

# 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, March 19, 2012  
Room 4/5  
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

**ACPAC members:** Bill Butler, Michael Cakouros, Brian DiNunno, Beverly Fourier, Andrew Kambour, Sally Kane, Patrick Matos, Brian McFarland, John Reed, Glenna Tinney, Kyle Todd, Larry Zaragoza

**Staff:** Joan Rohlfs, Maia Davis

## **1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm. The agenda and minutes from February 13, 2012 were approved with no changes.

## **2. CEEPC Draft Progress Report and Workplan Priorities Discussion (Maia Davis, COG DEP Staff)**

Maia began by giving a brief overview of climate and energy planning at COG, including how that the CEEPC 2010 – 2012 Workplan was established to help meet the goals of the *2008 National Capital Climate Change Report*. COG surveys local governments each year to track progress toward regional goals set in the Workplan and report that progress in an annual Climate and Energy Progress Report. Maia shared the results that have been incorporated in the DRAFT Progress Report and asked for feedback on the report, what the priorities should be and ideas for how COG could offer local jurisdictions assistance in implementing programs that would help reach regional goals.

ACPAC members expressed the desire for knowing how local governments are doing on specific measures, examples/best practices for measures, and clarification in the report on a couple measures. There were several suggestions including identifying NGOs in the region that could assist local jurisdictions with Workplan actions, providing assistance with putting together green purchasing contracts, requesting utility assistance with building energy performance benchmarking and reviewing the Sustainable Maryland Program goals and coordinating, where appropriate. The current Workplan lasts through 2012 and it was suggested that the next Workplan be from 2013 – 2016.

## **3. Transportation Conformity and Margin of Safety Discussion (Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP Staff)**

The metropolitan Washington region is in the process of applying to EPA for attainment status for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. In order to do so a maintenance plan must be submitted to show how the region will remain in attainment of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The maintenance plan must include mobile budgets for PM<sub>2.5</sub> – Primary and NO<sub>x</sub> that the transportation and air quality agencies in the region agree upon. If the region does not meet the budgets set in the maintenance plans then the region will have a lapse in conformity resulting in no Federal money for new transit or highway projects. The transportation and air quality agencies across the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia have varying opinions on where the mobile budgets should be set – some feel that budgets should be set lower than the future modeled results to protect air quality and health while others think we should provide a margin of safety of 20-30% more than the future modeled results to protect the region from a lapse in Federal funding. The debate will be further discussed at the upcoming MWAQC meeting.

ACPAC members decided to write a letter stating their position regarding mobile budgets prior to the discussion at the next MWAQC meeting. ACPAC had a robust discussion regarding what position the committee should take. It was discussed that a decision has to be made with imperfect data and uncertainty about future Federal rule-making. Some of the opinions shared include that air quality and health should be protected, that the priority should be to improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emission, that we should not be contributing to the air pollution transport issue, that the region should be cautious in setting buffers and that future transportation projects should give weight to air quality issues. Larry Zaragoza volunteered to draft a letter stating ACPAC's position. The letter will be sent around for ACPAC member comment prior to submitting a final letter to MWAQC.

**4. Member Time (Andrew Kambour, National Governors Association)**

Andrew gave an overview of the National Governors Association (NGA) and described his work that relates to ACPAC. The NGA was created in 1908 and is a member organization that consists of the Governors from each state, District of Columbia and US territories. NGA is split into 3 branches including Federal relations, management consulting and training and a research center for best practices. Andrew works in the research center; this arm of NGA is 501C3 non-profit that is entirely funded by grants. Within the research center Andrew works in the environment, energy and transportation department on issues such as renewable energy, efficiency, smart grid, economic development and clean energy nexus, green jobs, carbon capture and sequestration, nuclear, hazardous waste cleanup, alternative fuels and electric vehicles, financing, and more. NGA published a clean energy report that summarizes what states are doing regarding clean energy. Andrew clarified for the group that NGA is a consensus based organization so if all the states don't agree, NGA does not take a position. Andrew also explained how last year there was an unprecedented 29 new governors an NGA put a lot of effort into assisting with the learning curve that new governors face.

**5. MWAQC and CEEPC Updates (Joan Rohlf, COG DEP Staff)**

Most of CEEPC updates were discussed in Agenda Items #2. MWAQC updates were thoroughly discussed in Agenda Item #3. At this time Joan provided some additional information about the upcoming CEEPC meeting which includes a panel discussion on offshore wind energy.

**6. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34pm.

<b>Next meeting: April 16 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5</b>
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