

Virginia Council on Environmental Justice Notes

November 18, 2024

10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Location

Patrick Henry Building
West Reading Room
1111 E Broad St.
Richmond, VA 23219

Attendees

• In-Person Councilmember Participants

- Kerry McAvoy, Midlothian, Principal, ONE Environmental Mid Atlantic, LLC
- Lisa Kardell, Alexandria, Director of Public Affairs, Waste Management
- Elizabeth Williamson, Richmond, Partner, Balch & Bingham LLP
- Eddie Ramirez, Abingdon, Managing Member, Ramirez Contracting, LLC
- Hon. Eurika Tyree, Cumberland County Board of Supervisors, Hopewell City Schools
- Courtney Malveaux, Esq. Richmond, McGuireWoods LLP
- Kendyl Crawford, Richmond, Climate & Clean Energy Equity Fund
- Lydia Lawrence, Fairfax, Nature Forward
- Dr. Janet Phoenix, Herndon, George Washington University
- Karen Campblin, Fairfax, ktcPLAN, LLC
- Harrison Wallace, Richmond, Climate & Clean Energy Equity Fund
- Meryem Karad, Richmond, Department of Energy here 10:55AM
- Morgan Whayland, Norfolk, Virginia Natural Gas
- Hope Cupit, Bedford, SERCAP, Inc.
- Rev. Dr. Faith Harris, Henrico, Virginia Interfaith Power & Light
- Lt. Col. (Retired) Ronald Olswyn White of Midlothian, Southside Electric Cooperative

Exceeded quorum of 11

• Remote Councilmember Participants

- Tom Benevento, Harrisonburg, New Community Project
- Aliya Farooq, Chester, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
- Dr. Theresa Burriss, Emory & Henry University

• In-Person Staff

- Gwendolin McCrea, DEQ Northern Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator
- Danielle Simms, DEQ EJ Program Manager
- Elle Smith, Executive Assistant to the Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources
- Secretary Travis Voyles, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources

- **Remote Staff**
 - Kathryn Miller, DEQ EJ Coordinator
- **Councilmember Unexcused Absences**
 - Lillian Alexander, Mecklenburg, Black Family Land Trust
 - John Wesley Boyd, Jr., Baskerville, National Black Farmers Association
 - Ronald Howell, Jr., Spring Grove, Virginia State University

Notes

10:20 AM Council Meeting Begins and Welcome to New Members by VCEJ Chair Karen Campblin

- Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - Motion to approve
 - May 14
 - Second: Janet
 - All in favor
 - Abstentions: Elizabeth Williamson, Hope Cupit, Kerry McAvoy, Eurika Tyree
 - June 13
 - Second: Janet
 - All in favor
 - Abstentions: Elizabeth Williamson, Hope Cupit, Kerry McAvoy, Eurika Tyree
 - August 5
 - Second: Janet
 - All in favor
 - Abstentions: Hope Cupit, Kerry McAvoy, Eurika Tyree

10:32 AM Annual Report Process by VCEJ Chair Karen Campblin

- Will go through each chapter to discuss today
- We will vote at the December 9 meeting
 - Everyone will have the opportunity to abstain
 - Will talk more about next steps at the end of the meeting

10:33 AM Discussion of Annual Report Chapters

- Aliya: Need to update council member info in the beginning of the draft
 - Kendyl, Lydia, Harrison, Aliya, Faith – needs to be updated
 - DEQ/Karen will send around updates to contact information (Janet, Karen will compare notes with DEQ and will update the website and report)
- Chapter 1 – What is Environmental Justice
 - Karen Campblin, section lead
 - Presented three principles during the last meeting (EJ Principles, Jemez Principles, Indigenous Traditions Principles on Just Transition)

- Integrating knowledge of guiding principles into onboarding process
 - Suggestion to defer conversation to next year, after the report process
 - Elizabeth (page 9, para 1, last sentence): some of the concepts are vague, sentence needs to be adjusted to make it clear that the EJ Principles, Jemez Principles, and Indigenous Traditions Principles on Just Transition were not binding for the council
 - Harrison: Should we add any suggestions on the definition of “Environmental Justice” or the VA EJ Act? Ways to recommend and make law stronger
 - Hope: Where does the authority of the council lie?
 - Morgan: the principles were from the 90s, need further discussion to figure out recommendations moving forward
 - Janet: thinking about how the principles apply to this time period and to our state, we would not be sitting here today if those discussions had not taken place in the 90s
 - Harrison: suggests updating or amending to strengthen and set up an EJ review around agencies (how permitting agencies should act in reference to fence line and EJ communities)
 - Morgan: there are places in regulatory framework – administrative code, encourage us to level set on what is out there already
 - Harrison: we should discuss what additions need to happen and the review progress, what role the interagency EJ working group could play, then we could make recommendations in 2025 on what needs to change based of
 - Janet: recommendations to how the council functions and how public can interact effectively with us (accessibility of meetings), could add them
 - Some suggestions from the cumulative impacts chapter should be moved into this one
 - Karen following up Liz, Morgan, Harrison and Janet on wording and Kendyl on recommending reviving interagency EJ working group
- Chapter 2 – Community Action – Tidewater Area
 - Janet Phoenix, section lead
 - Let the pictures tell the story, images provided by community members
 - Several community meetings with residents happened before and after the EJ council meeting in Tidewater earlier this year, members spent one on one time with the community, including a toxic tour
 - Some community members presented during the EJ council meeting, many issues revolve around water, flooding, stormwater, and infrastructure
 - Concerned about investments of federal funds
 - I-64 corridor impacts on drainage
 - Sandpit, industrial concerns from the community, diesel trucks, and traffic (air quality monitoring would be helpful)
 - Jurisdictional issues silencing community members’ voices, an additional barrier
 - Runoff from higher graded newly built homes, maintenance of drainage ditches (Suffolk says it is not responsible)

- Aliya: pictures very effective, the chapter was very reflective of what the council saw when they were there
- Morgan: very passionate about Hampton Roads, and flooding, has recommendations on the fiscal stress of communities and limitations of federal code- high concentration of poverty make it difficult to access federal programs (based on high property values), flood insurance premiums, be sure to update Suffolk to be a city instead of county I the draft
 - Localities are trying to get funding, but limited in ability to raise additional funds, can look at changing federal opportunities, very challenging to obtain resources
 - Has a written list of recommendations to suggest being added to the chapter:
 - Fiscal stress of communities (calculation done by state, several independent cities right next to each other, landlocked localities- ability of local governments to pay for services/infrastructure is stressed, probably will require state and federal resources as well)
 - Flood insurance is a huge barrier (very expensive) - the Commonwealth should explore programs for EJ communities for flood insurance
 - Army Corps of Engineers – major builder of infrastructure to combat flooding – cities have to compete against thousands of other projects, they look at perceived benefit (based on value of the land, can't win against Seattle, New York City, etc.)
 - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law got Norfolk project funded, probably would not have happened if didn't have that once in a lifetime opportunity
 - State should take a leading role with federal partners
- Lydia: we could also revisit this in Chapter 5 (federal funding)
- Faith: there may be ways for the state to make up for the gap
- Faith: one of the things we should talk about is (Suffolk) new construction at higher elevations, permitting allowed this to happen, increased flooding, don't want to lose the specifics that the community members raised
 - Similar issues coming up in Mathews County (rising water table, losing wells and septic systems), can be because of land use decisions and/or climate change (sea level rise)
 - Do we have the flood preparedness fund included in the draft– should we make a recommendation for increasing community flooding funding?
- Elizabeth: very complex issue, likes Morgan's comments and thinks they will be helpful for recommendations
 - Has air permit expertise, lots of concern about air monitoring data (is it valid data?)
- Eddie: should separate out federal and local opportunities, there are a lot of deliverables in the picture that are opportunities for enforcement rather new law because the policy is already there

- We should make the delineation between stormwater sewer and sewage sewer, from construction perspective – first thing they do is make sure there are not negative impacts on neighbors
 - Faith: need to make sure we include the state community flood fund, and when you have an older community and arrive to build new housing, what steps are taken to protect the older homes? Are there steps?
 - Janet to talk to Morgan about incorporating her comments and Faith about her recommendation to increase funding for flooding, will talk to Liz about monitoring (Chapter 2)
 - Morgan circulate her comments by email to the council
- Chapter 6 – Council Governance
 - Aliya Farooq, section lead
 - Need to update the number of members and quorum number
 - Mentioned interagency coordination and benefits of agencies working together (can be presented as aspirational)
 - Includes council aims
 - Karen: could link the interagency coordination section with what was suggested for the first chapter recommendation (interagency working group)
 - Morgan: these recommendations are staff-intensive and take a lot of resources, need to provide more resources to DEQ to support, add a dollar amount for our recommendations as well to fund the suggestions we are making
 - Janet: there are tensions for the council to be able to follow through with recommendations in the community voice section (resource intensive), how can we effectively engage in community-driven events and still meet our requirements about what is an official council activity?
 - Tom: needs to be chewed on, having the space for community is essential to what the council is about
 - Liz: DEQ EJ coordinators could provide some additional support as a resource
 - Danielle: don't have coordinator for Piedmont or Tidewater, short-staffed, positions are not not being filled
 - Liz: concerned about page 65 site visit recommendation 4, would be good for council to engage with industry (protections in place, permit, education) to convey what is done and what could be done, suggests to replace with outreach to leadership at facilities and ask for site tours, suggestion to reframe #4
 - Courtney: maybe trade associations would be more receptive than individual companies
 - Aliya add recommendation to fill regional EJ coordinator positions, talk to Janet about challenges in community voice section and Karen/Morgan about recommendation amount for DEQ to support council (Chapter 6)

12:10 PM Working Lunch

- Public Comment Period
 - Grey Montrose, Henrico,
 - First counsel to the council in 2021 (Attorney General's office)

- Her understanding of the 2020 EJ Act is that EJ applies everywhere in the commonwealth, everyone is included because VA is a Dillon Rule state
- There are localities like Henrico that say EJ does not apply to us (only applies to state agencies) and this creates problems
- Friends of Buckingham – court decision said you need to consider EJ in permitting
 - Site suitability statute for air permits, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is required to look at site suitability
 - If locality approves it, makes it difficult for DEQ to say no (feedback loop)
- When a locality is saying EJ is not their job and then prevents DEQ from doing EJ (because it is approved) then there is a problem
- Henrico recently approved a data center in Sandston
 - Many residents concerns about diesel
 - Communities were told if DEQ wants to stop it they will stop, city said EJ is not our job
 - DEQ can't stop a project after locality gives approval
 - Cumulative impacts in Henrico (majority minority area- permits keep getting approved bc of)
- Recommended: consider interpretation of this law to include localities or recommend that the General Assembly make clear that the EJ Act applies to each political subdivision in the commonwealth
- The Director of Planning in Henrico said that the VA EJ Act does not apply to localities
- Caroline White, Pughesville
 - Has been trying to write grants, the city has not been listening since 2006 since VDOT turned over ditches to the city for maintenance
 - Developer came in 2018/2019, outfall water from interstate comes down into Pughesville (worsened by Hurricane Matthew)
 - Developers built a dozen homes and developer took care of drainage there
 - Were told they had \$14 million for Pughesville drainage by the city, then were told \$9 million
 - The city is not taking care of drainage, developers only built infrastructure into the community as far as to the Black neighborhood and then they stopped
 - Chesapeake put on drainage on their side, but Suffolk did nothing (no drainage, no sidewalks)
 - Putting a trail to VA Beach but cannot put drainage in for the local residents
- Lorna Taylor, Oakland Village
 - Agree with everything Ms. White said
 - They have been talking with the city for some time
 - Doing nothing with the drainage, have not put in the pond
 - City not doing anything to help, but constantly developing new homes
 - Would appreciate any help from the council

- Brandon Riley, Petersburg
 - Concerned about fluoride in the water
 - Said that there have been several stories about the toxicity of fluoride in Black people
 - Supposedly impacts bone structure
 - Lead pipes may have fluoride accumulated in them
 - Is there anything from a citizen perspective or DEQ perspective to review the current policies?
 - Several studies from National Institute of Health
- Discussion of Public Comment
 - EJ Act and Localities
 - Kendyl: would like to add a localities recommendation to the land use section
 - Eddie: we can send a letter to localities letting them know this is how we see the interpretation of the EJ Act it does, can we make it a practice to communicate information (i.e. send a letter)?
 - Janet: recommend that we take a deeper dive into data centers
 - Harrison: council should remind the DEQ, governor, and different agencies of the EJ Act (reminding them they have the power to do this review as is the policy of commonwealth)
 - Morgan: JLARC report on data centers coming out, don't know if a letter would aid as a lot is determined by court cases
 - Faith: cumulative issues in Henrico, will not get to EJ goals without localities, they need to be included whether through new laws or reiterating existing
 - Liz: appreciated comments on EJ policy for commonwealth, just a policy not a requirement to do anything specific because of the policy, completely onboard to make sure folks know that it applies to everybody, council could help a lot with education, suggests that council prioritizes education next year
 - Eddie: where does DEQ fall into the locality process?
 - Grey: the only time public can get involved is for rezoning and the 20-year comprehensive plan process, zoning can be done by-right (permits), DEQ is last in line to grant permit (special use permit is different process)
 - Janet: this is a good governance issue, can't all live where there is good governance
 - Faith: air and water board no longer has oversight over permits (that was a place where community members could be heard), need to figure out a recommendation to address this (education, policy, return the power to the boards, etc)
 - Karen and Kendyl coordinate on report recommendation
 - Karen suggests that we amplify the report, encourages community members to print it out and disseminate

1:00 PM Update from Department of Environmental Quality - Office of Environmental Justice (DEQ-OEJ)

- Q4 Update
 - Internal projects
 - Coastal zone management program ocean plan – 40-50 people there, webinar, reviewing feedback and developing plan
 - Pollution prevention plan – applying for EPA grant, auto repair shops
 - Water planning – citizen water quality grant and webinar, TMDL meeting, shared Chesapeake Bay plan
 - Title VI – document translation – language access and translating website
 - Public participation
 - TMDL meetings – 6-8 meetings
 - Radford Army Ammunitions plant – public hearing
 - Metro Washington air quality
 - TAME – air quality monitoring, Nov 20 – understand health equity health outcomes (Norfolk and East End of Newport News), PM2.5
 - Want to place 3 regulatory monitors in the community
 - Education and outreach
 - EPA visits
 - Tidewater
 - Lambert’s Point-Norfolk community meetings
 - Portsmouth thriving communities grantmaking program
 - RVA
 - Brown Grove
 - South Richmond – Groundwork RVA farm
 - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)
 - Inflation Reduction Act
 - DEQ is designated the lead state planning agency
 - In CCAP phase
 - 3 million statewide planning grant awarded in July 2023
 - Virginia Energy reducing methane emissions
 - ~\$150M to DEQ
 - Fugitive coal mine
 - ~\$47M to wetlands carbon mitigation
 - Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) Phase
 - Stakeholder group – Dec. 11, Jan. 7 for CPRG
 - Community survey will close end of January
 - Education and outreach
 - Webinars, videos and tabling
 - Water quality, air quality, DEQ 101, DEQ E-resources and tools
 - Planning 4 more webinars in 2025 (landfills, bay, water supply, grants)
 - Elizabeth: would be nice to have someone from DEQ to talk about permitting process at an upcoming meeting

1:00 PM Discussion of Annual Report Chapters

- Chapter 3 – Cumulative Impacts
 - Harrison Wallace, section lead
 - How can we bring cumulative impacts into the code?

- Liz: the consideration of cumulative impacts is important, how do we consider it? no methodology for coming up with a score and then doing something based on that number
 - Look at what we are able to do as council, recognizing that a challenge is needing additional information, how do air and water impacts impact the health of a community? how can you have a standard that you can apply that would have some teeth? the federal government is grappling with (has concerns about their potentially being a conflict with whatever direction the state decides to go and the standard chosen by the federal government)
 - EPA is studying cumulative impacts, thinking about tools
- Meryem: opportunity for states to lead on cumulative impacts, want VA to be a leader
- Lydia: history of EJ being moved forward at federal level and then also with states/local level also being leaders, there is an established precedent for states leading
- Morgan: most complicated portion of the report, how do we build more manufacturing?
 - Lives next to Lambert's Point, in area where they are doing monitoring, would cumulative impacts stop manufacturing? need to protect air, water, this conversation needs to be bigger than this room
 - Proposal for a broader JLARC study to think about various perspectives, including EJ, don't have expertise to dig into how this would impact different sectors of the economy (can take a year or two to get into the JLARC cycle)
- Meryem: recommendation for a legislator or the administration to make an ask of GA member to put it forward, GA would need to commission report
- Janet: she has been working on local legislation in DC that amends DC NEPA legislation to include consideration of cumulative impacts, sets out certain communities that are defined as EJ communities, and anytime a project meets the threshold – the project would have to go through additional review done by a racial equality agency
 - We must advocate for consideration of cumulative impacts even if work is ongoing to establish the science
 - VA still has work to do in deciding where communities are, this could be a reason to have this conversation
 - Council has responsibility to address this issue in the report
- Meryem: rest of VA uses JLARC reports for a variety of reasons, it is complicated, need to include so it won't fall out of the limelight, there is need for legislation but not there yet as far as the specifics
- Morgan: there are so many different types of permits, very supportive of localities keeping land use rights
 - Different for special use permits, varies by locality
- Karen: very important to move forward on cumulative impacts
- Lt Col. White: complex issue that warrants a diversity of expertise, that is the purpose of JLARC, more complex than data center issue (saw fit to seek JLARC's read on that), doesn't mean we need to relinquish our need to speak up though

- Teresa: EPA issued cumulative impacts addendum released in 2023, federal government has started implementing EJ tools and resources (EPA doing research and implementing at the same time)
- Aliya: wanted to make sure the health department is mentioned in this section as well, localities don't have any obligation to use the expertise (a waste if health experts are contracted and employed, find important findings and then are ignored)
- Harrison: viewed our charge as pushing the envelope, all recommendations are from other states and DC, communities have been ravaged, this would allow us to review important factors that were not considered in the past
 - Having clear policy recommendations is important, can add the JLARC as one
 - Learn from other states – improve VA EJ SCREEN
- Liz: should be engaging with communities, identifying where overburdened communities are and raise the profile of communities, can see a role for the council to do that
 - Was not suggesting that we should be on hold
 - Is it possible for the council to have different viewpoints articulated in the report?
- Karen: would prefer to have one set of recommendations instead of two, leaning towards one set of views and recommendations for clarity
- Liz: would not feel comfortable signing onto some of the recommendations
- Harrison talk to Liz, and work with Morgan to include JLARC recommendation (Chapter 3)
- Chapter 4 – Land Use
 - Kendyl Crawford, section lead
 - Eddie: Bristol landfill, had another permit, need to have education to understand what was happening in the community as there is a lack of education, should amplify community concerns (they educated themselves and advocated), recommendation to add something about the value of education
 - Faith: the Bristol community has been very focused on health, leaving out the quality of life and Social Determinants of Health, thinking about the community's mental, physical, and emotional health and considering what it means for the people who live there.
 - Courtney: would be good to get outside and view and be with communities on the ground
 - Morgan: housing shortages, housing is one of the true areas that a locality controls, tough conversations at the local level, there is not enough housing for people to live (zoning industrial places for housing now), still need jobs and need more housing, thinking through local land use and pleading for more housing next to industry, localities are creating a fenceline community but don't have housing, how to balance?
 - Would be good to hear from localities on what goes into local comprehensive planning
 - In Hampton roads, you already have a neighbor (cities right up against one another)

- Faith: are there creative ways to build housing?
- Harrison: important to consider how we are disincentivizing density (housing), changing local zoning laws can help (NIMBY), this will be an issue for solar permitting, we need to protect communities and figure out how we can transition to a resilient clean energy economy
 - Need to transition community and protect community
- Lydia: live in a suburban and urban community, see locality making land use changes but only to accommodate developers, polluters building, look at compromises
- Faith: in 2025 the council should do a deeper dive into housing
- Janet: when the potential workforce was not part of making the decisions that was bad, need to ensure communities are involved in the conversation, raise criteria that can be incorporated into the decision-making process (health, wellbeing and quality of life)
- Kendyl follow up with Eddie on incorporating community education, want to reorganize like Harrison's, see if Janet wants chapter lead to take out any of her part, add solar siting/housing discussion, add the recommendation that the General Assembly make clear that the EJ Act applies to each political subdivision in the commonwealth (Chapter 4)
- Chapter 5 – Funding and Technical Sources
 - Lydia Lawrence, section lead
 - Communities vastly underfunded at a time when communities are facing severe acts of God due to climate change
 - Most of her section includes ways to find additional funding
 - i.e. Communities are unable to apply because their census tract doesn't show, don't meet qualifications
 - Want to support communities that don't fall into traditional buckets to be able to apply and receive funds
 - Need to lift up smaller communities and get funding to them, creating new programs and support existing programs (Community Flood Preparedness Fund)
 - Suggests enrolling in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) (EJ communities, climate resilience benefiting)
 - Remove the tax exemption for computer equipment in data centers, removing sales tax exemption (let the tax exemption expire), this could help to increase the amount of money coming into the state this could be use to address EJ and climate issues
 - Meryem: in the “public interest” is not used as often as you'd think, Dominion's decision with SCC oversight
 - Eddie: do we have a feel for how taxing would impact business?
 - Lydia: VA is a leader in data center industry, 70% of world's online traffic comes through the state (Meta, Amazon, Google, AOL started here), these are massive industry, billion-dollar industries and most are already in VA already, don't think it would de-incentivize business running away

- Meryem: should look at the tax exemption sunset and when they run out naturally (and not renewing), want to make sure it funds environmental protections, and includes cooling incentives, etc.
- Lydia: this particular tax incentive would have nothing to do with flooding, data centers don't create a lot of ongoing jobs, suggests not go into new MOUs
- Meryem: curious as to how the RGGI auctions have been going, how much would the state would have made if Gov. Youngkin had not pulled VA out?
- Morgan: I would like to see the JLARC report, if the industry left, what would that mean to localities? What do localities think?
 - Likes to think about the innovative CBO space
- Liz: needs additional information, thinks RGGI is a bad idea
- Lydia: RGGI bill rider ranges from \$2 to \$5 on a bill
- Lydia add in RGGI numbers to sections, dollar amount for DEQ to fulfill recommendations (Chapter 5)

2:36 PM Annual Report Next Steps, Karen Campblin

- Process:
 - Council members work with the chapter leads
 - Have all comments in by 11/26
 - 12/5 council will be sent final report from DEQ
 - Will have the weekend to review
 - Will have an up or down vote on Dec. 9 – majority vote
 - Council members can abstain
- Karen will add a note that not all council members were present for the whole drafting of the report
- Liz: suggests that there be a majority or minority opinion vote, suggests that we vote on a consensus for each piece of the report
- Karen: it is the council's role to stand up for EJ communities, amplify EJ communities, the status quo has not been working, need to come up with innovative ways to address injustices and concerns
- Morgan: would like to support some sections, and abstain on other sections, would love to vote on as a whole but abstain from some sections
- Faith: this is one advisory council that is making recommendations for governor to engage in conversations, we don't have the authority to change the law, this is an opportunity to hear and learn and take it from there and engage, does not mean that the governor or GA will have to follow them, but it gives them an opportunity to have a conversation that includes community perspectives (perspective often left out), to factor in an industry or a specific science takes us back to the problem of what the council was organized to propose and address (for their concerns to reach the governor's desk)
- Harrison: don't think we need a dissenting voice in the paper, we should not have two separate opinions in the paper (perhaps we will need to go section by section if it does not look like it will be approved)
- Courtney: wants us to be mindful of suggestions to the GA, does not feel like it is in the purview of the council

2:30 PM Presentations from Special Guests and Q&A with Council

- Dwayne Roadcap, Director of the Office of Drinking Water, Virginia Department of Health
 - Regulates public water systems in VA, does not regulate internal plumbing in a building
 - Sometimes there are service connections that need attention (not regulated)
 - Most of the program is federally funded, 20-25% state match for funding
 - EPA authorizes program through primacy
 - State laws need to mirror what federal standards are
 - Almost \$100M/year through 2026
 - Have national standards for drinking water quality
 - Waterworks is a facility serving 25 people at least 60 days a year vs private well
 - Rules have to accommodate wide range of expectations
 - Water quality standards the same if water comes from a private well or water treatment system
 - Most waterworks are privately owned, local/state governments also own some as well
 - Over 90 regulated contaminants
 - “maximum contaminant levels”
 - Remove contaminants through treatment technologies
 - Funding available to solve problems
 - \$50M/yr for construction, \$10M/yr for emerging contaminants (PFAS, etc.) and \$49M/yr for lead service line replacements
 - They look at sampling results from public water systems and where they find problems they have funding to help solve them (a carrot approach instead of a stick)
 - Optimal corrosion control to help prevent lead from leaching out of pipes
 - Identify disadvantaged communities
 - Ex) has a partnership with Petersburg to improve reliability and water pressure
 - Adding an elevated storage tank
 - Expected to be completed in 2026, until then meeting with the city every two weeks
 - Dwayne send a copy of Office of Drinking Water presentation
- Bryan Horn, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development
 - Does an interdisciplinary array of things: housing, building codes, community development, broadband and anything else budget/code assigns them
 - Housing policy – focus is on affordable housing, housing finance and policy from Area Median Income (doesn’t look at average, looks at the median number)
 - In order to create affordable housing, they have to find a way for suppliers to afford to build and take lower payments (for mainly multifamily rentals)
 - Government helps to fund different parts of the building, so the builder can take lower rent and still be able to function
 - Virginia Housing Trust Fund
 - Also have federal funding resources through HUD

- DHCD programs
 - ASNH Program – Affordable and Special Needs Housing
 - Homeowners and renters and different income levels
 - Private Activity Bonds – administers governor’s pool
- What’s the difference between VA Housing Authority and DHCD?
 - DHCD handles state-federal funding and some bonds
 - The VA Housing Authority one handles the rest of the bonds (authority can issue bonds, the department cannot)
- VHTF – VA Housing Trust Fund
 - 80% affordable housing, 20% homelessness
- Lack of supply continues to drive market forces (more negative effect than interest rates), evidence of decreased housing starts, shortage is an issue everywhere in the state and home prices are burdening Virginians)
 - 1 in 3 Virginians are housing-cost burdened
- Building and fire codes
 - Every 3 years, the International Code Commission produces a set of code sections that form the building code (get a new set of books and go through the development process)
 - Long-term development process, lots of stakeholder meetings to generate consensus,
 - Building Code Academy – trains building inspectors
 - Localities enforce the code, send inspectors to be trained
 - Separate code for amusement devices at the county fair
- Community development
 - Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) – bread and butter for doing community development work in VA, a lot of it is infrastructure
 - Ensuring communities access to water (CDBG money) – water line, waste line, etc.
 - Regional commission
 - Planning and construction – can provide planning money to tee up application and project
 - Economic development program- have a specific division that handles the industrial revitalization fund, VA Main Street (VMS) fund
 - Infrastructure necessary to stimulate economic development
 - Soft infrastructure is important as well – workforce development centers, childcare day care centers,
 - Appalachian Regional Commission – 13 states and various counties in Appalachian footprint, just started a few years ago
 - SE Regional Commission
- Broadband
 - First pathway has been state funding (ARPA)
 - VA Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) – don’t build broadband, provide financing, construction includes shallow trenching (fiber buried) or along power lines on poles
 - \$1.48B for broadband access program
 - Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (BEAD)

- BEAD Non-Deployment – once we have deployment, what can we do with it? (telehealth, etc.)
 - Line Extension Customer Assistance Program – helps to fund fiber to home (faraway hookups)
- Matt Wells, Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation
 - Wants to leverage resources for a Commonwealth-wide project
 - Parks, land conservation, soil and water conservation, dam regulation and floodplains and resilience
 - How they approach resilience – flooding and resiliency challenges, must address all impacted parts of VA, comprehensive, cohesive, community-driven and transparent approach
 - Flooding is a challenge for coastal VA (projected to get worse)
 - Has knock-on effects for rest of the commonwealth
 - The valley has experienced the majority of flood incidents, coastal VA sees chronic risk, rest of VA is acute risk (harder to plan for, happens quickly)
 - Designed for community-scale projects
 - Community Flood Preparedness Fund
 - Been around for four rounds, now in the fifth, provided \$150M dollars (low income awarded \$96M) – about 2/3 of funding has gone to low-income areas
 - Resilient VA Revolving Fund
 - Loan based primary fund for property-based scale mitigation
 - Also added in loans for projects bigger than the cap, a very low rate for 20 years, short term bridge loans
 - Made it easier to apply for loans for localities – received additional \$100M in added FY25/26 (this is not flood recovery fund- this is to mitigate future flooding)
 - Total available \$18.5 million, this one also got \$100M in FY2025 budget from the legislature
 - Coastal Resilience Master Planning
 - Updating the plan, phase 2 will be released at the end of the year (rainfall and river flooding being added)
 - Adding risk scenarios, adding a whole host of data, want to help localities
 - There is an additional web explorer from the plan, new version will have expanded mapping
 - Updating VA Flood Protection Master Plan – will be updated end of 2025 (behind on updating) – focused on the state and state agencies
 - Chief Resilience Coordination
 - Chief Resilience Officer and the Office of Commonwealth Resilience
 - Transparency and Input
 - Have a community outreach and engagement plan to find what flood risk means to them

4:00 PM Closing Remarks by VCEJ Chair Karen Campblin

- Mandated to have elections annually, the elections will be held in January

- Chair and Vice Chair
- Unofficial Secretary (takes minutes)
- DEQ/Karen will send around a meeting poll for January meeting date
- Will decide 2025 meeting dates at the January meeting

4:05 PM Meeting Adjourned

Next Steps

- DEQ/Karen will send around updates to contact information (Janet, Karen will compare notes with DEQ and will update the contact info on the website and report)
- Karen following up Liz, Morgan, Harrison and Janet on wording and Kendyl on recommending reviving interagency EJ working group (Chapter 1)
- Janet to talk to Morgan about incorporating her comments and Faith about her recommendation to increase funding for flooding, will talk to Liz about monitoring (Chapter 2)
- Morgan circulate her comments by email to the council
- Aliya add recommendation to fill regional EJ coordinator positions, talk to Janet about challenges in community voice section and Karen/Morgan about recommendation amount for DEQ to support council (Chapter 6)
- Harrison talk to Liz, and work with Morgan to include JLARC recommendation (Chapter 3)
- Kendyl follow up with Eddie on incorporating community education, want to reorganize like Harrison's, see if Janet wants chapter lead to take out any of her part, add solar siting/housing discussion, add the recommendation that the General Assembly make clear that the EJ Act applies to each political subdivision in the commonwealth (Chapter 4)
- Lydia add in RGGI numbers to sections, dollar amount for DEQ to fulfill recommendations (Chapter 5)
- Dwayne send a copy of Office of Drinking Water presentation
- DEQ/Karen will send around a meeting poll for January meeting date