

Attachment 1

To: Gary Korb, SEWRPC and the Environment Justice Task Force.

The agenda, and the minutes of previous session appear almost overwhelming as information to consider during the Oct. 14th meeting of the Task Force.

Unfortunately, I cannot attend, and am due to a book signing of a friend on the same evening. However, I would like to forward a few words that concern me, and which may concern others.

Two issues appear quite important: They are that SEWRPC continue to maintain its stature as a planning agency (number one on earth), unheeded by influences, deviations and obstacles, some incidental, some intentional. I have been aware of efforts over the years to detract from the agency's program.

The Environmental Justice Task Force can help support and assist SEWRPC's record because of its local "grass roots" connection, and because of its (I hope) basic outreach premise.

The other issue, somewhat more important, is that SEWRPC and its Environmental Justice Task force become more publicly cognizance of the disinformation about public policy throughout the region... This grievance is especially attributable to the city of Milwaukee, because of its size, where taxpayers have been not fully informed and who have become increasingly troubled by the current economic crisis. Many elected officials are additionally hampered by this.

The national economic dilemma will not be fixed for some time. Therefore, it is crucial that local governments, certainly the City of Milwaukee, began to take additional initiatives, some of which are as follows:

- Better management of CDBG federal funds that are designed to help neighborhoods;
- Better analysis of the utilization of Brownfield programs re financing, clearing land and producing jobs, which was what it was designed to do.
- An analysis of TIF program to see if they have, as they were designed to do, generate controlled growth, and create jobs;.
- Analyses and promotion about collaboration between small local governments and larger ones; including the growth of Megalopolis' and the creative disposition of land use which will be of inevitably concern. The Environmental Justice Task Force ought to play a role in the development of these issues.

Best wishes for a successful meeting. I regret not being able to be present; I hope my remarks are helpful.

Thank you,
George F. Sanders