

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE

Draft Meeting Summary: December 19, 2024

<p>EJ Subcommittee Members in Attendance:</p> <p>Hon. Dave Snyder, Co-Chair Hon. Kristin Mink, Co-Chair Hon. Kenny Boddy, Prince William County Joseph Jakuta, DOEE Hon. Tom Dernoga, Prince George's County Julie Kimmel, ACPAC Dr. Jacqueline Norris, ACPAC Danielle Sims, VA DEQ Noble Smith, MDE</p> <p>Additional Attendees:</p> <p>Tauhirah Abdul-Matin, AECOM Tad Aburn, EJAT Member Wes Darden, Office of Councilmember Mink</p>	<p>COG Staff:</p> <p>Alissa Boggs, COG DEP Leah Boggs, COG DEP Heidi Bonnaffon, COG DEP Robert Christopher, COG DEP Robert d'Abadie COG DTP Jen Desimone, COG DEP Sunil Kumar, COG DEP Jane Posey, COG DTP</p>
--	--

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, APPROVAL OF MEETING SUMMARY, FOCUS AND PURPOSE OF MEETING – DISCUSS FEEDBACK FROM MWAQC-TAC

Dave Snyder, Co-Chair

Co-chair Snyder called the meeting to order, outlined the agenda for the day, and the prior meeting summary was approved.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

During the meeting, a public comment was made expressing appreciation for the subcommittee's efforts and acknowledging the progress made by the MWAC leadership. The commenter highlighted three critical issues that need immediate attention: illegal diesel truck idling, illegal releases of toxic fugitive dust, and insufficient enforcement at existing stationary sources like power plants and metal shredders. The commenter emphasized the severe health risks posed by these issues, particularly in environmental justice areas, and urged state and county environmental agencies to prioritize enforcement actions and inspections. They also criticized the MWAC TAC response to the subcommittee recommendations as mediocre and called for a shift in enforcement priorities to address current high-risk air pollution problems. The commenter concluded by offering to provide a detailed briefing on the successes and challenges associated with reducing air pollution in EJ areas and urged the subcommittee to consider the three proposed measures to reduce environmental exposure in these areas.

3. DISCUSSION OF MWAQC-TAC FEEDBACK

MWAQC Staff, Co-chairs and Members

The Environmental Justice (EJ) Subcommittee meeting focused on addressing feedback from the MWAC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) regarding the proposed action plan. TAC emphasized the importance of framing the action list as a voluntary and adaptable toolkit rather than a mandate, while also underscoring the need for stronger federal guidance and clearer delineation of responsibilities across state, local, and federal agencies. Specific concerns were raised about the feasibility of enhanced enforcement for fugitive dust sources and stationary pollution, given resource constraints. Additionally, while TAC acknowledged the importance of addressing non-NAAQS pollutants, they recommended involving federal agencies and health experts due to limited expertise within state agencies. Regarding data centers, TAC noted that current facilities already employ advanced technology and flagged this area as less impactful.

Implementation challenges were also discussed, including budget limitations and coordination difficulties among jurisdictions. TAC stressed the need for a clearer definition of roles and responsibilities at various levels of government to facilitate effective implementation. To address these concerns, they recommended refining the document's title and narrative to clarify its role as a voluntary resource and maintaining flexibility to allow communities and agencies to adapt measures to their specific contexts.

The subcommittee decided to revise the document's framing language to emphasize its non-mandatory nature and role as a toolkit. The updated version will be shared with TAC for additional input during their January 14 meeting, with a request for more detailed feedback on prioritization and feasibility of the proposed recommendations. While maintaining the full recommendations list, the subcommittee agreed to continue detailed work on the action plan and priorities, ensuring the community-driven nature of the initiative remains intact. This collaborative approach aims to balance TAC's expertise with the subcommittee's commitment to addressing environmental justice challenges effectively.

4. PUBLIC FEEDBACK/INPUT ON MEETING DISCUSSION

Subcommittee Co-Chairs and Members, Interested Stakeholders and the Public

No feedback provided as members of the public left the call before this opportunity.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Dave Snyder, Co-Chair

All meeting materials including speaker presentations can be found on the MWCOG website by clicking the link below –

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2024/12/19/mwaqc-environmental-justice-subcommittee/>

The next EJ Subcommittee meeting is January 22, 2025.

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials. For more information, visit: www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD)