

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239
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DRAFT MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2008 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of Environment
Monica Backmon, Prince William County
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Cecily Beall, District of Columbia Department of Environment
Hon. John Britton, City of Rockville
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Hon. Cathy Drzyzgula, City of Gaithersburg
Hon. Jay Fisette, Arlington County
Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County, MWAQC Chair
Hon. Alan Imhoff, City of Frederick
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Hon. Andrea McGimsey, Loudoun County
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia
Pam Parker, Montgomery County Department of Environment
Hon. Redella Pepper, City of Alexandria
Mark Rawlings, District Department of Transportation
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Hon. Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County
JoAnne Sorenson, Virginia Department of Transportation
Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple, Virginia General Assembly
Hon. Patrice Winter, City of Fairfax
Dr. Larry Zaragoza, Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Others Present:

Bill Butler, Mirant
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of the Environment
Rebecca Davis, Clean Air Partners Education Coordinator
Bhesh Dhamala, Fairfax County Department of Health
Jill Engel-Cox, JCET/AQPAC
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County Department of Health
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Harriet West, Clean Air Partners

Staff:

Mike Clifford, COG/DTP

Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order, Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Announcements

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. There were no public comments. The meeting minutes were approved with no changes. There were several announcements. The states submitted the fine particle SIPs to EPA by the April deadline. EPA has announced a new, revised ozone standard and a new lead standard. EPA also announced in the Federal Register on April 28 that the Washington region attained the 1-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard by the attainment date of November 15, 2005. EPA's official notice means the region is not subject to Section 185 fines.

The MWAQC Executive Committee and AQPAC are initiating a review of organizational members on AQPAC. The purpose of the review is to revitalize the AQPAC membership, expand MWAQC's outreach into the community by engaging active organizations in the air quality planning process, and to work with those organizations to reach a wider public in the communities of the metropolitan Washington region. The outcome of the review should include a process for the member organizations to annually review and appoint representatives to AQPAC (like other COG committees) and include a periodic MWAQC review of organizations participating as members in AQPAC. Potential new members for the Public Advisory Committee can be referred to COG staff for more information.

For the past 2 years Jill Engel-Cox has served as Chair of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC), including representing AQPAC at MWAQC meetings. Members have benefited from her scientific knowledge and her dedication to serving the public interest. Ms. Engel-Cox resigned from her AQPAC position last month as she is assuming an exciting new work assignment in Malaysia. On behalf of MWAQC, Mr. Snyder wished her the best of luck, expressed appreciation for her outstanding leadership, and presented her with a plaque.

2. Committee Reports

A. Report of the Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. King provided a summary of the most recent meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee. The ALA released its annual State of the Air Report. The report acknowledged that there have been fewer exceedance days in recent years, however, the study ranks the metropolitan Washington region as #9 in ozone pollution and #10 in particle pollution compared to other large cities in the US. A COG response was prepared for MWAQC Executives, stating that the air quality in the region has improved but that more work is needed to improve air quality.

EPA has proposed to make a finding that the Washington, DC-MD-VA region has attained the one-hour ozone NAAQS. EPA has proposed a new lower NAAQS for lead. The region stopped monitoring for ambient lead in the late 1990s. Preliminary analysis of the most recent monitoring data suggest that the region is already in compliance with the EPA proposed lead NAAQS.

COG DTP staff are in the process of preparing the mobile emissions estimates for the conformity determination for the 2008 CLRP. A contingency plan has been prepared to demonstrate conformity on a delayed timeline in the event that Northern Virginia transportation funding issues are not resolved.

The CCSC is in the process of developing a set of recommendations for inclusion in the final climate report. Categories of recommendations include reduction targets, government lead by example, economic development, advocacy positions, outreach/education, energy, transportation, land use, financing and adaptation.

The initial meeting of the PM2.5 Implementation Workgroup in Virginia took place on April 10th, 2008. The group decided to focus its work on topics that will likely not be addressed by EPA's pending PM2.5 implementation rule.

B. Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Dr. Zaragoza reported. AQPAC is in the process of conducting its member survey. With the new ozone standard and changes to the AQI, AQPAC will work to educate the public about the changes. AQPAC is also interested in developing information to help educate the public about climate change.

C. Report of the Clean Air Partners

Harriet West reported. Technical staff and the marketing consultant recently completed a series of one-on-one meetings with television meteorologists in the Baltimore-Washington region to discuss the upcoming air quality season and changes in the EPA standard for ground-level ozone. Staff attended meetings with employer outreach/rideshare coordinators to update them on Clean Air Partners' programs and services, including the new EPA standard for ground-level ozone, business initiatives, and the curriculum/outreach program.

Preparations are underway for this year's public awareness campaign which will include radio ads on major stations in the Baltimore-Washington region over a five-week period (June 30-July 28) and special promotional events, as well as transit ads with WMATA, Frederick County Transit, and MTA. Sponsorship commitments for this year's campaign are currently \$140,000.

The Environmental Education coordinator continues to disseminate the curriculum and outreach materials to schools throughout the region. She will give a more detailed report as part of today's MWAQC agenda.

Marketing efforts for the rebate program continue and include direct mail, presentations at meetings, and outreach to trade associations and equipment vendors. One application has been received and approved to date.

Clean Air Partners is working with EPA and others to conduct two best practices workshops for auto body facilities. The workshops will be held at COG and the Maryland Department of the Environment on June 4th and June 5th respectively.

Prince George's County is in the process of recruiting employees to participate in focus groups scheduled for mid-June. The purpose of the focus groups is to identify specific messages that will

inspire behaviors to reduce air pollution among County employees from five key departments. Once the focus groups have been completed, the draft messages will be modified to reflect the guidance provided by Prince George's County employees.

The Managing Director is developing the on-line Telework Tool Kit and recruiting Maryland and Virginia employers for the Clean Air Teleworking pilot.

D. Report of the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC)

Ms. Beall reported on the IAQC. The IAQC has not recently met. The next meeting will be scheduled for the Fall.

E. Report of the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC)

Ms. Floreen reported on the CCSC. The current schedule calls for the COG Board to receive the draft climate change report and recommendations on July 9. If approved, the report would then be released for public comment. The CCSC recommends establishing a Climate and Energy Policy Committee to formalize the climate program at COG. The next meeting of the CCSC is scheduled for June 25.

3. Demonstration of "On the Air": Clean Air Partners' Curriculum for 6th Grade

Ms. Davis demonstrated the Clean Air Partners curriculum. The curriculum is designed for 6th grade science teachers and includes a kit with visual aids, worksheets, and props. It is tied to state educational standards for science, math, and social studies. Ms. Davis visits with schools and teachers that are interested, and asked for any referrals to others who may want to use the kit. Ms. Bulova asked for a list of schools where the curriculum is being used. In response to a question from Mr. Fisette, Ms. Davis said that a climate change component is being developed. Ms. Davis also said that there is a shorter more playful curriculum available for the lower grades.

4. New Standards for Ozone and Lead

Ms. Desimone and Mr. Kumar discussed the new standards for ozone and lead. EPA recently took action to lower the NAAQS for 8-hour ozone from 0.084 to 0.075 ppm. The Air Quality Index (AQI) for ozone was also revised to reflect the new standard. Code orange will now start at 75 ppb. Based on staff analysis, there could be an additional 15 code orange and 4 code red days per year under the new lower standard/AQI. Ms. Desimone referred members to new outreach materials developed to highlight the changes to the standard and AQI.

EPA has also proposed a new lower NAAQS for lead. The region stopped monitoring for ambient lead in the late 1990s. Preliminary analysis of the most recent monitoring data suggest that the region is already in compliance with the EPA proposed lead NAAQS. Mr. Ballou said that the region may need to reactivate a network of lead monitors under the new rule.

Mr. Snyder asked about the compliance schedule. The first step is for the region to be designated under the new ozone standard, which should occur in 2009/2010. SIPs are due to EPA in 2013. Compliance dates depend on nonattainment classification, and vary between 2013 and 2018. Mr. Snyder asked about actions being taken to meet the new standard. Mr. Aburn said that the PM SIP submitted in April to EPA contains some new measures that will provide air quality benefits to help the region meet the new standard. Other new initiatives being developed include a rule on distributed generation, negotiations with upwind states to increase controls on large stationary

sources, another round of reductions on power plants in the region, and voluntary programs to reduce emissions on high electricity demand days.

5. State of the Air: Washington Region

Ms. Rohlfs discussed the recent American Lung Association (ALA) State of the Air Report released on May 1. Compared to other areas of the United States, the metropolitan Washington region was ranked 9th in terms of ozone pollution and 10th for particle pollution. The District and Fairfax County were noted as the locations with the poorest air quality in the region. The report did recognize that there have been fewer days of high particle pollution. COG staff prepared points for use by MWAQC executives to respond to press inquiries. The report was covered by the Washington Post, which also recognized that the region is making progress but can do better.

6. State and Local Air Agency Reports

Mr. Aburn reported for Maryland. The first RGGI auction in Maryland is scheduled for September. The auction should generate significant revenue that can be used to fund programs to improve energy efficiency. The Maryland Climate Change Commission report is expected to be finalized in June. There are several regulatory actions in Maryland, including a clean distributed generation rule, changes to the opacity regulation, and a rule governing outdoor wood boilers. Legislation recently passed allowing MDE to increase its permit fees.

Ms. Beall reported for the District. The California LEV-II regulation was adopted by the City Council. Regulations to implement the OTC model rules are still being developed. The District has released an RFP to hire a consultant to assist with developing a greenhouse gas inventory and action plan.

Mr. Ballou reported for Virginia. The State Air Pollution Control Board in late March took over permitting authority for the Mirant Potomac River Generating Station and the Wise County proposed coal-fired power plant. The Virginia PM implementation workgroup was formed and has met twice. The next meeting is scheduled for July 23.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn

The next meeting will be held on July 23, 12 - 2 pm. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.