



**Roy Cooper**  
**Governor**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Governor's Environmental Justice Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, January 30, 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. Virginia Guidry called the meeting to order, introduced herself and Co-Chair Dr. Jim Johnson, and reviewed The State Government Ethics Act.

### **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
Naeema Muhammad	

The Co-Chair's request for a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting, which was offered and unanimously accepted by members of the Advisory Council

The floor was opened for a discussion of the Council's priorities as set forth in Executive Order 292. The discussion focused primarily on the frequency of meetings required to produce the Council's first report, which is due to the Governor in October 2024, and where the meetings should be held. Following a robust discussion, a motion was offered and accepted by Council affirmation to hold meetings every other month. The decision regarding where meetings will be held was tabled pending further exploration of the feasibility of Advisory Council convenings in Environmental Justice Communities in various parts of the state and recommendations from the Council Co-Chairs.

- Action Item: Co-Chairs will follow up with Council members via email regarding potential meeting locations for the remaining meetings.



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The EJ Hub outlined in the Governor’s Executive Order was the next agenda item. The discussion focused on the types of information that should be included on the EJ Hub webpage and what kinds of data should be included in the EJ mapping tool. A wide range of ideas were offered and Advisory Council members were encouraged to provide the Co-Chairs and Department of Information Technology with additional conceptual frameworks, specific EJ indicators, and sources of data for consideration in creating a comprehensive EJ mapping tool for the state.

- Action Item: Four Council members volunteered to serve on an EJ Hub subcommittee: Courtney Woods, Daisha Wall, Torre Jessup, and Demico Guy.
- Action Item: Council members were asked to provide feedback on the “Elements of a Healthy Community” within 48 hours of follow up from Jeff Hart, Governor’s Office staff member.

Advisory Council members were reminded that the 11 cabinet agencies were required to submit agency-specific EJ goals and outcomes to the Council no later than February 21, 2024. Once submitted, there will be a 60-day public comment period and the Advisory Council is required to give cabinet agencies feedback before they finalize their goals and outcomes. The Council debated whether to provide feedback during the public comment period and voted to hold feedback until after the public comment period ended.

The formal board meeting concluded with two presentation. The first by was by Jenni Owen, Director of the NC Office of Strategic Partnerships, who introduced the goals and objectives of her office and provided insights regarding how the Advisory Council might forge partnerships with her office to advance the state’s EJ goals and objectives.

The second presentation was from Advisory Committee Member Sherri White-Williamson. She provided the Advisory Council with a comprehensive overview of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board’s research and recommendations on cumulative impacts. The Council discussed the need to hold meetings in communities. A recommendation was made by Council Member Naeema Muhammad to develop an educational curriculum about EJ impacts for local government officials, since so many decisions that impact EJ are made at the local level.

Following these two presentations, the Advisory Council opened the floor for public commentary and feedback.

- Jasmine Washington, Southern Environmental Law Center provided feedback on the importance of accurately assessing cumulative impacts and appealed for purposeful EJ community engagement in the work of Advisory Council, suggesting that one of the Advisory Council meetings be held in Stanly County near the West Badin community.
- Ana Flores-Dalvo, Toxic Free NC spoke about the importance of farmworker health and the potential harms from heat stress and pesticides. She emphasized that labor issues are environmental justice issues.

The meeting was adjourned by affirmation at 6 PM.