

Oregon Environmental Justice Task Force
Minutes
Meeting of Task Force
October 24, 2008

ATTENDING

Task Force Members: Sybil Ackerman, Ray Cabellero, Leroy Jackson, Jr, Jack Johnson, Ben Duncan, Robin Collin, Julie Samples, Jonathan Ostar, Khalid Wahab, Terry Witt. **Absent:** Will Collin (Excused), Everette Rice.

State Agencies: Department of Environmental Quality, Department of State Lands, Water Resources Department, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Department of Human Services, Department of Agriculture, Public Utility Commission, Department of Forestry, State Fire Marshal, Oregon Department of Transportation, Department of Land Conservation and Development, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division.

Staff: Jessica Hamilton, Governor's Natural Resources Office; Intern: Diana Pierson.

Public: Todd Wynn (Cascade Policy Institute).

A quorum of the Task Force Members being in attendance, the meeting was called to order at 9:08 am.

RESOLUTIONS

- 1) It was resolved that the Chair will vote at meetings and not merely preside.
- 2) It was resolved that a Member's participation in a meeting via teleconference suffices as attendance at the meeting. A Member may send a proxy to make decisions on their behalf in his or her absence. A Member is allowed two consecutive unproxied and unexcused absences before being asked to step down from the Task Force. Unexcused means that appropriate advanced notice was not provided to staff or Chair.
- 3) Members of the public will access the Task Force via Governor's staff (J. Hamilton), who will then send a form letter to the member of the public acknowledging that the issue will be brought before the Task Force, as well as a tailored letter following Task Force discussion of the topic.
- 4) It was resolved that the following subcommittees will be formed effective immediately: Interagency Working Group, Annual Report, and Education & Outreach.
- 5) It was resolved that subcommittees will bring their work to the full Task Force for a final decision. This includes providing drafts of working documents.

ADDITIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- 1) Review Of SB 420 – Chair Robin Collin presented on statutory duties of both Members and Agencies under SB 420.
- 2) Agency Citizen Advocates – As a part of SB 420, agencies designated staff to serve as citizen advocates. The Task Force requested that a list of these staff be provided along with their phone and email contact information for public use.
- 3) Additions to “Natural Resource Agencies” – Members requested Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) and the department of labor (Bureau of Labor and Industries) join the list of “Natural Resource Agencies” for purposes of SB 420.
- 4) Public Comment – Todd Wynn advised the Task Force that the Cap and Trade policy being developed to address climate change will increase energy costs and therefore have a detrimental impact on low income Oregonians.
- 5) Definitions – The Members collaborated to produce the following draft definitions for purposes of the Task Force:
 - a. Environmental justice is equal protection from environmental and health hazards, and meaningful public participation in decisions that affect the environment in which people live, work, learn, practice spirituality and play.
 - b. Environmental justice communities include minority and low income communities, tribal communities, and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes.
- 6) Review of Agency Responses – The Task Force would like more information from the agencies regarding what they would do to implement EJ *if funding were no object*. Agencies will discuss with their DOJ attorneys how EJ can fit into existing regulatory/statutory processes. The state was also encouraged to provide guidance to local decision-makers due to their roles in land use planning.
- 7) Subcommittees and Members - Can meet in person if convenient or via teleconference, and communicate electronically between meetings (listserv).

* *Symbolizes group “convener/scheduler”*

Interagency Working Group: Khalid*, Jack, Leroy, Robin; David Sparks (OSHA), Gail (DHS), Mikell (DEQ), Ruben (WRD), Sue (SFM)

- Will get together quickly and review agency responses, and determine which agencies should respond more fully. Subcommittee will develop a template/list of criteria by which to evaluate the responses (Ray offered to assist).

- Will ultimately develop agency “tool kit”/deliverables

Annual Report: Jonathan*, Terry, Will, Ray

- Will ask questions of other subcommittees as develop report.

Education & Outreach: Sybil*, Khalid, Ben, Julie; Cliff (DLCD), Mikell (DEQ)

- 8) Reports

- 1) Task Force - due by Jan. 30. Focus on accomplishments of the first year and a plan for the next year, noting that the group has only recently started meeting.
- 2) Agencies (Director's Report) – Recent answers to questions may suffice for a few agencies. Additional information will be requested of many agencies based on subcommittee evaluation of report thoroughness.

- 9) Public Concerns – Task Force approved draft form letter for response to community members when contacted regarding a potential environmental justice issue. As addressing individual problems is not the Task Force's statutory role, the Task Force may work with agency citizen advocates to direct complaints to the appropriate agency.

- 10) Field Burning – Jack Johnson presented field burning issue to Members and Agency Representatives, in response to citizen correspondence by Jim Raphael.

SHORT TERM ASSIGNMENTS

- 1) Identify January meeting dates (Jessica and Ann)
- 2) Set up a listserv for each of three subcommittees (Jessica and Ann)
- 3) Draft a 1-page evaluation for agency reports (Ray; Annual Report Subcommittee)
- 4) Subcommittees begin meeting.
- 5) Organize a discussion with Charles Lee, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice (Jessica)
- 6) Invite Monica Kirk to attend regular meetings as a federal agency participant (Jessica with DEQ)
- 7) Invite BOLI and OHCS (Jessica)
- 8) Ask DOJ advice on what role does the Task Force have when agencies do not follow SB 420 (Jessica)
- 9) Respond to Jim Raphael that field burning was discussed at the meeting (Jessica)

RECOMMENDED FUTURE ACTIONS

- 1) Task Force Members or Interagency Work Group Subcommittee Members should spend time with individual agencies to understand unique circumstances.

NEXT MEETING

Jessica will gather dates for early January and set next meeting date—preferably prior to January 12th. Sue Otjen offered to reserve a room at the Fire Marshal's Building and Robin Collin offered to reserve a room at Willamette University.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.