Excerpt from the Environmental Justice Work Group Report
Prepared for Gov. Rick Snyder
March 2018

Environmental Justice Work Group Report Executive Summary

In February of 2017, Governor Rick Snyder created the Environmental Justice Work Group (EJWG) following direct recommendations from the Flint Water Advisory Task Force (FWATF) and the Flint Water Interagency Coordinating Committee's (FWICC) Policy Subcommittee. The EJWG was charged "to develop and provide recommendations to the Governor that improve environmental justice awareness and engagement in state and local agencies. The EJWG will examine policy and recommend for implementation environmental justice guidance, training, curriculum, and policy that further increases quality of life for all Michiganders." The EJWG is composed of 23 members, representing environmental justice communities across the state, environmental organizations, businesses, state and local government bodies, academia, and federally recognized tribes.

The EJWG undertook a scope of work "to examine current environmental justice guidance, policies, and activities in Michigan, best practices from around the country that address Michigan's specific needs and engage with local communities to better understand environmental justice in the State of Michigan. Using knowledge gained during their review of current state guidance and national best practices, and through conversations with Michigan residents, the EJWG will recommend guidance, training, curriculum, and policy for state and local agencies that improve environmental justice awareness and engagement in Michigan. These recommendations will be submitted to the Governor for consideration, and will present an implementation roadmap of short, medium, and long term actionable tasks that meaningfully and effectively advance environmental justice across Michigan and its communities." To achieve these goals the EJWG organized its processes as follows:

I. Phase 1: Learning (May 2017-August 2017)
   The learning phase was focused on examining current activities and best practices in environmental justice in the State of Michigan, and around the country.
   - The EJWG heard directly from a variety of state departments regarding current environmental justice initiatives. Presentations were given from: Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Talent and Economic Development.
   - The EJWG also contacted environmental justice experts from across the nation and heard directly from environmental justice leaders in California, Minnesota, and those at the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

II. Phase 2: Listening (August 2017-September 2017)
   The listening phase was focused on interactive public engagement sessions in communities across the state of Michigan and designed to receive input on issues and specific recommendations the EJWG should be considering.
   - The EJWG conducted listening sessions designed to engage residents in a specific community with EJWG members directly. These sessions were held in the following communities:
     - Detroit
     - Grand Rapids
     - Traverse City
     - St. Louis* (The EJWG was unable to hold a listening session in St. Louis; however, the EJWG did receive a presentation from members of the community regarding environmental justice issues in their area)
   - Each of the listening sessions included a guided tour of the community from residents.

III. Phase 3: Analyzing and Recommending (October 2017-January 2018)

The analyzing and recommending phase was focused on analyzing information gained during the prior phases of work, and identifying, drafting, and finalizing recommendations for the Governor.

It is the hope of the EJWG that the following recommendations will provide a framework for Michigan to become a national and global leader in advancing environmental justice.

List of Recommendations

Guidance, Training, and Curriculum Recommendations:

Vision for Environmental Justice in the State of Michigan

1. Strive for Michigan to be a national and global leader in environmental justice (strong consensus)

Essential Guidance

2. Establish an environmental justice ombudsman in the Governor's office (strong consensus)
3. Establish an interagency working group (strong consensus)
4. Establish an environmental justice advisory council (consensus)
5. Host an annual environmental justice summit (strong consensus)

Training and Curriculum

6. Develop and implement environmental justice training (strong consensus)
7. Develop and implement environmental justice curriculum (strong consensus)
8. Develop a training and curriculum tool-kit for residents (strong consensus)
9. Increase environmental justice recruitment and retention (strong consensus)

Policy Recommendations:

Integrate and Strengthen Environmental Justice and Public Health Considerations in Agency Decision Making

1. Adopt public petition process (consensus)
2. Develop an environmental justice screening tool in Michigan and include cumulative impacts in decision making processes (consensus)
3. Require environmental justice analysis in permitting applications (consensus)
4. Include environmental justice analysis in the Michigan public service commission's certification of necessity application (consensus)
5. Implement health in all policies (consensus)
6. Conduct health impact assessments (consensus)
7. Develop health impact assessment criteria (consensus)
8. Reaffirm DEQ's authority over rules and permits (consensus)

Enhance Tracking, Monitoring, and Metrics

9. Require creation of annual environmental justice report (strong consensus)
10. Implement enhanced community environmental quality monitoring (strong consensus)
11. Establish measurable targets for eliminating childhood lead poisoning (strong consensus)
12. Implement lead poisoning and other chemical contaminants dashboards (strong consensus)
13. Implement environmental health dashboards (consensus)
14. Enhance water quality testing in schools and licensed child care facilities (strong consensus)

Increase Funding and Align Tax Policy with Environmental Standards

15. Increase funding for compliance assistance and enforcement of environmental laws (strong consensus)
16. Create an air, water, and soil quality mitigation fund (strong consensus)
17. Consider environmental compliance violations in Michigan Economic Development Corporation tax credit eligibility decision making (consensus)

Improve Collaboration Across All Levels of Government and with Tribes

18. Ensure governmental agencies have joint responsibility (strong consensus)

19. Support regional connections between local/state officials (strong consensus)
20. Reduce limitations placed on local governments (strong consensus)
21. Coordinate with tribal governments (strong consensus)

Create Tools and Resources for Residents

22. Develop a resource manual (strong consensus)
23. Create an emergency environmental alert, notification and evacuation plan (consensus)

Creation of an evacuation plan toolkit (strong consensus)

Environmental Justice Work Group Members and Staff

Environmental Justice Work Group Members

- Chris Kolb (Co-Chair), President & CEO, Michigan Environmental Council
  - Representing the Environmental Community
- Fadi Mourad (Co-Chair), Director of Environmental Strategy, DTE
  - Representing the Business Community
- Jeremy DeRoo, Executive Director, Linc UP
  - Representing the Environmental Justice Community
- Vicki Dobbins, River Rouge Community Activist
  - Representing the Environmental Justice Community
- Jane Keon, Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force
  - Representing the Environmental Justice Community
- Theresa Landrum, Community Activist, Southwest Detroit 48217
  - Representing the Environmental Justice Community
- Lawrence Reynolds, Flint Resident
  - Representing the Environmental Justice Community
- Charlotte Jameson, Government Affairs Director, Michigan League of Conservation Voters
  - Representing the Environmental Community
- Jerry Maynard, Executive Committee Member, Superior Watershed Partnership & Land Trust
  - Representing the Environmental Community
- Rob Sisson, President, ConservAmerica
  - Representing the Environmental Community
- Guy O. Williams, President & CEO, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
  - Representing the Environmental Community
- Paul Mohai, Professor, University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability
  - Representing the Academic Community
- Kyle Whyte, Associate Professor, Michigan State University
  - Representing the Academic Community
- Adel Mozip, Software Developer
  - Representing the Commission on Middle-Eastern American Affairs
- Kaushik Nag, Director, Employee Engagement, Amway
  - Representing the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission
- Jesse Venegas, Vice President, Ideal Group
  - Representing the Hispanic Latino Commission
- Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director, United Tribes of Michigan
  - Representing the Tribal Community
- Kathy Evans, Program Manager, West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission
  - Representing Local Government
- Kathleen Lomako, Executive Director, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
  - Representing Local Government
- Sylvia Elliott, Managing Attorney, Michigan Department of Civil Rights
  - Representing State of Michigan Government

- Chad Rogers, Environmental Quality Specialist, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
    - Representing State of Michigan Government
- Jegar Johansen, Branch Manager, Wilbur-Ellis
    - Representing the Business Community
- Andy Such, Director of Regulatory and Environmental Policy, Michigan Manufacturers Association
    - Representing the Business Community

Environmental Justice Work Group Staff

- Angela Ayers, Executive Office of the Governor
- Matt Papadopoulos, Executive Office of the Governor
- Jerry Jennings (Environmental Justice Work Group Facilitator), KKAM Communications