



MEETING SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

MWAQC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE:

Hans Riemer, Montgomery County (Chair)
Del Pepper, City of Alexandria (Vice Chair)
Brandon Todd, District of Columbia (Vice Chair)
Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Michael DeMarco, City of Fairfax
Peter Kovar, Takoma Park
Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment
Stan Edwards, Montgomery County
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ram Tangirala, District of Columbia

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Chair
Mike Lake, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Denise Wickersham

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Programs
Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs
Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs
Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
Jane Posey, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, APPROVE MINUTES, CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Riemer opened the meeting at 12:36pm. There were no public comments. The meeting summary from the May 2017 joint MWAQC/CEEPC meeting was accepted with no changes.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (*Ram Tangirala, DC Department of Energy and Environment*)

At their last meeting, MWAQC-TAC discussed the ozone season. TAC also discussed changes needed on the draft 2008 ozone redesignation plan based on feedback from EPA and comments received. The states and DC plan to hold public hearings on the plan. TAC also discussed the timeline for the region's designation under the 2015 ozone standard. TAC heard updates on ACPAC's air quality local measures work, the Air Quality Trends Report, and the Anti-Idling Campaign. TAC supported the letter to EPA on the midterm evaluation of light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas standards.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) (*Gretchen Goldman, Chair*)

Ms. Goldman provided highlights of ACPAC's work since the last MWAQC meeting and asked the committee for ideas on spreading the word about the Environmental Justice Toolkit

resource that ACPAC spearheaded. The Climate & Energy Leadership Awards winners will be announced at the October COG Board meeting.

A. Clean Air Partners (CAP) (*Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs*)

Clean Air Partners and WGL held a contest encouraging residents to share how they protect the air for a chance to win two tickets to Bruno Mars on September 30. CAP joined with Commuter Connections in promoting Car Free Day including a pledge on the website. Transit and bus ads for clean air were run this summer and MTA ads are running through September. CAP will participate in the Anacostia River Festival this October. A new website will be up by the end of this year. The 7th annual slogan contest just launched, with a deadline of November 17th. The contest is open to students in grades 4-8.

3. MWAQC NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2018 OFFICERS

Hans Riemer, MWAQC Chair

Chair Riemer asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2018 Officers. The Nominating Committee will meet one or two times. The following members volunteered:

District of Columbia: Brandon Todd

Maryland: Hans Riemer

Virginia: Michael DeMarco

4. AIR QUALITY TRENDS REPORT

Jen Desimone, COG Air Program Chief

The Air Quality Trends report provides an overview of the region's successes and challenges regarding air pollutants regulated under the Clean Air Act. The report presents data trends from 2005 to 2016. The report describes the health effects, sources, and trends for several pollutants in plain terms. The report is available at <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2017/09/27/air-quality-trends-air-quality-air-quality-data/>

COG also plans to publish a post-ozone season press release, with coverage in the COG Newsletter and the Executive Director's report in October.

5. OZONE SEASON UPDATE

Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Engineer

So far, this ozone season, the region has experienced 8 code orange and 71 code yellow days. Ozone exceedances have been decreasing over the last 20 years, and this season the region has experienced the fewest exceedances in recent decades. Several federal, state and local control programs have resulted in improved air quality in the region. This has resulted in fewer days warmer than 90F triggering air quality exceedances.

Still, this year's design value will likely be 72ppb, and more progress will be needed to reach the 70ppb ozone standard. Delays in final designations of non-attainment level and attainment year dates are likely. If the attainment date is pushed beyond October 31, 2021, then it is possible that 2020 data may be used for attainment status evaluation.

Chair Riemer noted that although the region still has work to do, tremendous progress has been made.

Mr. Edwards asked if COG staff could look into whether and how the data on air quality translates into health impacts, such as number of asthma cases or incidence of respiratory illness. Mr. Walz said that staff would see what data is available and share it with the committee. In addition, the Air Quality Trends report and the Clean Air Partners website contain health information.

6. RESOLUTION – NO DELAY IN MEETING THE 2015 OZONE STANDARD

Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director

Mr. Walz noted that the EPA had published notice of its intent to delay implementation of the 2015 ozone NAAQS by one year. However, EPA announced that it would not delay implementation of the standards. However, designations of nonattainment areas for the 2015 ozone standard will still likely be postponed due to delays in the administrative processes.

In response to the possible delay, the MWAQC Chair asked, at during the June MWAQC meeting, that staff develop a resolution supporting our region attaining the 2015 ozone standard on the originally proposed schedule. The resolution before the committee was drafted in response to the Chair's request, and explains that although the region is making progress on ozone, the region's citizens are still breathing unhealthy air on high ozone days, and that MWAQC commits to meeting the NAAQS in a timely manner and not delay reaching the agreement even if EPA delays the official process.

Mr. Walz explained that the region expects to meet any necessary federal deadlines relating to the 2015 ozone standard and will work to meet the original schedule through actions such as working on anti-idling.

Some members expressed support for the resolution while some others expressed concern about the cost or timeline of the changes that would be needed to meet the standard on the original schedule. It was noted that the resolution was a voluntary statement, and that any required actions would have to be taken as set out under the EPA schedule. Some members noted that they had not had time to review the draft resolution within their organizations and asked if time could be made available for further review. The Chair indicated he wanted to move ahead with the language as this had been raised at the previous MWAQC meeting and the language had been provided for review.

Eleven members approved of the resolution; with two abstentions. Mr. Walz said that 15 votes are needed for the resolution to pass, but the chair could hold the vote open to give time for members that are not present to vote.

7. COMMENT LETTER – MID-TERM EVALUATION OF GHG STANDARDS

Jeff King, Climate and Energy Program Chief

Tim Masters, Environmental Planner

Mr. King and Mr. Masters reported that the EPA published a notice in the Federal Register proposing to reconsider the conclusions of a mid-term evaluation issued in a November 2016 assessment report that found that the greenhouse gas standards for light-duty vehicles for model years 2022-2025 were appropriate. A supporting technical assessment found that consumer acceptance was high and technology had kept pace with the standards. EPA is now seeking comment on whether they should revisit the standards.

Department of Environmental Programs staff identified this as of possible interest to MWAQC and CEEPC, and drafted a proposed joint MWAQC/CEEPC comment letter supporting the continuation of the current standards. Department of Transportation Planning staff indicated there could be interest from the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) to also sign the letter. A final draft letter was prepared based on input from both Departments. TPB voted to support the letter at its September 20th meeting. CEEPC reviewed and approved the letter at its September 27th meeting.

Members said that the letter was consistent with the resolution considered in the previous agenda item, and that electric vehicle adoption is ramping up faster than anticipated. The letter was approved unanimously.

8. STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS

- *DC: Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy and Environment:*
 - The District of Columbia will hold a public hearing on November 1 on the 2008 Ozone

Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan.

- The District published a Request for Information for implementation of Appendix D of the VW settlement funds, and conducted public engagement through a survey. DOEE will be the lead agency. The draft plan will be ready before the end of 2017.
- **MD:** *Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment:*
 - Maryland's public comment period for the 2008 Ozone Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan began yesterday; a public hearing is planned on October 11th.
- **VA:** *Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality:*
 - No report.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.