

EJ Federal Partners Meeting

New Madrid County, MO - EJ Initiative

July 19, 2000

In Attendance:

1. Bill Rice, Deputy Regional Administrator EPA Region VII
2. Charles Lee, Associate Director, EPA-HQ Office of Environmental Justice (via phone)
3. Diane Cassity, Department of Health and Human Services
4. Lynn Kring, Department of Housing and Urban Development
5. Joni Roeseler, US Commission on Civil Rights
6. Stella Alejos, Department of Housing and Urban Development
7. Farella Robinson, US Commission on Civil Rights
8. Ascension Hernandez, US Commission on Civil Rights
9. Dan Schuette, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
10. John MacEachun, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
11. Dr. Emil Jason, Great Rivers Alliance and Natural Resources (GRAND)
12. Barry Hamilton, Natural Resources Conservation Service
13. Althea Moses, EPA Region VII Environmental Justice Manager
14. Damon Williams, EPA-Environmental Justice Intern
15. Debbie Bishop, EPA - Environmental Justice Intern
16. March Runner, EPA - Environmental Justice Tribal Liaison
17. Rupert Thomas, EPA Region VII - Counsel
18. Robert Patrick, EPA Region VII - Counsel

PURPOSE OF MEETING

The Federal Partners Meeting was a by-product of the Federal Partners Dialogue held on May,4, 2000, with Barry Hill, Director of Environmental Justice Department. In a partnership with EPA and USDA the New Madrid County Tri-Community Child Health Champion Campaign was developed to increase efforts to identify, mobilize, and make use of Federal resources to benefit environmentally and economically distressed communities. The major focus of the project has centered around improving the health of the children in the communities. Lead poisoning, asthma/allergies, and water quality are the specific areas that have an impact on children s health. EPA facilitated this meeting to help coordinate others joining this partnership to provide assistance to the communities of New Madrid County.

Out of the partnerships generated through this meeting a greater awareness of the New Madrid County project and concerns of the community will be developed. Having additional agencies with environmental responsibilities participating in the project has the potential of bringing out additional Environmental Justice issues. Additional partners generated will not only add the New Madrid County Project, they will be a showcase for different governmental agencies pulling

together as a team to help a community in need. The resulting efforts of these kinds of partnerships, with the New Madrid County Project will be a tangible change / improvement in the community. An improvement that will be visible in the physical condition of the environment of the area and an anticipated improvement in the health of the children residing in this community.

MEETING SYNOPSIS

Bill Rice, EPA Regional DA, welcomed the participants to the meeting. He emphasized the importance of federal agencies in partnering to meet the growing needs of communities in our region.

Charles Lee, Associate Director, EPA-HQ-OEJ, spoke of the growing need for collaborative problem-solving. The needs of the communities cannot be met by just one agency. Often it takes the joint efforts of partnered federal/state and local agencies to resolve issues of today's communities. Through partnerships multi-issues can be resolved for communities in a more efficient time frame. Mr. Lee re-emphasized the importance of coming together as a team to meet the growing needs of communities.

Althea Moses, EJ Manager, presented an overview of the meaning of Environmental Justice. This overview included the history of ELS creation and the goals set forth in the representation of minority and low-income communities often overlooked in this country.

Dr. Emil Jason, GRAND, talked about the under-represented communities in the United States. He emphasized the problems these communities face and the fact that they often lack the financial and educational ability to resolve these problems without assistance. He also stated that these communities, because of their lack of money and/or political power, do not have the ability to make local and state governments provide the same services provided to more well-to-do communities. Dr. Jason expressed that he was glad to see the agencies represented at the meeting who were willing to work with these disadvantaged communities.

Barry Hamilton, NRCS, spoke about the work NRCS was doing with communities in Missouri. He expressed the need of additional information for areas he was working with. One area specifically mentioned was Brownfields.

EXISTING PROJECTS

Agency(ies)	Project(s)
<i>USDA / NRCS</i>	Drainage Small Farmers Co-op
<i>EPA / GRAND</i>	Recycling Children s Health Pollution Prevention
<i>FTA</i>	Jobs Access Program
<i>HHS</i>	Headstart - Harry McDaniel Access to Health Care, Hollis Tinsley Administration for Aging

How can we work together to educate communities on Brownfields?

WHAT AGENCIES CAN OFFER

Agency(ies)	Project(s)
<i>HUD</i>	Kellie Svoboda
<i>US Commission on Civil Rights</i>	Identify areas of discrimination Educate the community on discrimination / rights / process
<i>MDNR</i>	Parks and Preservation - Brownfields - Greenspace - Loan Programs - Energy Center - Weatherization - Urban Coordination: * St. Louis * Kansas City (coming soon) - Geology / Land Survey - Technical Assistance - Hazardous Response - Training WW Certification - Complaints
<i>Lincoln University</i>	Training / Leadership / Construction

POSSIBLE NEW PARTNERS

1. South East Missouri Industry Council
2. Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center
3. Missouri Department of Health
4. Missouri Rural Water Association

Next Steps

1. Gather information from partners
2. Meet in September (Jefferson City)
3. Outline Project / Initiative