

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2015

Room 4/5

5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC Members: Bill Butler, Gretchen Goldman, Eric Goplerud, John Howes, Andrew Kambour, Sally Kane, Brian McFarland, Glenna Tinney

Staff: Steve Walz, Sunil Kumar, Maia Davis

Guest Speakers: Julie Sweetland and Jen Nichols, Frameworks Institute

Additional Guests: Ellen Bateman, Tanja Crk, Reba Elliot, Dr. Richard Ezike, Leah Fisher, Devin Hartman, Robin Lewis, Dan Morning, Karla Raettig, Gabriel Thoumi, Tamara Toles-O'Laughlin, Kristen Verclas (phone)

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda (Andrew Kambour, Chair)

The draft agenda and December meeting summary were approved without changes.

2. Framing the Climate Conversation (Julie Sweetland and Jen Nichols, Frameworks Institute)

FrameWorks designs, conducts and publishes communications research to prepare nonprofit organizations to expand their constituency base, to build public will, and to further public understanding of specific social issues. They have conducted a lot of research on climate change communications and how to talk to people about it in a way that will garner greater support for public policies and initiatives that address climate change. Frameworks ran a mini-training for ACPAC members and guests where they provided messages about protection and responsible management, metaphors that resonate with the public, and what types of messages to avoid.

ACPAC members and guests were very interested in the methodology for their research - how they formed the questions as well as demographics, geographic location, political affiliations, etc of survey respondents. Frameworks answered many questions about how to talk about severe weather, climate science, which metaphors to use in which circumstances and much more.

3. Implications of a New Ozone Standard (Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs)

EPA is proposing to revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for ozone. The current 2008 Ozone standard is 75 part per billion (ppb) and they are proposing a range between 65-70 ppb. They will also take comments on lowering the standard to 60 ppb. They are also proposing to revise the air quality index. The health benefits of EPA's proposal translates to at least \$6.4 billion dollars annual by 2025 nationwide and the costs by then will at least be 3.9 billion.

In the National Capital Region, our current design value for ozone is 76 ppb, so although the ozone levels have been significantly decreasing in the region we need to continue to work to reduce ozone levels in the region.

4. Committee Updates (Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs)

For the new guests in the room interested in membership, Maia gave a quick overview of next steps which includes MWAQC voting new members on Wednesday, January 14; notification of that decision to ACPAC applicants by Friday January 16, and ACPAC Orientation at the February 9. Also at the Feb 9 meeting will be the vote for ACPAC's new Chair and Vice Chair. The proposed standard would increase Code Orange days for the region in the near term; however, EPA projects that most regions, including ours, would meet the standard by 2025. Comments need to be submitted to EPA by March 17, 2015.

ACPAC members discussed the proposed standard and members expressed support for the tighter standard. One member pointed out the need to look at equity issues within jurisdictions, asked if whether there were monitors in these areas and was interested in better understanding what can be done in these neighborhoods that are most affected by poor outdoor air quality.

Next meeting: March 16, 2014 – 5:30pm – 7:30pm