 50yrs.
 - Strategic Plan
 - Clean water
 - Toxic-free environments
 - Climate protection
 - OEC is a non-profit

- Lots of advocacy in state legislature and work with agencies
 - Not super involved on local level
- Context about water conversation
 - Waterways – in 2006 - water quality limited surface water maps show that water ways are in violation of clean water act. These water ways have temperatures that are too warm which makes spaces inhabitable to some species. Can also give spots for harmful algae's to grow.
 - August 2019 – there will be further difficulty to bring sustainable water from these waterways
 - Good things:
 - Community on OR Coast – Sustainable NW assisting – they are working to buy a water shed to manage the drinking water in a more sustainable manner
 - Astoria (the city) does this as well
 - Manmade wetlands around the state as water treatment. Helps water get cooled down when released back into habitats through inexpensive natural infrastructure
 - Fish restoration: NE OR
 - Foster Flood Plain area: City of Portland purchased homes/land to restore the land to mitigate flooding
- Last summer the Gov Office put out an idea, a concept for an investment strategy – 100 year water plan
 - Focused on how we think about our health, economy, ecosystems around water – strategies for a sustainable water future in OR
 - This can connect agencies and open up the diverse conversations about complex ideas about water to make it more interconnected.
- A vision for the future: needs more focus
 - Water Conservation: more is less
 - Work with Nature: what we're doing now
 - Water justice: what does this mean for OR? What are the EJ/Water issues that should be at the top?
- Some of the polling we've seen shows there is support for these natural ideas
- There items in Agency's budgets to move this kind of work forward
- Valentin: thank you for the effort. How can EJTF assist in drafting a vision that is inclusive of our vulnerable populations, such as our farmworker communities?
 - Hasn't been a focus on a particular community because of the level this plan is at. Important point though and will need to be considered as progress on the plan continues

Portland Superfund Issue – Cassie Cohen, Coordinator

- Portland Harbor Community Coalition:
 - Founded in 2012
 - Work with impacted communities from the Willamette River cleanup site

- 40 total organizations, handful of businesses, lots of voices from impacted communities and there are supportive advisory partners
- Lots of POC communities in these communities have a history of living close to the areas near water affected by the clean up
- Work closely with advocacy groups working with communities dealing with houselessness that are based around the water and toxic beach areas.
- Minority contractors/small businesses in the area are looking to get involved in the conversation and the cleanup necessary on this river clean up
- Also want to ensure the State has suggestions from us to assist these communities and do things differently with this cleanup to keep these communities and their interests at the forefront of this process
- What can EJTF do?
 - This is a multi-million dollar superfund cleanup from pollution in the 1970s
 - This cleanup was sparked by community action.
 - EPA responding to community and tribes issued a strong cleanup plan at the end of the Obama administration
 - NWN submitted a letter to EPA that supported reducing cleanup levels for the harbor and asked for a change. EPA then proposed changes to the standards for cleaning.
 - These changes are not needed yet: technical review period is already built in, EPA is just bypassing this process for this study but not for the studies that the communities are submitting. The change needs to wait until at least the review period comes around.
 - This sets a bad precedent if the EPA does this, we would like your support.
 - Quinn: procedural requirements?
 - Changed cleanup standards needs to go through a broad amendment. It is a complicated process. EPA didn't do any of that.
 - Joel: Roll back from national standard EPA bill the governor signed, can we apply this to this?
 - Amira: guess is "no" but because this is an agency process we'll need to do some more digging.
 - Joel: we should consider a letter to support to keep Oregon's protection of this process strong.

Lunch Break - 1:06p

EJTF Business - Part 2

- **September 5th and 6th:** La Grande - EJTF Retreat & Quarter 5 meeting
 - Retreat: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 - Listening Session: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

- Zoom call for session?
 - Transportation?
 - Flights/Drive
- **December 6th:** Astoria – Quarter 4 meeting
- Doodle poll dates to do a Retreat outside the Quarterlies between September and December (**RETREAT PLANNING**)
 - Still has to be open to the public
 - August? (early)/ September
 - Bob: facilitator?
 - Huy: what is this work and what is the HW we're going to have to complete? We need to be on top of everything that will be falling into this plan.
 - Strategic Planning Committee: Huy Ong and Quinn Read
 - Valentin Sanchez: sub-committee
 - Quinn follow up on possible in-kind facilitator with TREC funder by Wulber Force
 - Stephanie Caldera – DEQ
 - Assist Environmental Quality Task Force
 - Has to be noted as public meeting but may be closed to the Public comment but not the public
 - (Miles/Amira will follow up with Mary Moeller, executive appointments, and research to find out)

Public Comment

- Maria Cahill: on topic of the water vision with OEC
 - The one water approach: currently we have siloed approaches to taking care of water – separate depts. Taking care of different areas of water. Trying to bring the local approaches of water consolidated to a single department that could be beneficial to our state as it is with San Francisco.

2:16 p.m. Adjourned

3:06 p.m. Open

Listening Session

- Mary Peevato – Neighbors for Clean Air
 - Started this work ten years ago. This organization has grown and requires some funding but has run and organized for ten years as an unpaid volunteer.
 - Astounded at the industrial pollution in Portland
 - Why are we still looking at risks of air pollution
 - Fell down this hole of looking at gap between industrial problem and addressing it.
 - Regulatory will was weak.

- 2016 – study showed the real problem that industrial pollution is causing and spring boarded clean air program initiative.
- Feeling positive about that opportunity to address these present issues.
- Problem with Diesel emissions:
- I believe there is an EJ component because of the communities that are affected
 - Diesel emissions are higher in communities of color
- **Taryn Evans - EJ Manager Coalition of Communities of Color**
 - Working on the implementation of Oregon Clean Energy fund
 - Building a connection with the EJTF

3:50 p.m. Closed