

Minutes of the Sixty-Second Meeting of the  
**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE**

DATE: March 12, 2024

TIME: 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Aloysius Nelson, Chair ..... Sigma Pi Phi (the Boulé)  
Yolanda Adams ..... Board of Education Member, Kenosha Unified School District  
Huda Alkaff ..... Founder & Director, Wisconsin Green Muslims  
Andrea Mendez Barrutia..... Director of Milwaukee Chapter of Techqueria  
Donna Brown-Martin..... Commissioner, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission;  
Director, Milwaukee County Department of Transportation;  
Liaison to Advisory Committee on Regional Transportation Planning  
Annabell Bustillos..... Bilingual Outreach Advocate, BeLeaf Survivors  
Brad Holz..... Board Member, Independence First  
Gina Sanchez Juarez ..... Director of Financial Stability, La Casa de Esperanza  
N. Lynnette McNeely..... Legal Redress Chair, Waukesha County NAACP  
Theresa Schuerman..... Walworth County Bilingual Migrant Worker Outreach

Members Excused

Ella Dunbar ..... Program Services Manager, Social Development Commission, Milwaukee  
GeorgeAnn Stinson..... President, African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Racine

Members Unexcused

Gina Green-Harris..... Director, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health Center for  
Community Engagement and Health Partnerships in Milwaukee  
Jackie Schellinger ..... Indian Community Representative, Retired Judge  
Keith Martin..... Engineering Specialist – Advanced 2, WisDOT

Guests and Staff Present

Stephanie Hacker ..... Executive Director, SEWRPC  
Christopher Hiebert..... MPO Director, SEWRPC  
Eric Lynde..... Chief Special Projects Planner, SEWRPC  
Benjamin McKay ..... Deputy Director, SEWRPC  
Nakeisha Payne..... Public Involvement and Outreach Manager, SEWRPC  
Karyn Rotker..... Legal Action of Wisconsin  
Jennifer Sarnecki..... Deputy Chief Transportation Planner, SEWRPC  
Thomas Slawski ..... Chief Specialist Biologist, SEWRPC  
Dana M. Shinnars..... Transportation Planner, SEWRPC

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Nelson called the meeting of the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF) to order at 5:12 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. At Mr. Nelson’s request, Ms. Hacker, Commission Executive Director, provided an introduction and requested introductions from members. Members provided brief introductions.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS ON DECEMBER 12, 2023**

Mr. Nelson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2023, meeting ([link](#)). Mr. Holz moved, and Ms. McNeely seconded the approval of the meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Nelson asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

## **PRESENTATION OF THE NATURAL AREAS PLAN**

At the request of Mr. Nelson, Mr. Slawski provided a presentation on the Natural Areas Plan (available [here](#)). Mr. Slawski discussed ecological stream health's connection to land use and the development of the Natural Areas Plan, which is currently being updated. He noted that staff are developing more user-friendly materials, including an online, interactive map. The following discussion occurred during the presentation:

1. Ms. Brown-Martin recommended the Commission consider a presentation to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors' Transportation and Transit or Community, Environment and Economic Development Committees in May or June to increase awareness for the new tool and the plan update. She stated that she appreciated the inclusion of disadvantaged communities identified by the Justice40 Initiative in the map tool.
2. Ms. Mendez Barrutia asked if the map would be available on a mobile phone or app. Mr. McKay responded that Commission staff will verify this information and follow up. Ms. Mendez Barrutia also asked how the Commission intends to publicize the map tool. Mr. McKay said that the Commission's new Communications Specialist would assist in identifying ways to share the map tool once it is finalized.
3. Ms. Rotker asked if the tool could be used to determine where there was a lack of natural areas. Mr. Slawski and Mr. McKay explained that the tool may be helpful for identifying stormwater utilities, looking at protected areas from a regional perspective, and has potential for other uses. Mr. Slawski also noted that many of these natural areas are on private lands, so the lack of mapped natural areas may also reflect the fact that Commission staff has not been invited to conduct a survey.
4. Ms. Alkaff inquired about adding the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern to the map tool. Mr. Slawski indicated this information could potentially be added to the map tool, pending Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources approval. He added that it may be valuable to add other related projects, such as dam removals.
5. Ms. Schuerman asked if the tool was available on the website. Mr. McKay responded that it is still under development, but the Commission will notify the group when it becomes available.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH UPDATE**

At Mr. Nelson's request, Ms. Payne provided an overview of the Public Involvement and Outreach from October 2023 to March 2024 (available [here](#)). There was no discussion after the update.

## **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY PROPOSED RULES**

At the request of Mr. Nelson, Ms. Alkaff provided a presentation on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed rules on National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Heavy-Duty Engines and Vehicles-Phase 3 (available [here](#)). She shared about a national coalition of organizations called “Clean Air for the Long Haul,” led by WE ACT for Environmental Justice, which aims to educate the community and advocate for passing new rules for stronger CO2 standards. Ms. Alkaff noted another goal of Wisconsin Green Muslims is to understand how the rules would be implemented in Wisconsin, if passed. The following discussion occurred during the presentation:

1. Ms. Brown-Martin asked if Ms. Alkaff had contact with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). Ms. Alkaff replied that she has had meetings with different WisDOT representatives, but it has been difficult to get connected to someone that can assist her. Ms. Brown-Martin suggested it was important to work with WisDOT and recommended contacting WisDOT Assistant Deputy Secretary Joel Nilsestuen.
2. Ms. Brown-Martin asked if Ms. Alkaff has had discussions with members of the State Legislature. Ms. Alkaff responded that outreach has focused on the community level and WisDOT. Ms. Brown-Martin recommended discussing changes to the eligibility for certain Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds if the group meets with elected officials.
3. Mr. Nelson asked if trains, planes, or ships would be included in the rules. Ms. Alkaff replied that the vehicle types are stated in the proposed rules, which include heavy duty vocational vehicles (such as delivery trucks, refuse haulers, public utility trucks, transit, shuttle, and school buses) and tractors (such as day cabs and sleeper cabs on tractor-trailer trucks).

## **REVIEW OF EJTF ACTION ITEM LIST**

At Mr. Nelson’s request, Ms. Sarnecki reviewed the current action item list, which was linked within the agenda (available [here](#)). Ms. Sarnecki highlighted one recently closed item, Ms. Alkaff’s presentation on EPA proposed rules, noting that part of addressing this item included Commission staff providing information regarding routes used by heavy-duty trucks, which was also completed.

## **OVERVIEW OF COMPOSITION OF APPLICANTS FOR RECENTLY FILLED COMMISSION POSITIONS**

At Mr. Nelson’s request, Mr. McKay provided a summary of recent applicants for three recently filled Commission positions. The Communications Specialist position had 65 applicants and was filled by a white male.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Nelson asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. McKay announced that the Commission is initiating the development of a Commission Strategy, which will likely be a future agenda item for the EJTF. He stated that the comment period for the 2024 Review and Update of VISION 2050 will end on March 14, 2024. He also shared that the Priority Climate Action Plan for the Milwaukee Metro MSA has been completed and the City of Milwaukee is leading an implementation grant to apply for funding for some projects identified in the Plan, which is due in April.

## **NEXT MEETING DATES**

Mr. Nelson indicated that the next meeting is June 11, 2024. Mr. Lynde stated that the meeting will be held in a hybrid format and encouraged EJTF members to suggest locations for the meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Shinnors  
Recording Secretary

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