

Notes from EJDEI Committee Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2023

Attendance:

Board: Sandy Marsters, Howard Gray, Pat Ianni

Staff: Will Everitt, Ivy Frignoca Robby Lewis-Nash

1. Agenda check-in: Pat shared that she has a draft EJDEI statement for us to look at.

2. Definitions of Environmental Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Will and Sandy circulated draft definitions for EJDEI. Our goal is draft clear, approachable, easy-to-understand definitions for our organization. The committee had a wide-ranging conversation about the draft. We compared EPA's and others' definitions to the drafts. The simplified definitions were insufficient and the examples made things more complicated. We decided that the current drafts are not ready for the rest of the board and staff. It was decided to share edits and suggestions to Will and Sandy via email.

3. Demographic and economic data

Robby shared his research into demographic data for the watershed. He showed us some tools the Census has for racial diversity and income data. It was noted that in Maine, the most diverse parts of the state are the most urbanized, which shows linkages to our stormwater work. Municipalities may have more even more granular data. We discussed whether it would be useful to show board these tools when talking about our definitions at a future board meeting.

We did not have time to talk about working with a consultant or Pat's draft statement and will move these topics to a future meeting.