

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)

MEETING SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

MWAQC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Tom Ballou, VA Department of Environmental Quality
Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy and the Environment
Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County *
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
James Davenport, Prince Williams County *
Michael DeMarco, Fairfax County (Vice Chair) *
Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Brienne Nadeau, Washington DC (Chair)
Del Pepper, City of Alexandria *
Jim Ponticello, VDOT *
Fred Schultz, Takoma Park
Ram Tangirala, District of Columbia *
Glenna Tinney, ACPAC Chair
Brandon Todd, District of Columbia *
Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jessica Daniels, District Department of Energy and the Environment*

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Programs
Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs
Lyn Erickson, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs
Jane Posey, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director
Aaron Waters, COG Environmental Programs

(*) Indicates participation by phone

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

Chair Nadeau opened the meeting at 12:17pm. The meeting summary from the May 2016 MWAQC meeting was accepted with no changes.

Chair Remarks

On behalf of MWAQC, the Executive Committee approved a letter that was sent to members of the House of Representatives expressing support to reauthorize the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) for another five years. The letter highlights the importance and cost effectiveness of the DERA program. A copy of the letter is included in the [meeting materials](#).

EPA announced the Smart City Air Challenge, under which it will award two \$40,000 prizes to allow two communities to develop and implement plans for collecting and sharing data from air quality sensors. The deadline for applications is October 28, 2016. More information can be found on the Smart City Air Challenge website at: www.challenge.gov.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (*Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*)

MWAQC-TAC met September 13 and heard an update on the ozone season. TAC discussed the 2008 Ozone Maintenance Plan and the region's designation under the new ozone standard. TAC also heard a presentation on ammonia and nitrogen deposition to the Chesapeake Bay from agricultural sources.

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

ACPAC is in the process of developing an Environmental Justice Toolkit based on the outline previously presented. ACPAC selected the Climate & Energy Awards winners in July out of the 22 applications received. Winners will be presented their award at the November 9 COG Board of Directors Meeting. ACPAC also heard a presentation on this year's ozone season, and discussed the draft Climate Action Plan and dashboard.

C. Clean Air Partners (CAP) (*Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs*)

Clean Air Partners ran a marketing campaign for the summer, which began in May with Air Quality Awareness Week events. Partners included Breathe DC, DC Asthma Coalition, and Maryland Department of the Environment. CAP held mini events at two metro stations and in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, distributing materials on air quality. CAP held a two-week social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter featuring the Larry and Lola Lung educational videos. The second #BreatheEasy concert promotion ran in August. Residents were asked to submit what they did for clean air for a chance to win tickets to a Bruce Springsteen concert. The campaign had 800 submissions. A co-branded Car Free Day campaign ran in September, running ads and videos along with Commuter Connections, with the goal of increasing pledges to go car free.

Chair Nadeau noted that the region had no code red air quality days this summer, thanks to the work of Clean Air Partners and MWAQC members. COG is issuing a press release to that effect.

Ms. Beall recognized Rebecca Davis' enthusiastic participation in the District of Columbia's Department of Energy & Environment's summer career program.

3. CLIMATE, ENERGY AND AIR SURVEY *(Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs)*

As part of its annual survey to gauge progress on the environmental actions, COG surveyed its members on MWAQC Regional Action Plan implementation. Last year, COG looked more closely at state measures; this year the focus was on local actions.

Local Governments have made progress on implementing several point source measures including renewable energy and high performance buildings. Rooftop solar installations have increased dramatically over the last 5 years. The majority of local governments are tracking building energy use and implementing a variety of actions to move towards improved building energy performance in local government and in the community. A variety of approaches are being implemented to improve urban heat island effects such as green roofs and green streets.

Mobile source actions have also seen improvements. Several jurisdictions are implementing eco-driving and anti-idling campaigns. One respondent inquired about examples of these campaigns. COG held a campaign 5 years ago that drew from the North Carolina Department of Transportation's program called '[Drive Green, Save Green](#)'. The website still contains helpful materials regarding Mobile Source actions.

Ms. Davis briefed the committee on a new program under development, Fleets for the Future, that involves a regional cooperative procurement of advanced and alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure through the Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team.

Discussion

- Ms. Mach asked how the goals were developed, and if they considered the differences in legal authority of some jurisdictions. For example, municipalities in Prince George's are not authorized to implement zoning restrictions. Ms. Davis responded that the goals are part of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Committee's Action Plan in some cases, and that they are set at levels that consider legal restrictions.
- Mr. Agazi commented that Fairfax County and other municipalities in Virginia have the additional hurdle of an investor-owned utility monopoly that inhibits local governments' ability to implement solar in government facilities and in the community. Also, he would like to see progress on the total consumption of renewables, not just renewable energy credits.

4. OZONE SEASON UPDATE AND DESIGNATIONS FOR THE 2015 STANDARD

Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs

Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy and Environment

Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation

Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

A. Ozone Season Update

The region has experienced 13 code orange days, 77 code yellow days, and 86 code green days this summer. No code red days occurred, despite the stricter 70 parts per billion (ppb) ozone standard. Code orange unhealthy air quality days developed under higher temperatures, clear skies, and conditions that allowed local emissions to recirculate and accumulate. On some days, emissions from outside the region added to local emissions to cause air quality exceedances.

Overall, ozone exceedances in the Washington region are trending downward when recalculated using the new 70ppb standard. Many federal, state and local programs have contributed to the long-term air quality improvements. Still, the 8-hour ozone design value for 2014-2016 remains above the standard, so continued work is needed. The region will likely be classified as marginal attainment, in which case, a State Implementation Plan will not be needed as long as the region reaches attainment by October 1, 2020.

For fine particulate matter (PM2.5), the region experienced 49 code yellow days this season. PM2.5 levels are greatly reduced over the last 17 years. No standard exceedances have been measured in the region since 2013. The annual PM2.5 design value is well below the 2012 standard of 12 micrograms/m³.

B. State's Recommendations for Area Designation of the 2015 Ozone Standard

- Ms. Beall said that the District of Columbia is supporting a larger attainment area than has traditionally been utilized to help address air pollution transport and equity issues.
- Mr. Walz reported on behalf of MDE that Maryland had not yet made a final decision on what to submit to EPA. Three options are under consideration: status quo, combination of both the Baltimore and Washington regions with some impact on transportation planning, or an undefined 'larger' area to address interstate air pollution. MDE will share the comments that they submit electronically after October 1st.
- Mr. Ballou reported that Virginia is still finalizing comments. Virginia intends to submit a letter that shows how preliminary data indicates that while most areas in Virginia are in compliance with the 2015 standard, many areas contain one or more violating monitors. If those results are certified, then Virginia would recommend that the Washington area be designated 'marginal' non-attainment using the current non-attainment area. A larger non-attainment area is not warranted by the data.

Discussion

- Mr. Agazi asked how the attainment designation of a Baltimore-Washington non-attainment area might be affected by the data. Ms. Turner responded that if the areas are in marginal non-attainment, a SIP would not be required, only the current budgets and maintenance plan. It would probably be handled similarly as other multi-state regions. Ms. Turner speculated that transportation improvement plans and constrained long-range transportation plans would remain separate.
- Mr. Kumar pointed out that if conformity determinations were calculated jointly, there would be a need to coordinate on the air quality and transportation models and work out technical issues.
- Another issue Ms. Casey pointed out is how the region's tier system might be affected by a Baltimore-Washington air quality attainment area. Mr. Walz said that in the metropolitan Washington region's State Implementation Plans (SIPs), a series of tiers was set for the mobile emissions budget. If various drivers caused the region not to meet the lower tier budget, then it would trigger second tier actions. Baltimore's tiers are similar but the process might be different.

5. FINE PARTICLE MAINTENANCE PLAN (Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs)

Effective October 24, 2016, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revoked the 1997 annual PM2.5 standard. The Washington region is no longer required to demonstrate transportation

conformity for the PM2.5 standard. Therefore, updating the PM2.5 maintenance plan is no longer necessary since the main reason for the plan update was to develop revised motor vehicle emissions budgets for PM2.5 using the latest MOVES2014a model.

6. OZONE MAINTENANCE PLAN AND REDESIGNATION REQUEST (2008 STANDARD) (Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs)

The Washington region plans to submit a request to redesignate the region to “attainment” and demonstrate ongoing compliance for the 2008 ozone standard by 2017. This Ozone Redesignation Request & Maintenance Plan will close the book on the 2008 standard, officially recognize the progress that has been made, and reduce obstacles for locating new industries in the region.

The Plan will contain air quality data showing compliance, emissions inventories, and a maintenance plan. The inventory will demonstrate compliance by showing lower emissions in 2025 and 2030 compared to 2014. Sources in the inventory include point sources, area sources, nonroad sources and on-road sources. Motor vehicle emissions budgets will be developed using MOVES2014a model for 2014, 2025, and 2030. Contingency measures will be included that would be implemented in the event the region exceeds the ozone standard in the future. The Plan will be developed under MWAQC’s guidance in 2017.

7. MWAQC NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2017 OFFICERS (*Brianne Nadeau, MWAQC Chair*)

Chair Nadeau announced that the nominating committee will consist of herself, Leta Mach, and Dave Snyder.

8. STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS (*Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy and the Environment; Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*)

- DC: The DC Energy Plan is going out for public comment. The Climate Ready DC plan’s public comment period has concluded; the final plan will be published in a few weeks.
- MD: No update
- VA: No update, just to note that the Climate, Energy & Environment Policy Committee held a presentation on the Virginia Energy Plan and the workgroup established by the governor to investigate how to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector.

9. ADJOURNMENT

- Chair Nadeau concluded the meeting at 1:41pm.

The next MWAQC meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2016.