

Virginia Council on Environmental Justice
Wednesday, November 5, 2025 from 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Location: Essex Public Library, 117 N Church Lane, Tappahannock, VA 22560

This is a hybrid meeting, to join the virtual option, please [register using this link](#).

The virtual option of this meeting will be conducted using WebEx, which can be accessed in a web browser, desktop app, mobile app, or telephone. Please register for the meeting to receive instructions on joining virtually.

Alternatively, to join by phone, use the following information:

+1-517-466-2023 US Toll

+1-866-692-4530 US Toll Free

Webinar number (access code): 2433 979 2224

Webinar password: VCEJNov2025 (82356682 when dialing from a phone or video system)

The Council strives to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Danielle Simms, DEQ Environmental Justice Program Manager at danielle.simms@deq.virginia.gov prior to the event and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

Agenda

- 11:30 AM Council Meeting Begins (10 minutes)
- Welcome by VCEJ Chair Karen Campblin
 - Roll Call
 - Overview of Meeting Agenda
 - Approval of previous meeting minutes
- 11:40 AM Presentation - Melissa Ehrenreich, Executive Director, Indigenous Conservation Council of the Chesapeake Bay (60 minutes)
- 12:40 AM BREAK (10 minutes)
- 12:50 PM Public Comment and Discussion (30 mins)
- **Please see Guidelines on the following page.**
- 1:20 PM Presentation - PFAS Impact on Surface Waterways, Mike Lighfoot and Lee Diehl (40 minutes)
- 2:00 PM Councilmember questions and discussion (15 minutes)

- 2:15 PM Presentation – Black Farming in Virginia (40 minutes)
- 2:55 PM Councilmember questions and discussions (15 minutes)
- 3:05 PM DEQ Update (10 minutes) – Danielle Simms, DEQ
- 3:15 PM Annual Report Chapters, Guidelines (1 hour)
 Motion to approve Annual Report
- 4:15 PM Public Comment and Discussion (30 minutes)
 • **Please see Guidelines on the following page.**
- 4:45 PM Elections – (15 minutes)
- 5:00 PM Meeting Adjourns

PUBLIC COMMENTS AT
VIRGINIA COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MEETINGS

PUBLIC COMMENTS AT VIRGINIA COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MEETINGS:

The Council encourages public participation in the performance of its duties and responsibilities. It schedules a public comment period at each regular meeting to provide residents with the opportunity to discuss matters relevant to the board which may or may not be listed on the meeting's agenda.

Those persons wishing to address the Council during this time should indicate their desire in advance of the meeting by emailing or mailing a draft of their comment to the staff person serving as the public comment period point of contact, when possible. If you are unable to submit a written copy of your comment before the meeting, please provide one within one week after the meeting. You may bring a written copy to the meeting in person or send a copy via postal mail or email to the contact person listed below.

Any person submitting comments/requesting to speak shall:

1. Identify themselves by name and address, including zip code
2. Limit their remarks to 3 minutes or less (as read aloud)
3. Address an environmental justice topic/community concern
4. Refrain from making any personal references or accusations of a factually false and/or malicious nature

Comments violating these rules are subject to be disregarded at the Council meeting, and the speaker may be removed from the podium and/or from the meeting.

POOLING MINUTES: Persons may pool their minutes to allow for a single presentation to the Council that does not exceed the time limitation of 3 minutes times the number of persons pooling minutes, or 15 minutes, whichever is less. A speaker must present the names of at least five individuals who are present in the audience and who wish to yield their three minutes.

The Council reserves the right to alter the time limitations set forth in this policy without notice and to ensure comments presented at the meeting conform to this policy.

Department of Environmental Quality Staff Contact:

Danielle Simms, DEQ Environmental Justice Program Manager

Department of Environmental Quality – Central Office

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