



**Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Task Force
Mapping Subcommittee Meeting
February 12, 2020
GoToMeeting Phone Conference**

Subcommittee members present:

Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair	Paul Tabayoyon
Beihua Page	Richard Gelb
Caroline Smith	Sarah Vorpahl
David Mendoza	
Deric Gruen	
Erik Sagnic	
Lauren Freeland	

Task Force staff present:

Elise Rasmussen

Guests and other participants:

Megan MacClellan

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Laura Johnson, Co-Chair, called the public meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

1. SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS UPDATE

Ms. Rasmussen gave a brief summary of the January Task Force meeting. Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair discussed the current work structure for this subcommittee, including potential requests of individuals to complete specific tasks. Subcommittee members are open to meeting in person in May and June, and most members are able to extend hours for in-person meetings.

2. MAPPING OBJECTIVES

Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair discussed how many agencies are using the Washington Tracking Network or indicators within the Environmental Health Disparities (EHD) map, but it appears that most agencies are not using the full EHD tool as it exists. She also explained that the Subcommittee has an upcoming shift in focus from the mapping objectives (on file) to the measureable goal objectives (on file).

3. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE – METRICS & MEASURES

Sarah Vorpahl, Subcommittee Member presented on the work that the state Department of Commerce is doing on metrics and measures. She explained that the agency is thinking about how to further incorporate the EHD map to shape decision making. She also spoke about her colleague Michael Breish's work on the Clean Energy Fund, which focuses on the electrification of transportation systems to achieve clean transportation across the state. More specifically, Commerce is applying an equity

lens to this grantmaking process by prioritizing vulnerable populations and communities that are highly impacted by environmental injustices for transportation benefits. This prioritization work included studying existing related work in Washington and nearby states, using select indicators on the EHD map, convening an advisory group, and meeting with environmental justice advocacy groups.

The Clean Energy Fund is a multi-step grant process that prioritizes communities that rank high on the environmental exposures and transportation costs indicators of the EHD map in addition to being in rural and low-income communities. The grant is live, and the agency will be assessing whether the intended communities were reached as a result of this prioritization process. Ms. Vorpahl noted that Commerce also recognizes, and is having conversations about, whether or not smaller communities have the capacity to apply to these grant in the first place. She also noted that the roll out of this grant is an opportunity to see how well this process worked, and to adjust for future funding programs based on the data collected from this funding round.

Ms. Vorpahl also spoke about the Department of Commerce's work on the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA). Commerce is responsible for implementing guidelines and rules for clean energy in Washington, including clean electric utilities by 2045. A major portion of this work is figuring out how to meet the cost burden for utilities in an equitable way. Commerce is working with other agencies, community organizations, and stakeholders to discuss how to center equity throughout this process, and to think more specifically about indicators and quantifiable metrics to assess progress toward equity. Ms. Vorpahl spoke about the connection between this work and the work of the Environmental Justice Task Force, especially when it comes to procedural equity, how agencies allocate money, and community engagement in every step of the decision making process.

4. MEASUREABLE GOALS OBJECTIVES

Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair, reviewed the pre-work responses for this meeting that focused on measureable goals and metrics for environmental justice. The group worked together on draft metrics for corresponding agency activity categories (on file) with the following guiding questions in mind:

- What metrics align with specific agency activity categories? Can you use the indicators on the EHD map to inform these metrics?
- What are the limitations? What can't we use the EHD map to measure?
- Can we develop a repository of which metrics have been used successfully?
- How can agencies implement recommendations on measureable goals given the resource limitations in state government?

5. MODEL POLICIES OBJECTIVES

Ms. Rasmussen shared updates about working on the measureable goals objectives from the University of Washington graduate students who are assisting with this work, and from the research and literature review workgroup. The group was also sent a summary of bills from the 2020 legislative session that explicitly mention the Washington Tracking Network.

6. NEXT STEPS

The subcommittee concluded the meeting by answering questions and discussing future work for the Subcommittee.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Laura Johnson, Subcommittee Co-Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

GOVERNOR'S INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

First Name Last Name, Chair

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