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## **METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC)**

September 24, 2019  
10 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.  
Conference Call

Chairman: David F. Snyder, City of Falls Church

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

#### **MWAQC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES**

Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County  
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Patty Bubar, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection  
Michael DeMarco, City of Fairfax  
Erik Gutshall, Arlington County  
Renee Hamilton, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Peter Kovar, City of Takoma Park  
Sara Love, Maryland House of Delegates  
Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt  
Del Pepper, City of Alexandria  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church (Chair)  
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Ram Tangirala, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment  
Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC Chair

#### **OTHERS**

Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Collin Burrell, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment  
Alexandra Catena, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment  
Sam Gaber, Fairfax County  
Joseph Jakuta, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment

#### **COG STAFF**

Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs  
Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs  
Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs  
Dusan Vuksan, COG Department of Transportation Planning  
Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs

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

*Dave Snyder, MWAQC Chair*

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 10:05am. There were no public comments. The May meeting summary was approved.

## **2. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Brian Hug

The TAC held a call in September to discuss the 2015 ozone standard base year inventory and the ozone season summary, including planning scenarios if the region meets/does not meet the standard by the 2020 deadline.

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) – Tamara Toles O'Laughlin

ACPAC met to judge submissions for the Climate & Energy Leadership Awards. Winners will be recognized at the October COG Board meeting. At the September meeting, ACPAC discussed the ozone season summary, local and state solutions to help meet the standard, and the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan.

Clean Air Partners – Jen Desimone

The Clean Air Partners summer campaign is coming to a close. Highlights included the Breathe Easy concert promotion, Clean Air Ambassador outreach, and transit ads. The summer education program did outreach to more than 2,700 students.

Clean Air Partners launched its slogan contest for students in grades 4-8. The deadline for submission is November 13. Winners will be announced on December 13.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEP) – Steve Walz

The next CEEP meeting is September 25. The meeting will include a discussion on the Global Covenant of Mayors standards and how that can be used as a framework for the Climate and Energy Action Plan. The plan will also consider co-benefits of criteria pollutants.

## **3. LOCAL AND STATE UPDATES**

Local Updates

*Alexandria:*

The City of Alexandria is developing their environment action plan with a goal of 2040.

*Arlington:*

Arlington adopted a community action plan that included the following goals:

- Arlington government will be 100% renewable by 2025.
- Arlington County will be 100% renewable by 2035.
- Arlington County will be carbon neutral by 2050.

State Updates

*District of Columbia:*

The District of Columbia's regional state implementation plan is out for public review. A public hearing will be held on September 30.

*Virginia:*

Governor Northam released Executive Order 43 to expand access to clean energy, which includes the following:

- 30% of energy produced by renewable resources by 2030.
- 100% of energy produced by carbon-free sources by 2050.
- Supply 2500 MW of offshore wind energy by 2026.

*Maryland:*

Maryland's Climate Change Commission workgroup held a meeting to discuss CARES (clean and renewable energy standards). CARES will be included as part of the GHG plan and is expected to be released in the fall.

#### **4. NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2020 OFFICERS**

The following members volunteered to participate in the nominating committee.

- VA: Del Pepper, City of Alexandria
- MD: TBD
- DC: TBD

Staff will follow-up with DC and MD members for a volunteer from the respective jurisdictions.

#### **5. OZONE SEASON SUMMARY**

*Sunil Kumar – COG Environmental Engineer*

Mr. Kumar provided an update on this year's ozone season. The Washington region had 1 Code Red day for fine particles, which occurred on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The region continues to meet to fine particle standard. To date, there have been 10 Code Orange days for ozone. Preliminary data shows that the region is in nonattainment of the 2015 ozone standard and may have a challenge to meet the standard by the 2020 deadline.

Members discussed if climate initiatives could help improve the region's air. Local members felt that knowing air quality deadlines may help them with the implementation of, and possibly fast track, climate initiatives.

Chair Snyder requested the following:

- An updated summary when the season has ended.
- Further discussion on what we can do now to help meet the standard by the deadline.

#### **6. REGULATORY UPDATE**

*Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director*

Mr. Walz provided a summary of finalized or proposed federal regulatory actions directly related to air and climate. The summary included the status of the rulemakings and COG committee comment letters.

Staff also shared a number of tools that track federal actions:

Harvard University - <https://eelp.law.harvard.edu/regulatory-rollback-tracker/>

New York Times - <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks.html?smtyp=cur&smid=tw-nyclimate>

Columbia University - <http://columbiaclimatelaw.com/resources/climate-deregulation-tracker/>

EPA State Authorization Tracking System - <https://www.epa.gov/rcra/state-authorization-tracking-system-stats>

#### **6. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15am.