



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 13, 2017
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.
COG Meeting Room 4/5

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC MEMBERS (*VIA PHONE)

- Richard Ezike*
- Gretchen Goldman
- John Howes
- Andrew Kambour
- Robin Lewis*
- Sarah Mazur
- Ron Rodriguez
- Maggie Shober
- Glenna Tinney
- Tamara Toles - O'Laughlin
- Gabriel Thoumi

STAFF

- Amanda Campbell
- Maia Davis
- Michael Truax
- Stephen Walz

GUESTS

- Deron Lovaas

1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Glenna Tinney, ACPAC Chair

The meeting agenda was approved without changes. The meeting summary was approved without changes.

2. CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OUTLOOK

Deron Lovaas, Natural Resources Defense Council

Michael Truax, COG Staff

Ms. Davis said that the Climate, Energy, & Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) recommends legislative priorities to the COG Board annually, which for 2017 included supporting deployment of clean energy and clean energy finance, improving energy system resilience, improving air quality, and ensuring local government input. ACPAC may provide input on whether CEEPC (or MWAQC) takes a position on bills still on the docket. Mr. Truax presented bills introduced to the Virginia legislature

include one requiring the General Assembly's approval for any Clean Power Plan submitted for the state, a 'community solar' bill that allows Dominion Virginia Power to sell the power generated, and rate requirements for power generated on agricultural properties.

Maryland bills being tracked include one that removes biomass from the list of qualified resources eligible for the Clean Energy Tax Credit, several that support electric vehicle adoption and electric vehicle charging station installation, and another that gives a tax credit for energy storage facilities. Also introduced is a bill to prohibit 'coal rolling' and one to enable the use of the Volkswagen Settlement Funds. Maryland's legislature also overrode the Governor's veto of the 25% renewable energy by 2020 goal. An energy efficiency program bill establishes Empower Maryland as a permanent program.

CEEPC sent letters of support to the Maryland and Virginia assemblies for actions that support renewable energy generally.

Mr. Lovaas shared a few observations on the current administration's climate & energy policy outlook:

- The Congressional Review Act, a tool that Congress is using to repeal regulations issued within the final 60 days of the last administration, was used to repeal the coal ash stream protection regulations.
- The President issued executive orders to fast-track the Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines permit process
- Sizeable cuts for the Federal Transit Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, and others are being proposed
- The requirement that Metropolitan Planning Organizations measure greenhouse gas emissions from long range plans and develop targets for emission reduction will probably be safe for the moment
- The executive order to repeal two regulations for every one issued will probably be challenged
- Now, NRDC will watch to see what the agencies do. The Clean Power Plan might be remanded to EPA and revised. The head of EPA may not try to undo the 'endangerment finding' that allowed EPA to regulate greenhouse gases on the basis that they endanger public health.

Mr. Kambour added that governors are supporting the draft infrastructure plan, which includes transportation, energy, and water projects among others, but it is unclear how projects will be funded. Members pointed out the rise of natural gas which is changing the energy landscape, the role of electric vehicles and the importance of state and local actions.

3. ACPAC PLANNING DISCUSSION

Maia Davis, COG Staff

Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Vice Chair

Ms. Davis shared the mission of ACPAC: facilitating dialogue among the community and advising MWAQC and CEEPC on their plans and policies. Regional successes include meeting the 2012 greenhouse gas emission goal and experiencing no code red 'unhealthy' air quality days for the last several summers. ACPAC can play a part in helping the region reach its 80% reduction below 2005 levels by 2050 goal, and the 2015 ozone standard.

This year, CEEPC will be addressing the Climate & Energy Action Plan, and is interested in furthering alternative fuel vehicles, resilience, the EJ Toolkit, sustainable procurement, and the clean economy. MWAQC will be working to use local measures to help meet the 2015 ozone standard. ACPAC hopes to present the draft EJ Toolkit to CEEPC and MWAQC in July.

Discussion/Feedback

Members proposed the following topics for 2017:

- Goals that go beyond federal air quality standards
- Learn about the clean air initiatives in each jurisdiction
- Clean technologies
- Environmental health case studies
- Deforestation-free (and human-rights violation -free) procurement by jurisdictions
- Retrofitting combustion vehicles with electric engines
- How to avoid races to the bottom
- Recycling, especially rare metals
- Invasive Species, ex. Arlington's invasive species analysis (habitat resilience)
- Utilities and distributed generation – ex. NY PSC
- Green Power purchase programs
- Circular economy, life cycle analysis
- Supporting the Climate Action Plan
- Local resilience efforts, and the environmental justice connection
- Watching the outcomes of the VW settlement impact
- Energy storage
- Microgrids

4. CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Members discussed this year's Climate Leadership Awards program and agreed to offer three categories: educational, government, and non-governmental organizations. Members discussed possible ways to recognize the organizations that apply but don't win an award.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Members unanimously approved of the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee: Gretchen Goldman, Chair, and Tamara Toles-O'Laughlin, Vice Chair.

6. ADJOURN

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2017.

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials. For more information, visit: www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD)