**Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee**

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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, July 15, 2013

Room 1

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

**ACPAC members:** Michael Cakouros, Blaine Collison, Brian DiNunno, Gretchen Goldman,Ravi Gupta, Raphael Isaac, Andrew Kambour, Sally Kane, Katherine Lizotte, Caroline Petti, John Reed, Glenna Tinney (via phone)

**Staff:** Joan Rohlfs, Amanda Campbell

**Speakers**: Michael Knapp, Urban Forestry, Fairfax County; Brian LeCouteur, Urban Forester, COG DEP

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

The agenda and minutes from June 17, 2013 were approved with Caroline Petti’s changes.

**2. Regional Tree Canopy[[1]](#footnote-1) Workgroup and Report (Michael Knapp, Fairfax County; Brian LeCouteur, COG DEP)**

COG’s Tree Canopy Workgroup began as an effort to meet requirements for credit under the 2007 Ozone State Implementation Plan. Recognizing the broad benefits of tree canopy to stormwater, carbon sequestration, energy conservation, and livability, the group is working on drafting a Regional Strategy report. The workgroup hopes that the report will help build support through CEEPC for developing a Regional Implementation Plan.

The overarching focus of the regional tree canopy strategy is to maximize tree benefits and minimize negative impacts. One challenge is that regional policies vary across the region. Some jurisdictions have comprehensive forestry programs, but others do not. A few jurisdictions have adopted tree canopy goals.

ACPAC members discussed other tree-related goals that could be included in the Climate and Energy Action Plan, such as a tree canopy percentage goal. Mr. Knapp explained that not all jurisdictions have completed a canopy assessment, making measurement of progress difficult. Many east coast cities have adopted a 40% tree canopy goal which is further broken into urban and suburban goals, recommended by American Forests. Urban trees have more energy-reduction, air quality, and socioeconomic benefits, while forests have more ecological services benefits. More metrics for forest quality, diversity, and tree health need to be developed. Trees need to be maintained like any other asset. Trees can cause negative impacts -- proper pruning techniques, tree care, and species choice can reduce tree impacts to property and powerlines. The workgroup hopes to address these challenges and support local governments in their efforts to assess and maintain tree canopy cover.

ACPAC members expressed support for the regional tree canopy strategy work.

**3. Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Concept**

Carolyn Petti reviewed the last meeting’s discussion about an awards program to recognize and motivate jurisdictions to implement actions outlined in CEEPC’s Climate and Energy Action Plan, 2013-2016. Maia Davis (COG DEP) conducted research into some existing awards programs and drafted a proposal (posted). Blaine Collison suggested award categories be based on program areas instead of jurisdictions. Glenna liked the concept and said it might incentivize jurisdictions. John Reed said awards should be given for programs that are 1-2 years old, and there should be metrics for the programs. It was agreed that a joint CEEPC/ACPAC task force should be formed to develop criteria.

Members discussed various aspects of the awards proposal. Nine out of the ten participants supported continuing work on an awards program proposal. Members agreed to hold a conference call in August to refine the proposal to present to CEEPC in the fall.

**4. Regional Ozone Attainment Update (Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP)**

Based on the trend in ozone design values since 2010, it appears that the Washington region may not attain the 2008 ozone standard by 2015 (see Memo, posted). The region has been trending above the 2008 Ozone attainment values. One option is to request a voluntary ‘bump-up’ to Moderate classification which would allow the region a longer deadline to complete the State Implementation Plan (SIP) and reach the air quality goals for ozone. Some states are beginning to work on their SIPs voluntarily. 2009 was a cool year which caused a temporary dip in the downward trend.

**5. Other Business**

Raphael Isaac announced he is moving to California to pursue his PhD, and thanked ACPAC for the opportunity to serve on the committee.

**Next meeting: September 16, 2013 – 5:30pm – 7:30pm**

1. *Tree canopy coverage* is the area of land covered by trees and their leaves and branches, usually measured by satellite imagery. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)