

# Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes**  
Monday, February 23, 2009  
Room 1  
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

## **Present:**

Bahri Aliriza, Bill Butler, Tim Duggan, Brian Holmes, Sally Kane, Deron Lovaas, Lauren Milone, Linda Murphy, Peter Owen, Caroline Petti, Josh Silverman, Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, Larry Zaragoza, Leon Koshishian, Rick Reiss, Beverly Fourier, Vaughn Turekian.

**Staff:** Jeff King, Joan Rohlfs

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

Larry Zaragoza, Vice Chair opened the meeting at 5:35 pm. Introductions were made. There were no changes to the agenda. The minutes of the January 2009 meeting were approved with no changes.

## **2. Regional Air Quality and Climate Change Planning: A Brief Background**

Joan Rohlfs gave an overview of regional air quality and climate change planning. She gave a presentation with information on the Clean Air Act, pollutants for which health standards have been set, data on compliance with air quality standards, the Air Quality Index, the mission and history of MWAQC, and an overview of various State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for the region. She also provided historical air quality data, showing historical Design Values for ozone and fine particles. She also provided an overview of COG's Climate Change program. The Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC) was formed in April 2007 and during its tenure developed a regional greenhouse gas inventory, prepared a Climate Change Report, and developed a variety of advocacy positions. The Climate Change Report was completed in November 2008 and includes a number of recommendations, including regional reduction targets, and proposals for various measures to address emissions from the energy and transportation sectors. One of the last responsibilities of the CCSC will be to recommend an organizational structure for the COG Climate Change initiative going forward. Currently, it is anticipated that the follow-on committee will be called the Climate and Energy Policy Committee. Staff are currently developing a proposed work program for the new committee that could be shared next month. It is envisioned that the initiative will not involve any new funding. The work program will identify tasks to respond to the report recommendations using existing funding sources. The committee will also need to address membership. The

CCSC had limited participation from transportation agencies, which will likely be resolved in the new committee. There is also ongoing discussion about how to involve stakeholders. Bill Butler suggested that one way to involve stakeholders is the way it's done at the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) where they have special stakeholder meetings. Sally Kane suggested that stakeholders not be invited to participate in the initial committee, and that this issue could be reconsidered after the new committee was up and running for six months.

In response to a question from Brian Holmes, Joan Rohlfs said that MWAQC would likely not be the organization to house the Climate initiative at COG in the event that EPA passed greenhouse gas regulations. The reason is that the climate issue requires more broad participation from different agencies than currently housed within MWAQC.

### **3. Staff Report of TAC, MWAQC, CCSC**

Jeff King reported on the recent meeting of the TAC. MWAQC and CCSC did not meet since the last AQPAC meeting. The recent TAC meeting involved the following items.

Maryland Department of the Environment's review of 2008 air quality monitoring data indicates that the Baltimore region has attained the 2006 daily fine particle standard. If EPA agrees, this could resolve the issues related to EPA's proposal to include Montgomery and Prince George's counties in the Baltimore nonattainment area.

The states have recently received guidance from EPA regarding the designation process for the 2008 8-hour Ozone NAAQS. Recommendations from the states are due to EPA by March 2009. EPA must make final designations by March 2010. States are in the process of deciding on area recommendations and will present draft recommendations to MWAQC in February.

Several northeastern and mid-Atlantic states, including Maryland, have agreed to develop a new low carbon fuel standard. The proposed program will be developed in 2009.

Maryland has proposed a rule addressing emissions from distributed electricity generation units. Owners must limit operation of their equipment to less than 10 hours during the ozone season or become permitted and meet performance standards for the units.

EPA has proposed a revised Air Quality Index (AQI) for fine particles to correspond to the new lower 2006 NAAQS. Under the revised AQI, code orange would begin at 35.5 ug/m<sup>3</sup> and would represent an exceedance.

Staff are collecting annual reports of progress in implementing local voluntary commitments, including energy efficiency, green power purchases, and tree canopy programs.

The Virginia Air Pollution Control Board is not scheduled to take action on the MWAQC request to lower the opacity standard until April 2009. The MWAQC chair has sent a letter to Governor Kaine requesting action on the petition.

#### **4. Draw Lots for Terms**

Members all drew lots for terms. Options are 1, 2, and 3- year terms. Members can trade if needed.

#### **5. Election of Officers**

Brian Holmes, representing the nominating committee, said that the committee is nominating Deron Lovaas as Chair, and Larry Zaragoza as vice chair. By a unanimous vote, the nominated slate was elected.

#### **6. AQPAC Blog**

Joan Rohlf asked for members to consider whether they'd like staff to set up a blog to facilitate communication amongst AQPAC members. She asked for feedback on the idea at the next meeting.

#### **7. Next Meeting and Adjourn**

Items suggested for the future agendas include: report on Stimulus package funding opportunities, diesel emission grants, indoor air quality, and an AQPAC work program.

It was suggested that the Chair of the Transportation Planning Board's Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) be invited to a future AQPAC meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm. The next meeting will be on March 16, 2009.