



Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239
(202) 962-3200 Fax (202) 962-3203

DRAFT MINUTES OF March 4, 2015 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

David Snyder, Vice Mayor, City of Falls Church, Chair
Michael DeMarco, City of Fairfax, Vice Chair (via phone)
Brianna Nadeau, District of Columbia Council Member, Vice Chair
Leta Mach, Council Member, City of Greenbelt
Redella "Del" Pepper, Council Member, City of Alexandria
Linda Smyth, Supervisor, Fairfax County (via phone)
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Austina Casey, District of Columbia Department of Transportation
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Ram Tangirala, District Department of the Environment (via phone)

Other Attendees

Glenna Tinney, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee, Chair (via phone)
Molly Berger, Maryland Department of the Environment (via phone)
Bill Butler, ACPAC member
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation

Staff

Amanda Campbell, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)/ Department of Environmental Programs (DEP)
Maia Davis, COG/DEP
Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP
Eulalie Gower-Lucas COG/DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Isabel Ricker, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, Director, COG/DEP

1. Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Chair's Remarks

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 10:08am.

Members approved the minutes from the December 17, 2014 meeting, and the current meeting agenda, with no changes.

2. Committee Reports

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Tad Aburn, MDE

At TAC's last meeting on February 10, 2015, members discussed the proposed lower federal ozone standard, a draft MWAQC comment letter, and a court decision that moves up the time the National

Capital Region must show compliance or be designated in nonattainment. , MWAQC also discussed what might be included in an ozone Local Action Plan and use of local source modeling tools as a way to enhance mobile source modeling. TAC received a briefing on the Multi-Sector Working Group.

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC), Glenna Tinney, Chair

Several new members joined ACPAC's February meeting. In addition to orientation, members heard a presentation on the new proposed ozone standard. ACPAC has been tracking the development of the Multi-Sector Workgroup and is looking forward to its progression and providing input on the project in April. The Climate & Energy Leadership Awards will launch soon – ACPAC is assembling the 2015 task force.

Chair Snyder recognized Bill Butler's several decades of service as a member of ACPAC. Mr. Butler is retiring from his ACPAC role. Chair Snyder, Ms. Tinney, and the MWAQC committee thanked him for his dedication and service to clean air and the environment. Mr. Butler thanked COG staff for their work in support of ACPAC.

Clean Air Partners, Jennifer Desimone, Managing Director

Clean Air Partners finished the grade 4-8 slogan contest, which received 200 submissions. Both winners are from Fairfax County. Winning slogans include: "Take a Bike, Plant a Tree, Make the World a Better Place for You and Me," and "Pollution is Ruining the Air; We Can't Afford Not to Care." These will be the new themes for the poster contest which is open through March 20. The annual celebration and awards event will be held on May 13th in Alexandria's Torpedo Factory. CAP will also submit a comment letter on the new ozone standard, supporting EPA's proposal.

3. Election of Officers, Dave Snyder, Chair

Ms. Pepper said that the nominating committee members, Leta Mach, Phil Mendelson, and herself, met by conference call. The nominating committee nominates:

Hon. Dave Snyder, Falls Church, as Chair,

Hon. Brianne Nadeau, District of Columbia, as Vice Chair,

Hon. Hans Riemer, Montgomery County, as Vice Chair,

Hon. Michael DeMarco, City of Fairfax, as Vice Chair

The slate of nominees was approved unanimously.

4. Comment Letter: Proposed Revisions to the Ozone Standard, Jen Desimone, COG/DEP

Ms. Desimone outlined that on November 25, 2014, EPA proposed to revise the current primary and secondary 8-hour ozone standards published in 2008 (75 parts per billion, ppb). EPA proposed setting a new 8-hour standard between 65 ppb to 70 ppb. EPA is seeking comments on setting a new standard. While recommending a standard between 65 and 70 ppb, the agency asked for comments addressing whether a new standard should be as low as 60 ppb, and on retaining the current standard of 75 ppb. EPA is additionally proposing to update the Air Quality Index for ozone, revising the ranges downward. The proposed revisions are based on scientific evidence cited by a panel convened for the purpose of examining the standard.

If approved, the final rule would be signed by October 1, 2015, final designations (based on 2014-2016 data) would be October 1, 2017, and attainment year would be 2020 to 2037 depending on level of nonattainment.

The committee discussed the draft comment letter on the proposed ozone standard, and discussed the Air & Climate Public Advisory Committee's proposed changes. In order to show support for standards that are protective of public health, the committee decided to add a phrase to express that the proposed standard was the next logical step in a long term effort in air quality planning. The comment letter with the change was approved unanimously.

5. Court Decision on the Ozone Implementation Rule, *Jeff King, COG/DEP*

Mr. King shared that the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone set in 2008 at a level of 75 parts per billion (ppb) had an attainment deadline of December 31, 2015. The three-year period of assessment for compliance was 2013-2015. The court challenge resulted in a finding that EPA erred in setting the attainment dates, moving the attainment to July, 2015. Since that date is mid-ozone season, the region must use 2012-2014 data. This resulted in a design value of 76 ppb which will not demonstrate attainment. The Washington Region has two options (detailed in a memo on the MWAQC committee website [here](#)).

Option 1 is to request one year extension to show attainment). The up side is that the region could show attainment with the 2008 standard and not have to develop a revised SIP. The down side is that depending on the air quality in summer 2015, the region may not show attainment and still be required to prepare a SIP, and on short notice.

Option 2, to not request an extension, would create the conditions for EPA to reclassify the Washington Region as 'moderate' nonattainment area and require the region to develop and submit a moderate area SIP. The attainment year would be 2018.

Members agreed that since ozone data through 2015 have been trending downward, it is reasonably projected that the Region will show attainment, Therefore Option 1, the one-year extension, seemed reasonable, in order to continue to focus on implementation actions to meet the future lower standard instead of developing a SIP this year.

6. Developing a Regional Action Plan – State and Local Measures, *Isabel Ricker, COG/DEP*

Ms. Ricker explained that since lower ozone standards are imminent, COG is looking at the suite of current and potential state and local actions to improve air quality.

State actions include power plant control updates, energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, and diesel vehicle inspection programs. Local actions include promotion of high performance buildings and enforcing anti-idling laws (see handouts on the [MWAQC committee website here](#)).

Members inquired as to how the Regional Action Plan relates to the Multi-Sector Working Group. Mr. Walz responded that the Working Group is focusing on carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, while the Regional Action Plan deals with criteria pollutants and ozone precursors such as volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides. Staff will ensure that the initiatives complement each other and are not duplicative.

Overall, members were supportive of the Regional Action Plan, but Virginia representatives cautioned that more time was needed to analyze the best options; some measures might not be fruitful to pursue.

Maryland was highly supportive of the plan. Chair Snyder said that MWAQC-TAC would continue the discussion.

7. Greenhouse Gas Multi-Sector Working Group Update, Steve Walz, COG/DEP

Mr. Walz reported that COG's Multi-Sector Working Group held its first meeting January 30th. The working group, with consultant support, will examine implementable local, regional, and state greenhouse gas reduction actions in four sectors – Energy, Transportation, Land Use, and Built Environment. The workgroup will quantify benefits, costs, and potential implementation timeframes for greenhouse gas reduction actions and consider exploration of greenhouse gas reduction goals or targets for all sectors. ACPAC and others will have an opportunity to comment on potential strategies for the consultant to analyze during the April comment period. An interim report is expected September 30, 2015 and final report expected January 2016. The work will inform a joint action plan called the "What We Can Do" report.

Mr. Walz presented an overview of the strategies to undergo analysis. Members may send an email to Mr. Walz with any comments or additional ideas. He said that the 2012 Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory is being finalized.

Chair Snyder inquired about IT solutions such as teleworking.

Mr. Aburn is supportive of the effort and expressed his hope that the process is seen as a visioning exercise. Greater electric vehicle adoption will be needed to achieve the greenhouse gas emission goals and stricter ozone standards. The region can serve as an example in the world.

Ms. Casey said that District of Columbia Department of Transportation sent in comments that focused on ensuring that transportation and land use are complementary. The effort will help with Sustainable DC's goals. New strategies should be examined, not just what we are currently doing.

Mr. Agazi cautioned to view the effort as part of a long term process, and to examine federal actions.

Mr. Simons advised the initiative to analyze what has already been done.

8. State and Local Air Reports

Virginia

Mr. Ballou reported that Virginia is examining ways to reduce emissions from the top five or six sources in northern Virginia, which may take time to implement but could result in significant reductions. Virginia's work to enhance on-road vehicle inspections should be running by the summer (it was held up due to data sharing issues).

Maryland

Mr. Aburn reported that Maryland's new governor and MDE's director are supportive of air quality and climate change work. One major initiative regarding power plant controls was put on hold but will be revisited in the coming weeks. Proposed legislation includes: a) a measure requiring the climate commission to ensure the state is meeting the 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and succeeding goals, and b) a measure involving environmental justice that examines multi-source impacts in disadvantaged communities across the state.

District of Columbia

Ms. Beall reported that the District of Columbia was awarded a Village Green EPA grant to install a park bench with air quality monitor at the National Zoo to raise awareness on air quality. The bench is solar and wind powered.

9. The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, May 20, 2015.**