

**Virginia Council on Environmental Justice Monday,**  
**December 9, 2024**  
**10:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

**Location**

Virtual

**Attendees**

• **Remote 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
- Honorable Eurika Tyree, Cumberland County, 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
- Hope Cupit, Bedford, SERCAP, Inc.
- Rev Dr. Faith Harris, Henrico, Virginia Interfaith Power & Light
- Dr. Theresa Burriss, Emory & Henry
- Morgan Whayland, Norfolk, Virginia Natural Gas

**\*Exceeded quorum of 11\***

• **Councilmember Excused Absences**

- Aliya Farooq, Chester, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy

• **Councilmember Unexcused Absences**

- Lillian Alexander, Mecklenburg, Black Family Land Trust
- Ronald Howell, Jr., Spring Grove, Virginia State University
- John Wesley Boyd, Jr., Baskerville, National Black Farmers Association
- Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Ronald Olswyn White of Midlothian, Southside Electric Cooperative
- Meryem Karad, Richmond, Department of Energy
- Tom Benevento, Harrisonburg, New Community Project

• **Remote Staff**

- Gwendolin McCrea, DEQ Northern Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator
- Kathryn Miller, DEQ Blue Ridge, Valley, Southwest EJ Coordinator
- Danielle Simms, DEQ EJ Program Manager
- Katherine Kulbok, Assistant Attorney General

## Notes

10:05 Welcome, Council Business and Roll Call, Karen Campblin

10:09 Approve agenda, Karen Campblin

- Not approving report today

10:11 Process to Approve Report and Next Steps, Janet Phoenix

- Difficulty with meeting the original timeline
- Holidays have caused delays and we want to make sure that everyone is plugged in
- New edits deadline of January 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Between now and January 10, there will be editing on the annual report
- The new draft represents an effort to include all councilmembers' comments
  - Please let Janet, Karen, and chapter leads know what further comments councilmembers have
- Will allow individual council members to put their name on the report (no vote) and will not discuss revisions to the report after January 10<sup>th</sup>
- We have an opportunity to think carefully about navigating industry ties/conflicts on the council
  - Can discuss this at the January meeting
- Hoping Karen's introduction statement can evolve into a guiding principle for the council
- Discussion:
  - There are challenges and opportunities that new members provide to the board, disagreement can help test what is effective and doable
  - Can help to make the report viewed better by both communities and industry stakeholders
  - Used to seeing people vote up or down and have a public record of where people are
  - Chairs checked with the attorney general's office and they were told that the council has discretion in terms of approving the reports (the chairs felt like they were putting a lot of pressure on councilmembers to get it done in the initial timeline)
  - Included public comments into the appendix
  - In 2025 we hope that we can start with the continued work of the council and not extend the conversation about the 2024 report
    - Only a quick conversation at the January meeting
  - Suggestion to provide a majority and minority view/letter
  - There is a difference between a bias and a conflict of interest, we all have biases and opinions about what we think
  - Important to have different viewpoints and discussions included
  - In Chapter 6, there is a recommendation about having additional conversations focused on bias
  - Do we lose some of our power by signing individually vs as a council?
    - In the past, we have disseminated the report in the same manner as if it had been voted on by the full council

- If there are additional comments on process, we can take them offline

#### 10:35 AM Public Comment

- Mary Hill
  - Represents Hobson Village, Pughsville, Chuckatuck
  - Concern is that the environmental adverse impacts are included in the report
  - She wants an action plan to give the community a lifeline
  - Her community is becoming pockets of poverty (ongoing encroachment and development), redefining them as not an “EJ community” because of the recent census
    - Afraid that they will be overlooked with new development and expensive homes coming into the community
  - EPA identified Hobson Village as disadvantaged in 2025, and nothing has changed, but development around them
  - Wants an action plan and implementation in place to save their villages
- Laurena Taylor
  - Her community is having the same environmental injustice impacts such as flooding, lack of proper grading of the stormwater ditches and air quality impacts
- Discussion:
  - There are real limits on what the council can do
  - The council can make recommendations to the administration and to potential legislators as well, but we can not take action
  - The council can leverage the organizations that we are connected with to provide some resources and raise awareness
  - Work of the council to amplify and provide a public record of these issues
  - The council’s role is advisory

#### 10:50 AM Election Information

- Required to have an election once a year
- That election will take place in January
  - Currently Chair Karen, Vice Chair Janet and Secretary Kendyl
- If you would like to run, please let Karen or Janet know by the end of the year

#### 10:55 AM Debrief/Close

- Next Meeting Date
  - Poll was sent out by Gwen
  - 7 replies, January 28, In-person, Richmond (Patrick Henry Building TENTATIVE)
- Closing report process on Jan. 10
  - Liz talking to Harrison on the cumulative impacts chapter
  - On Jan 10, chairs are editing and will
- Next Steps

#### 11:04 AM Adjourn Meeting