



Environmental Justice Committee Agenda

September 26th, 2023, 2:30 – 4 PM CT
Hybrid Meeting | [Zoom Registration Link](#)
PPBEP Office | 226 S. Palafox Pl. 5th floor

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Welcome and Introductions**
3. **Approval of June 6th, 2023 Meeting Minutes (pg. 2)**
4. **Partner Share**
 - a. Ryan Kirby (Escambia County) - Update from Escambia County's Ad-Hoc Environmental Justice Committee and Air Quality Monitoring Program
5. **Discussion**
 - a. Future Environmental Justice Committee Engagement
 - i. Meeting Schedule & Potential Locations for Hybrid Meetings
 - ii. Priorities and Future Discussion Topics
 - b. Developing an EJ Capacity and Needs Assessment
 - i. Drafting and Next Steps
6. **Around the Room Updates**
7. **2023 Meetings & Events**
 - a. September 22nd: Community Grant Symposium
 - b. October 12th: Evening for the Estuaries Gala
 - c. November 14th: Environmental Justice Committee Meeting

Thank you for your participation in this effort so far. Please feel free to share any additional comments or feedback with program staff! Emails or phone calls can be directed to Molly McDaniel at mnmcDaniel@ppbep.org or (850) 595-0796.



Environmental Justice Committee Minutes

June 6th, 2023, 6 – 7:30 PM CT

Virtual Meeting | [Meeting Recording](#)

Attendees

Matt Posner	PPBEP
Molly McDaniel	PPBEP
Bethanne Edwards	Innisfree Hotels
Darryl Boudreau	NWFWMD
Jeanette Kelson	WSP
Joe Taylor	Franklin's Promise Coalition, CCFEC
Kyle Buck	EPA
Ryan Kirby	Escambia County

1. Call to Order

2. Welcome and Introductions

Molly McDaniel (PPBEP) opened the meeting by providing introductory information about the purpose of the Environmental Justice Committee and invited attendees to introduce themselves to the group.

3. Approval of March 14th, 2023 Meeting Minutes (pg. 2)

Ryan Kirby (Escambia County) made a motion to approve the March 14th, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Kyle Buck (EPA) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Staff Updates

a. Management Conference Breakout Session Summary *(Molly McDaniel, Community Resilience Intern)*

Staff provided a summary of the discussion held during the Environmental Justice and Resilience Breakout Session at PPBEP's 2nd Annual Management Conference on Thursday, May 4th. The session was focused on gathering participants' input on two topic areas related to the objectives of PPBEP's draft Environmental Justice Strategy. The first half of conversation sought information and assistance from participants to identify communities and local champions that the Estuary Program can partner with and support as a part of this initiative. During the session, staff also sought examples of specific problem areas and potential projects that may fit within the Program's scope. The second half of the session asked participants to reflect on how the natural resources of the watershed are currently being used and factors that may be a barrier to equitable access or use. A draft summary document from the Breakout Session can be found here: [EJ Breakout Session Summary](#). A complete summary of the Management Conference proceedings will be available at a later date.

K. Buck acknowledged that many of the issues identified during the Breakout Session may be outside of PPBEP's scope of work as it relates to protection and restoration of watershed resources. Perhaps the Program's role when confronted with problems that lie beyond our scope of work is to support and elevate the efforts of partner organizations working in these areas. It may be advised that the Estuary Program set initial priorities based on what efforts might have the greatest initial impact in terms of building connections within target communities, generating buy in, and alleviating the burden of limited capacity when possible.

Thank you for your participation in this effort so far. Please feel free to share any additional comments or feedback with program staff! Emails or phone calls can be directed to Molly McDaniel at mnmcdaniel@ppbep.org or (850) 595-0796.



D. Boudreau (NWFWMMD) mentioned a NOAA Underserved Communities grant opportunity on the horizon that emphasizes building capacity, restoring habitat, and supporting urban communities and ecosystems.

Additional discussion was held on the need for refined, user-friendly mapping tools to accurately identify EJ communities and reduce the likelihood that vulnerable households and parcels will be obscured within a larger area. J. Taylor (Franklin's Promise) restated the need for building capacity within these communities and addressing the needs and barriers identified by community members.

5. Discussion

a. **Draft Environmental Justice Strategy & Action Plan ([Link to Document](#))**

Discussion was held on the purpose and need for the EJ Strategy and Action Plan. The strategy outlines the 5 objectives established and workshopped at prior meetings that will be used to group actions together. The document has been updated to incorporate key findings from the Breakout Session according to how they align with the objectives.

D. Boudreau inquired as to whether PPBEP had explored participating in youth mentorship opportunities through local schools to engage with youth and suggested that could be an opportunity to expand the program's reach and engagement.

B. Edwards (Innisfree Hotels) shared several potential organizations/partners that could be helpful for connecting with community networks and linked them to the chat. J. Taylor commented that collaboration could be mutually beneficial in building trust and developing relationships with local groups.

Estuary Program staff will follow-up with committee members and other community members throughout the summer to further develop action items and goals for the strategy. The draft strategy document has been uploaded to share point and can be accessed and edited using this link ([Link to Document](#)). Committee members are welcome to make comments and suggestions in the document or contact Program staff to share feedback.

6. Around the Room Updates

- a) Restore America's Estuaries Inclusive Coasts Initiative: <https://estuaries.org/inclusive-coasts/ici-communities-of-practice/>
- b) PPBEP 2023-2024 Community Grant Program Applications will be opening later this summer. The Community Grant Program funds action projects that serve to restore, preserve, connect, inform, and educate. Through these action projects, the Estuary Program's vision is to create a healthy and sustainable environment, economy, and community. Learn more here: [Pensacola & Perdido Bays Estuary Program - Community Grants](#)
- c) [Franklin's Promise Coalition](#) will be recruiting a new cohort of participants from the Pensacola area starting in early July. Stay tuned for updates.

7. Next Meeting

- a. August 29, 2023

Thank you for your participation in this effort so far. Please feel free to share any additional comments or feedback with program staff! Emails or phone calls can be directed to Molly McDaniel at mnmcdaniel@ppbep.org or (850) 595-0796.