

ILLINOIS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2025 (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

I. Welcome & Opening Remarks

- Paulina Lopez-Santos opened the meeting and gave the floor to Chair Victoria Young
- Chair Victoria Young welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order and introduced the agenda, beginning with roll call.

II. Roll Call and Introductions

Ex-officio Members, State Agency Directors or Designees

- **Chris Pressnall**, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency – Present
- **David Esposito**, Illinois Department of Human Services – Not Present
- **Isabel Velez-Diaz**, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity – Present
- **Jose Burgos**, Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Present
- **Gerrin Cheek Butler**, Illinois Department of Public Health – Not Present
- **Brandy Phillips**, Illinois Department of Transportation – Present

Elected Officials

- **Representative Kimberly DuBuclet** – State Representative 5th District – Present
- **Senator Celina Villanueva** – State Senator 12th District – Not Present

Governor Appointed Commissioners

- **Chair Victoria Young**, Naturally Urban Environmental Inc – Present
- **Marcella Keenan Corona**, MK Corona – Present
- **Pratigyan Bhusal**, United Congregations of Metro East – Not Present
- **Chynna Hampton**, Illinois Workforce Innovation Board – Present
- **Donovan Griffin**, Illinois Manufacturer's Association – Present
- **Tonyisha Harris**, The Nature Conservancy – Present
- **Cheryl Johnson**, People for Community Recovery – Present
- **Marcus Jordan**, Indiana-Illinois-Iowa FFC – Present
- **Dulce Ortiz**, Clean Power Lake County – Not Present
- **Ashish Sharma**, Discovery Partners Institute, University of Illinois System – Present
- **Stephen Sylvester**, Attorney General's Office – Present
- **Samarth Medakkar**, Advanced Energy United – Present

III. Commissioner Approval

- Chair Victoria Young asked if anyone had any questions regarding the August 20th Meeting Minutes and the September 24th Meeting Notes
- No questions were asked, and Commissioner Pressnall explained the formatting and structure of the minutes and notes would now be more streamlined
- A vote was taken by Chair Victoria and both Meeting Minutes for August 20th and Meeting Notes for September 24th were approved
- Discussion Topics were introduced

IV. Today's Discussion Topics

- Legislative Overview, Illinois EPA

- Guest Speakers Ciara Wagoner and Samantha Moody from the Illinois EPA's legislative team joined the meeting to provide an overview of the legislative process
- Bylaws Review
 - Bylaws document was read by Chair Young and edited in real-time and in coordination with commissioners
- Subcommittees Update
 - Commissioners asked clarifying questions regarding subcommittee updates
- Annual Trainings Reminder
 - Paulina/IEPA shared deadline for State of Illinois Trainings

V. 2026 Meeting Dates

- Proposed dates for 2026 meetings outlined below:
 - March 11
 - June 10
 - August 12
 - Sept 9 (Annual Report Review)
 - Nov 4th
- IEPA will send calendar invites

VI. Open Discussion and Questions

- Members of the public gave comments and asked questions to the commissioners regarding:
 - University of Illinois Urbana Champaign survey regarding water quality in certain Chicago waterways
 - Asphalt spill on the canal
 - Rural communities EJ needs and engagement

VII. Adjournment

- Chair Victoria Young adjourned the meeting at 3:15 PM