

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, June 18, 2012

Room 4/5

5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC members: Bill Butler, Mike Cakouros, Beverly Fourier, Raphael Isaac, Sally Kane, Patrick Matos, Caroline Petti, Glenna Tinney, Kyle Todd

Staff: Joan Rohlfs, Maia Davis

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm. The agenda and minutes from May 14, 2012 were approved with no changes.

2. Regional Climate Impacts and Transportation Planning Implications (Maia Davis, COG DEP Staff)

COG hosted a Climate Impacts Symposium on May 21, 2012 which featured a panel of scientists discussing climate trends and predictions in the region. Maia summarized the key information presented by the climate experts. Essentially, there has been a trend over the last century in sea level rise (SLR), increase in average annual temperature and slight increase in average annual precipitation. It is anticipated that that these trends will continue. Flooding is a problem in the region that may be exacerbated by climate change and will affect many sectors and a variety of infrastructure.

At the symposium, another panel of experts addressed the planning implications for various sectors. Maia summarized the implications for the transportation sector. A few key problems the region could face is an increase in weather-related delays, traffic disruptions, and road flooding. There may be a need for updated standards and maintenance procedures so that infrastructure can better accommodate heat waves, run off, floods and SLR.

3. Sea Level Rise and Land Use Planning Implications (Jessica Grannis, Georgetown Climate Center)

The Georgetown Climate Center provides tools to assist state and local governments in adapting to climate change including a Sea Level Rise Took Kit, Urban Heat Island Tool Kit (under peer review) and the [Climate Adaptation Clearinghouse](#). The Sea Level Rise Tool Kit identifies and categorizes land use options by the type of adaptation strategy (accommodate, protect and retreat) and by type of power (land use plans, regulations, incentives and investments). Adaptation methods for urban heat islands include green roofs, cool roofs, cool pavements and urban forestry. Jessica presented this information at the Symposium and to ACPAC.

4. Member Time (Glenna Tinney, Sierra Club Member)

As a Sierra Club Member in Virginia, Glenna used her “Member Time” to discuss the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign. The campaign is based on the premise that coal-fired power plants are the largest source of industrial carbon pollution which is the main contributor to climate change and that pollution from coal-fired power plants are linked to life-threatening air pollution like asthma-inducing smog, making it a serious hazard to Americans’ health and future. Glenna discussed issues and efforts on the campaign specifically in Virginia.

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

Joan gave a brief ozone season update – so far there have been 2 code orange day forecasts on May 31 and June 10. Also, the National Weather Service (NWS) has stopped issuing alerts for code orange days and a draft comment letter has been written for MWAQC consideration. ACPAC members are in support of MWAQC submitting the comment letter to NWS. The next CEEPC meeting will feature the a panel discussion on the future of the electric vehicle (EV) market and the draft EV readiness strategy for the region will be presented.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.

Next meeting: July 16, 2012 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5
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