

Virginia Council on Environmental Justice Notes
Thursday, June 13, 2024
2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Location

Remote

Attendees

• **Remote Councilmember Participants:**

- Eddie Ramirez, Bristol
- Aliya Farooq, Richmond
- Harrison Wallace, Richmond
- Dr. Janet Phoenix, Herndon/Northern Neck
- Karen Campblin, Fairfax
- Kendyl Crawford, Hampton/Richmond
- Lisa Kardell, Alexandria
- Lydia Lawrence, Fairfax
- Meryem Karad, Richmond
- Morgan Whayland, Norfolk
- Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Ronald Olswyn White, Spring Grove
- Dr. Theresa Burriss, Bristol
- Courtney Malveaux, Esq., Richmond
- Elizabeth Cherokee Williamson, Richmond

Achieved quorum of 11

• **Remote Staff:**

- Danielle Simms, DEQ EJ Program Manager
- May Fornari, DEQ Piedmont EJ Coordinator
- Grace Holmes, DEQ Tidewater EJ Coordinator
- Kathryn Miller, DEQ Blue Ridge, Southwest, & Valley EJ Coordinator

• **Councilmember Absences:**

- John Wesley Boyd, Jr., Baskerville
- Fernando Mercado Violand, Charlottesville
- Ronald Howell, Jr., Spring Grove
- Lillian “Ebonie” Alexander, Mecklenburg
- Rev. Dr. Faith Harris, Richmond
- Tom Benevento, Harrisonburg

Notes

2:05PM Meeting called to order, Karen

- Chair introduced herself, the vice chair and secretary and welcomed members
- The meeting is being conducted to conclude outstanding items with a quorum, the meeting will last only an hour

- New members Lisa, Courtney, Ron and Elizabeth were welcomed to the council
- Roll call for attendance

2:08PM Review and vote on past minutes

- Oct 17
 - Motion: Approve the October 17 minutes.
 - Ayes
 - Aliya Farooq
 - Harrison Wallace
 - Dr. Janet Phoenix
 - Karen Campblin
 - Kendyl Crawford
 - Lydia Lawrence
 - Meryem Karad
 - Dr. Theresa Burriss
 - Nays
 - None
 - Abstentions
 - Ronald Olswyn White
 - Eddie Ramirez
 - Morgan Whayland
 - Courtney Malveaux, Esq.
 - Elizabeth Cherokee Williamson
 - Lisa Kardell, Alexandria
 - Motion passes: October 17 meeting minutes approved
- January 8
 - Motion: Approve the January 8 minutes.
 - Ayes
 - Aliya Farooq
 - Harrison Wallace
 - Dr. Janet Phoenix
 - Karen Campblin
 - Kendyl Crawford
 - Lydia Lawrence
 - Meryem Karad
 - Dr. Theresa Burriss
 - Nays
 - None
 - Abstentions
 - Ronald Olswyn White
 - Eddie Ramirez
 - Morgan Whayland

- Courtney Malveaux, Esq.
- Elizabeth Cherokee Williamson
- Lisa Kardell, Alexandria
- Motion passes: January 8 meeting minutes approved

2:11PM Approving the 2023 Report

- Notes and comments from DEQ were addressed and updated on page 5 and in the appendices
- The RGGI recommendation is in progress and is under review (VA's participation in RGGI)
- The chair is interested in talking offline with Liz on items concerning the report
- Motion: Approving the 2023 VA Council on Environmental Justice recommendations report
 - Ayes
 - Aliya Farooq
 - Harrison Wallace
 - Dr. Janet Phoenix
 - Karen Campblin
 - Kendyl Crawford
 - Lydia Lawrence
 - Meryem Karad
 - Dr. Theresa Burriss
 - Nays
 - None
 - Abstentions
 - Ronald Olswyn White
 - Eddie Ramirez
 - Morgan Whayland
 - Courtney Malveaux, Esq.
 - Elizabeth Cherokee Williamson
 - Lisa Kardell, Alexandria
 - Motion passes: 2023 Report is approved and ready to be shared
- The council will send out the report to the governor and the General Assembly

2:19PM 2024 Annual Report Draft and Timeline

- The chair presented a draft outline for the 2024 report with proposed section leads
- Janet circulated a list of council contact information
- The next full council meeting is on August 5, that meeting will be a work session
- Between now and August 5, the council has a goal to have a skeleton outline and have 1:1 conversations we can present at that meeting
 - We can share documents with each other via email
- Formatting recommendations:
 - For formatting guidelines, look to the 2023 report

- Don't need to have the complete list of recommendations, but enough to understand the direction by August is appreciated
- Can BCC the leadership on correspondence, but emailing one other council person is preferred
- Timeline for the Year
 - May Meeting – had conversation with Sec. Voyles
 - Aug Meeting – will have outline then and after the meeting will do drafting, editing and formatting
 - Nov 16 RVA Meeting – bring in agency contacts (as suggested by Sec. Voyles)
 - Want report to be 90% done by this point to have conversation with department leads
 - Dec Meeting – do minor updates and additions based on conversation with agencies, have the report finalized and distributed during the 2nd or 3rd week of December
 - Jan Meeting – report approved at the latest by the second week in January

2:46PM Public Comment Period

- Sheila Joseph – Portsmouth
 - Was interested in council members' views of the meeting on the 14th
 - Also wanted to share the work that she is doing as a resident of Portsmouth and in conjunction with her work with the civic league
 - Has been working hard with her family, community members and new neighborhood partners
- Mary Hill – Portsmouth
 - Thanked the council for taking an interest in Hobson Village and recognizing its historic significance and the impacts that need to be addressed (sea level rise, ditches-water management, erosion, shoreline) with Chuckatuck Creek, James, and Nansemond Rivers
 - The meeting in Hampton Roads went well and she hopes to keep moving forward resolutions and action plans to improve the lives of community members in the area
 - Working with the Sierra Club and advocacy groups to keep momentum
 - On June 19 to honor Juneteenth, they will have stakeholders at noon for a meet and greet with an opportunity to talk about local preservation, will also have fried oysters and live music performances
 - Invited council members to join the fellowship
- Amy Branson
 - Was registered, but was not available to give public comment
 - Grace will follow up with Ms. Branson
- Council Discussion
 - Janet has heard from several presenters from the last meeting, they feel that they are getting more attention and some local media coverage, they are getting more attention from local officials, starting a strategic planning effort to determine next steps and building community capacity
 - The momentum is continuing

- Janet is happy to provide more detailed updates, a number of community meetings are coming up

3:09 Meeting adjourned and Concluding Remarks

- Janet is compiling biographical statements for all council members and please let her know if there are any corrections

Next Steps:

- Karen and Liz talk to discuss items concerning the 2023 report
- Karen, Janet and DEQ send out the 2023 report to the governor and General Assembly
- Council members please reach out to Chair Karen or Co-Chair Janet for any questions or concerns with the report or report timeline
- Session leads will outline their sessions before the next meeting, session leads will compile a detailed outline by July 22 (to be sent to May)
- May will send out the compiled draft to councilmembers prior to the August meeting
- All council members review the detailed outline before the August 5 meeting
- Grace will follow up with Ms. Branson as she was unable to speak during the comment period