

MEETING MINUTES

Environmental Justice Task Force

Friday, September 13th, 2019

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

Clatsop Community College

Patriot Hall – P207

Astoria, OR 97103

Attendees:

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

Welcome & Introductions (Task Force Members/Citizen Advocates/Public)

Meeting Minutes (Task Force Members)

Approval of minutes:

Amendments:

- none

Motion to approve as amended by Bob

Seconded by Valentin

All in favor? – Aye

Approved

Approval of Agenda

Amendments

- Add Marissa, interim president at Hispanic Council
- Sustainability Board would like 5 minutes of our time to talk about their strategic plan (Bob)

Governor's Office Updates:

Amira Streeter

- Budget/Legislative Priorities:
 - Developing legislative concepts currently in preparation of the 2020 short regular legislative session
 - Listening sessions and conversations with stakeholders and members of the public that have interest in changes for the HB 2020 bill moving forward in the 2020 session.
 - Yesterday, the EJTF had a retreat with Katie S, we will see a report on this soon

- Things are starting to ramp up again
- **Meta Loftsgaarden** – Governor office lead
 - 100 year water vision
 - The majority of Oregonians expect clean water in our homes, and in our bodies of water
 - There is historical issues, rural communities struggling with overextending resources in ground water.
 - Metro has a tax base that can be utilized to support those folks
 - When we are talking about water resource infrastructure, we are talking about BIG.
 - We are considering climate change and population growth
 - WE have been working with agencies about what the goals should be and what the issues may be.
 - This is a public conversation to ask representatives and folks from the communities (THIS IS A DRAFT, a continual conversation)
 - What do we invest
 - GOALS
 - Health: accessible/healthy water for future generations
 - Economy: adequate and clean ground water to support economic growth for all Oregonians
 - Environment:
 - Safety:
 - Are there any concerns or needs that aren't being captured?
 - BEN: something I'm thinking about is healthy fishing economy. There is an economic and spiritual connection to the water and first foods. The intersection breaks into water rights and more. These are things that should be considered as the conversation continues.
 - What else that isn't being seen that should be included?
 - BOB: issues of vulnerability. From climate change angle, for vulnerable communities there is risk multiplied
 - BOB: paying/reimbursing folks for their time to have them come in and participate in the necessary conversations
 - GUSTAVO: a lot of the problems that are being discussed are not going to be good for a long term in 100 years. What are we doing for the present to address issues? i.e. lead in the pipes in schools?
 - 100 year *investment strategy* vs. implementation timeline. We are strategizing for generational work. WE work on what we need to now and then growing it out as we continually invest in our communities.
 - Christmas tree bill: there have been some investments, not sure if they were the best but we are considering whether that is the best investment of our organizations time
 - Who are the groups that I need to talk to
 - NWACP
 - State Emergency response system

- Executive Appointments:
 - Working with new executive director to find a tribal member for the EJTF
- Strategic planning session

Citizens Advocate – Agency Updates/ Reports

- *Oregon Department of Forestry – Andy White*
 - Couple of updates
 - Community Response Plans
 - Communication Plan Framework
 - Draft of the plan that Ben Duncan is currently working on
 - This is a draft that Ben has developed
 - The intent of these community response plans is to have information in the hands of folks ahead of time so there is a clear understanding of how to address these issues
 - Provide protections and reduce pollutants
 - Questions:
 - Fire update
 - Fire season has been much kinder to us that it has in other times periods
 - Only had to deploy two large management teams this season thus far
- *ODA – Christina J. Higby*
 - Working with DEQ and Water resource department to make sure that when it comes out to public comment
 - Confined animal feeding spaces
 - Permit renewals, public process with comment on these matters
 - Reusing reusable containers in a safe way to reduce rubbish
 - Committee to
 - Hemp:
 - VALENTIN: do you know how the water is being used?
 - We don't address the water rights issue
 - Water resource department representative – regulation issues because of the transitions to that crop/water type usage
- *Julie Sifuentes – OHA*
 - Hiring diversity
 - Expanded capacity in EJ and environmental health
 - Fishing for indigenous communities (EPA Grant)
 - ? Bob: federal or region 10 EPA funding?
 - Answer: region 10
 - Climate Adaptation Framework

- OHA panel for state agencies (Education piece for health equity)
- *Michael Heffner – Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshall (written update provided as well)*
 - Purchased two new vehicles to expand reporting on various events throughout the state
 - State emergency response program – some minor language changes
 - Not every hero wears a cape, plan and practice your escape
 - Training to stay safe and escape fires
 - Deployed devices that can read powders to determine whether they are dangerous or not in powder scares
 - In the past there was an EO that required crude oil trains to be recorded with the Fire Marshall office... was specific to crude oil, not tarsans or some other version, it would not be recorded. Now any class 3 flammable liquids will be recorded and included in reports due to legislative changes.
- *Renee – OSHA*
 - Working on labor/housing revamp
 - Areas of improvement – changes and points of clarity
 - Rules were devised from federal standards, should be coming in the next couple of months
 - The Spanish speaking laborer conference
 - November 19th 8:30a-4:30p – Oregon State fair Grounds
 - BOLI Worker rights/health rights
 - Virginia Garcia will hopefully be coming to provide medicinal support to the community in attendance.
 - Registration is free
 - Questions:
 - Valentin: interpreters for indigenous folks?
 - We are working at our best capacity to find folks who can translate well with the concepts being handled..
 - Valentin would love to hear an update about how things went at our next meeting.
 - Do you have a sense if any employers will be paying their workers for attending this conference?
 - We have no sense because of unsure of what would be the best time for this meeting to take place for most folks.
 - They will forward fliers for this event to our EJTF members
 - Joel: any other partners reaching out to before November?
 - Speakers? Community groups? WE are working on a communication plan to reach out to other members and folks who can be included.

- Will take any suggestions to expand communications: Joel, Valentin and Gustavo can pull together some communications referrals for communities to touch base with
- *PUC – Candi Young*
 - With the recent increase in wildfires... this is a subject that will continue to be discussed
 - All panel discussions are available online
 - Energy Trust of Oregon have been working on their DEI training
 - Just passed by commission and implemented in the next year (2020) – energy trust effort that is overseen by the PUC
 - Establish and publish a DEI Lens
 - 1000 project with trade allies
 - Convene a rural focus work group
 - Bob: how will they connect with POC business owners
 - What part of the work is going to be doing
 - Amira: have you spoke with sustainability board
 - Not sure... we will though through a connection with Amira
 - Life line awareness week
 - State/federal funding
 - Discounted cellular to qualified low-income individuals
- *ODOT – Provided a written update*
- *DEQ –Stephanie Caldera*
 - Diesel grants and reduction – there can be some input given at the next meeting if you all would like
 - BOB: I think it is really important for EJ to be involved.
 - We agree, we will connect
 - Enviro Quality Commission
 - 26-27 in Madras
 - Work group with dept. of emergency service
 - Written translation
 - 36 entities have received contracts and state agencies will be able to access those contracts.
 - DEQ and OHA have been asked to provide info/and data to talk about Portland Harbor Community Coalition issue regarding the cleanup
- *Water Resource Department – Harmony (Travis is present)*
 - Forming an internal EJ team with a person from each of the internal depts.
 - Socio-cultural benefits??
 - Oral history on Water
 - Donna B – to talk with EJTF when they are in La Grande in December
 - Harney Ground water study
 - Working with committees and using info to address issues in Wallowa

- Working to connect folks to counties to understand the land use rules regarding water rights/access
- TRAVIS Kelly:
 - Hydro-tech for West Region
 - 76 stream gauges on service water that is posted real time on the internet
 - Agency is small and spread across the state.
 - Was fortunate to go to DEI training in Salem. We are trying to utilize the trainings to expand lens around equity on an individual level to expand into their work

[BREAK]

Amelia Schlusser – Green Energy Institute (Lewis & Clark)

- *Deconstructing Diesel Presentation*
- Policy roadmap to reduce emissions and pollution in PDX
- Ben: Why were high schools the only focus of this report?
 - Answer: most information for high schools
- Joel: did you coordinate with school district?
 - Answer: No, this is an independent study
- Strategies most able to help in these communities requiring EJ assistance
 - To reduce emissions from on-road vehicles
 - Emission performance standards for existing vehicles and fleets
 - Reduce emissions from construction equipment
 - Impose permit restrictions on construction operations
 - Clean diesel contracting policies
 - Reduce emissions from diesel engines operating at rail yards, ports, industrial facilities and large construction sites
 - Adopt “indirect source rules” that restrict aggregate vehicle emissions
 - Engage in equity-focused decision-making
- Questions???
 - Joel: please send us slides? Specifically expansion on solutions
 - Joel: plans to expand study to other cities across Oregon
 - Yes and no: trying to focus on areas with high levels of diesel pollution. We are looking at this OSU and PSU
 - Amira: was it picking schools first? Or polluted area first then schools
 - Polluted -> schools
 - Valentin: dept. of ed. would be nice to have as a compartment in this conversation. Looking at this elementary level. Do you have a sense of what needs to be done to capture more data? Roles to give to parents, school board, etc.?
 - There is additional research that has been developed in the last couple of years (difficult because the data allow inferences)

- Parents being aware of the problem can be a key component to recognizing what the solutions may be
- Gustavo: future development – planning & zoning; good thing to add in the research as it moves forward
 - ...
- Bob: what is the income wealth of the community....Procurement...
 - I don't know for sure because it is difficult to measure the emissions
 - Be vocal on the importance on reducing diesel emissions in Oregon
 - Amira: HB 2007 does effect this conversation
 - Amelia: prohibits older titling of diesel emitting ___, and prohibits reregistration of pre-2010 trucks by 2029
 - Some exemption

LUNCH: 12:20-12:55

EJTF BUSINESS

- Recap – retreat was on the 12th. Talked a lot about what we need to be doing moving forward to expand our work and voices in the EJ world.
 - How are we making decisions as a body
 - How are we ensuring that we have taskforce members who are staying engaged and involved in the community
 - How we are moving forward statewide in our conversations and moving forward.
 - Bob: it's good to see how things are moving forward. As a lawyer, we don't do a lot of retreats. She grew on me and I see the value of the work.
 - Valentin: it was good to see how we can be helpful to ourselves, our ej communities and more
 - Robin: founding chair – we started with no resources but now they are getting support and growth from Gov. Office. Now the group can grow and get out there. Thanks! This is important platform for State Natural resources offices to coordinate and hear from each other. Great connection from these agencies. IT also great for these agencies to hear from the communities that these meetings are taking place in. I hope someone will chronicle the fact that EJTF helped breach these communities (underrepresented/rural) for other taskforces & state agencies. Extraordinary return on a quite modest investment.
 - Ben: Intersection of the advocacy commissions – Amelia should come to OCBA to talk about overlapping affairs.
 - They have designated legislative lesion – where does EJTF have one? (Dembrow & Power??)

- Robin: exec director
- NEXT STEPS: series of organized movements, increase our agenda items staying on track and expand our intentional conversations with EJ communities/folks
 - Explore a potential second session
 - 2-3hr second session before Quarter 4 EJTF meeting
- Chairs will have a continued conversation about next meeting location
- Huy & Jim on phone: retreat went really well

General Oregon Issues

- EJ Pathways Summit – *Missed the name*
 - Hosted at the UO in Eugene
 - (LISTEN TO RECORDING)
 - Trying to get Tribal representation at the Summit
 - Ask: we would like the EJTF to be public, ask governor brown to attend and/or GNRO key staff to be a part of the conversation. (also state agency representation – cost for state agency folks to attend)
 - This will be happening April 2020
 - Bob: expand your conversation about Tribes, and maybe look at having more woman POC represented as Key Notes for this meeting
 - Put people up in houses
 - ROBIN: Honoring EJ advocates could be a good way to encourage the Governor to attend one of these events
 - Gustavo/Ben: Utilize the EJTF as a guide and ally in your work
 - Joel: Tribes you've connected?
 - Klamath/Umatilla
 - Valentin: any particular agencies you'd like to participate/attend?
 - WRD, ODEQ, etc.
 - Also EJ advocates/ advocacy commissions too
 - Host EJTF meeting in Eugene in April? Of the event?
- Hispanic Council - ...Andrea ___
 - Advocacy and Civic Engagement Manager
 - A lot of different assistance for Tax. Health. Etc.
 - Wanted this to be a safe space for Latinx to feel they have a supportive resource system.
 - Designed to address barriers
 - Language and cultural gap in a lot of resources in the area.
 - We have an opportunity to educate communities about what environmental justice is.
 - Valentin: This is the only coastal Latino organization, with the movement of Latinos coming to this area for coastal work, what are demographics?
 - Lots of seasonal workers in the canneries and such
 - ICE activity? Usually when they are coming to get a specific person

- Speculation that sheriffs are communicating with ICE so they can show up at court dates

Continued EJTF business:

- BOB: the sustainability board wants comment about an equity lens
 - Consultation on their documents regarding equity
 - Ben: I'm excited to see how this progresses.
 - 2-3 yrs. of conversing on these goals that have opened up a lot recently
 - Amira: wants to ensure that moving forward, both can be involved in coordinating in the moving forward.

BREAK

PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Cyndi Karp – Central Oregon Coast**
 - Waldport, OR – a group of local citizens joined in a partnership in Lincoln county
 - Water partnership
 - Primary Goals: Climate Change
 - Mission: Healthy ecosystem with Clean water, air, soil and ocean
 - Utilizing ecosystem best practices
 - Restoration for bio-diversity
 - We're in a climate crisis caused by humans
 - Bio-solids are a social injustice
- **Doug Cooper**
 - VP for Hampton Lumber – private family owned company 80yrs of business in OR/WA/BC
 - 4 sawmills/ Willamina, Banks, Tillamook and Warrenton?
 - Employ 600 in OR
 - Thank you for coming out to Clatsop county
 - Employment is an issues because we're looking for skilled trades people
 - The industry is important to this community
 - Oregon Forest resources institute – report is online
 - Released a report on data about forestry in the state of Oregon
 - Clatsop county has the biggest margin gap for wage and the industry wages
 - Proud of the work they do on forest land to protect wildlife, grow trees, take care of water, utilize for recreation
 - On behalf of Hampton, thank you for coming out here
- **David Cooner**
 - Here on behalf Tillamook working lands and water cooperative
 - From Tillamook and work in Warrenton
 - Y'all try to coordinate with Community based organizations

- Mission: create awareness of working forests, lands, fisheries
 - Sustainable work
- Look us up and utilize us for whatever you need
 - There are 3 similar groups to ours and we encourage to reach out to us (Clatsop/Lincoln/lane counties)
- Katherine Olson
 - Native Astorian/Clatsop county
 - 2nd generation professional forester
 - Working in the industry for the last 15 years
 - This industry is important to this area
 - Lots of the water in this county comes from forest lands
 - Thank you for being here
 - My employer is the largest in Clatsop county for land
 - We want forestry to remain ecological/environmentally friendly
 - BOB: are there concerns for loss of employment
 - Yes, but we are here as a source of information is
- Will Callagher
 - Land Manger
 - Timber industry accounts for 30% of the economy of this county
 - 300 some people working on the farm on any given day. Employ all sorts of folks.
 - We work with the agencies on water issues
 - We want to train and educate as many people as possible about the industry to make sure folks aren't confused about the industry

Closing Comments

- Scott Dahlman: this is great that we were able to get out in the state and be a part of the metro/Salem area. Happy we can get out here and make this work.
- Ben Duncan: I think it's an appropriate closing to hear from folks from timber industry to understand the folks that are a part of this work.
- Bob: so good we are able to work together on these issues
- Gustavo: please connect with Amira so we can continue working with each other.

2:30 p.m. Adjourned