



**Roy Cooper**  
**Governor**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Governor's Environmental Justice Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, March 26, 2024**  
**3:00-6:00 PM**

**Nature Research Center**  
**William G. Ross Conference Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**121 West Jones Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27603**

At 3:00 PM, Co-chair Dr. Jim Johnson called the meeting to order and read the ethics and conflict of interest statement. No one had a conflict of interest, so the meeting proceeded to the planned agenda. Roll call was taken.

### **Council Members Present**

Co-Chair Dr. Virginia Guidry	Torre Jessup
Co-Chair Dr. Jim Johnson	Daisha Wall
Justin Flores	Sharon Martin
Cara Bridges	Sherri White-Williamson
Demico Guy	Jennifer Mundt
Dr. Tamara Holmes Brothers	Dr. Rebecca Witter
Dr. Marian Johnson-Thompson	Ebony Pittman
Justin Duncan	Dr. Courtney G. Woods
Marilynn Marsh-Robinson	Douglas Taggart
Evin Grant	McKinley Wooten

The adoption of January 30th, 2024, meeting minutes was postponed to a later date, due to errors in the minutes.

The Council heard a presentation on the EO292 Mapping Tools & Hub Project from Emad Khatib & David Giordano from the North Carolina Department of Information Technology (NCDIT). They provided a project overview and explained what is expected to be covered with the Mapping Tool. NCDIT had provided a scoping document to the Council prior to the meeting and asked for feedback on the following questions:

1. Should grant information be presented through a new, non-geographic approach?
2. How long of a history of grant information should be included? 1 year, 2 years, or other?
3. How will approval be received from the council between council meetings?

NCDIT presenters shared a timeline for phases of development and discussed the process of approval from the Council. They provided an outline of project accomplishments and the progress



**Roy Cooper**  
**Governor**

to date, discussing known risks. The project team requested approval from the Council to move forward with the next steps.

There was feedback from the Council requesting further discussion on incorporating the voice of the community in the design and implementation of the Mapping Tool. There was also a suggestion of using existing tools as a baseline, then getting feedback from the community instead of creating something completely new. It was also stated that these tools should be about the community, and community members should be able to get the information directly. The Council agreed that help from a subcommittee would make the process easier and user friendly.

The Council discussed current subcommittees and whether additional subcommittees are needed. There was a motion to establish subcommittees for Cumulative Impacts as well as the Mapping Tool. The motion was seconded and approved. Council members volunteered to serve on the subcommittees. Subcommittees are welcome to meet separately about their specific assignments, but all critical decisions are to be brought back to the entire Council. Emails requesting input can be used when there are urgent decisions.

- Action Item: Dr. Johnson and Dr. Guidry would review EO292 and consider whether additional subcommittees are needed, and follow up with the Council about their purpose and membership
- Action Item: The Council is welcome to send suggestions to the Co-chairs as well.

The Council discussed the potential purpose of meetings in communities. We have determined that we will have three meetings in communities in May, July, and September. The Governor's Office is responsible for coordinating these meetings, tentatively scheduled for Stanly County, Duplin County, and Halifax County.

The Council discussed a process for the review of agency environmental justice goals. Proposed groups for review were shared by Dr. Johnson and Dr. Guidry prior to the meeting. The groups were accepted by the Council. The Governor's Office is currently collecting public comment and will send all comments to Council members after the comment deadline of April 22, 2024.

- Action Item: Review group leads are responsible for initiating review with their teams and will report back at the May meeting.

The Council adjourned briefly and then proceeded to the Public Comment period.

Speaker Christine Diaz of the North Carolina Conservation Network invited all Council members to the Northampton Community Day on April 6 from 11:00 to 1:00 PM, at the Gaston Leadership Academy. This is focusing on the health impacts of wood pellet operations as well as other EJ concerns in the community.

Speaker Will Hendrick of the North Carolina Conservation Network emphasized the value of community input on the Council's work and the need to publish the meeting schedule and locations in advance, with both remote and in-person participation possible. He also recommended allowing



**Roy Cooper**  
**Governor**

direct communication with the chairpersons of the subcommittees. He encouraged the members to ask for additional support from the NC Office of Strategic Partnerships as needed.

Speaker Dani Lin Hunter of the North Carolina Environmental Justice Network commented on the accountability of the Mapping Tool and asked how the tool will be used.

Council member Sherri White-Williamson announced that the Environmental Justice Community Action Network in Sampson County is holding a Science Fair on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Council members are invited to come and learn about cumulative impacts and ongoing local efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.