
Welcome

Please write your name, pronouns if
you would like and how you're
arriving in the chat area

Agenda for Tuesday July 7th, 2020

1. **Approval of Agenda**
2. **Overview Phase I and II, 7 min (Lilah + Yordi)**
3. **Capacity, 7 min (Yordi + all)**
 1. **Next steps moving forwards with BIPOC Community**
 2. **Everyone**
4. **Refining Language - 20 min (John)**
 1. **Confirming name**
 2. **Confirming goals and objectives**
5. **What does equity and environmental justice look like in the organization in 5 years? 10 min (Becky)**
 1. **Blue Thumb**
 2. **Metro Blooms**
 3. **Phase III - IV**
6. **Next steps for members (Becky)**
 1. **Homework**
 2. **Next meeting agenda**

Capacity | Notes

- Capacity is always going to be a concern - but we don't want to delay the momentum that we have.
- We want to be as creative, but also understanding of everyone's divided attention + capacity - so we would be working on sharing this in different formats.
 - We will never be fully ready, but where are we at - and how do we move forward with what we have already?
 - Our focus can be more on experiential training (Sage) - *elaboration needed*
- Realistic to move forward, in small steps but still move - adjust the vision and the timeline a little bit more to fit our current reality.
- Nick worked on an article that was written with Aleli's help - he was spreading information in a different way - planting the seeds, social media presence established - as long as it's out there. This similar model can be used in establishing some momentum around the hub.
 - Guest speakers/events proposal - mentorships that could be established

There is a capacity within the steering committee (and volunteerism around what they able to do as this a priority for a lot us)

- Inviting the public and having a conversation around capacity - with the communities that are impacted most (communities that are impacted)

Capacity

- Talking about different versions of the climate talk - and moving forward with the conversation knowing our own capacity + everyone's capacity (the BIPOC folx we want to center the voices of)
- As we are thinking about expanding the capacity - it would be great to see an EJ education/training that's more for BT crowd (anyone who has ever attended a BT or MB workshop or event) - leading more the meetings in equity framework, and making that topic a central approach of our work.
- The question for most of us is less about capacity and more about priority. It's a priority and the capacity needs to be made for it - spring workshops are done so there more breathing room for John specifically to think of different ways of creating mediums for these workshops/trainings/hubs.

Refining Language + Mediums | Notes

- Words matter, and we need to be accessible with our language but also give a sneak peak of these seminars without giving away too much, so we peak interests.
- We want to refine the way this is marketed - and how this is talked about to the public - so again we are thinking about accessibility as well as effectiveness.
- When we are talking about wholeness and interconnectedness with BIPOC communities - we have to bring people that we need/support from the beginning in refining the language and leaving it fluid for any emerging changes.

Refining Language + Mediums | Notes - continued

- There was a discussion around using different language with underserved communities that are outside these conversations typically vs environmental professionals, EJ organizers. For the sake of accessibility, changing the languages/modifying the language depending on the audience might be a good idea.
 - The hub is more of an umbrella rather than this rigid thing that exists in addition every other overwhelming information and resource that exists in the world.

Mediums: How do we want to reach a broader audience about this?

1. Talks not workshops
2. Radio talks
3. Webinar
4. Podcast
5. Plant the seed on social media -- and ongoing outreach on the different social media platforms

Ideas for taglines - and more language discussions

- We need to stick with the name EJ HUB | adding the tagline in a comprehensive way to describe focus of each session.
- We want to be accessible, not stray too much into abstract thinking and moving away from people.
 - EJ Hub: Striving for wholeness in climate, water, and the human community." - or - "EJ Hub: An inclusive, resilient, and critical approach to whole-making."
 - Making Whole EJ Hub related to climate, water and more.
 - Talks not workshops.

Lilah's idea for a tagline - Resilient Landscape, communities, world

Beth's idea for a tagline - "Ensuring water quality" - descriptive and pointed

What does EJ look like in the future? | Notes

As we are envisioning the next 3-5 years - where do we see ourselves?

- What does it look like for Metro Blooms?
 - BIPOC leadership and staff
 - Strong relationships that are built on trust and commitment
 - More installs + projects in EJ communities
- What does it look like for BT?
 - Learning how to use the tools we are providing to the people
 - Inclusivity
 - Having BT members being in these EJ communities (for the sake of accessibility)
 - Having a wholistic conversation with the organizers, community members

Dream a little dream

- Being able to bridge unique skills in plants, pollinators, and water. With all of our native plant focus, there's a lot of potential in bringing out the meaning and history of plants, their folklore, historic uses, botany, etc, and using that as our main talking points, then bridging into more typical work like raingarden building/planning.
- Planned topic talks lead by community members and advertised by Blue Thumb to spread the word
- We (MB +BT) do not need to be the lead on this every time, but we can partner with communities.
- How do we stray away from extractive
 - A simple conversation, a simple place for talking about the needs - and defining transparency.
 - By illustrating a commitment to show/leverage accountability

The next 5 years for our respective orgs

- Is it realistic for clean water funds to be invested in EJ communities?
 - How do we influence (100 percent?)
 - How do we work with policies to move this forward?
- Understanding that a simple lip service to community building - but really making those connections is straying away from commitments of accountability. Defining clearly, that we are going to be struggling if there is not awareness building in these circles.
- MWMO working with pipelines - and the leveraging the green team and the resources that available. | Offer the internship to those folx.
- k-12 environmental education today will be the staff of tomorrow for EJ .
- In five years, we are no longer using fossil fuels.
- Focusing on the water wholeness and interconnectedness rather than this fragmented understanding of systems - and illustrating that through our trainings/conversations of resilience.
- Representative Workshop participants
 - Projects installed need to be more representative of the communities that are disproportionately impacted.

Next Steps | Notes - Homework

Draft topics and focuses for a series of talks... 5-6 for starters, and the hopeful guest speakers we'd like to invite, with how they can complement/supplement an environmental topic - **Everyone**

Reviewing the notes (**Beth**)

Connecting with BIPOC communities and seeing where they are at (**Lilah + Yordi**)

future topics and tag lines to review as a group (**Everyone**)

Looking over what's available online, and presenting some of our digital mediums at the next meeting (**John**)

Yordi to send out notes and potential dates by the end of the week- July 10