

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
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DRAFT MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2010 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Monica Backmon, Prince William County
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Hon. Mary Cheh, DC Council
Hon. Jay Fisette, Arlington County
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County
Carolyn Jones, Maryland Department of the Environment
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Hon. Phil Mendelson, DC Council
Pam Parker, Montgomery County
Mark Rawlings, District Department of Transportation
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County
Hon. Dave Snyder, Falls Church
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Beverly Warfield, Prince George's County

Staff

Jeannine Altavilla, COG/DEP
Maia Davis, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP
Harriet West, Clean Air Partners

Others

Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Erica Bannerman, City of Alexandria
Jessica Daniels, District Department of the Environment
Randy Mosier, Maryland Department of the Environment
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County Department of Transportation

1. Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Chair's Remarks

Chair Mach called the meeting to order at 12:35pm. The minutes of the July 28, 2010 meeting were approved with no changes.

Ms. Mach made several announcements. In recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the Clean Air Act (CAA), MWAQC has issued a press release making note of the improvements in air quality since the CAA was passed in 1970. Ms. Mach also reported that the states and COG staff had expected that EPA would have released the revised ozone standard. Unfortunately, EPA Administrator announced a delay until October, and it will possibly be as late as November before it is released. Chair Mach also recognized JoAnne Sorenson for long service to MWAQC and air quality planning in the Washington region. This was JoAnne's last MWAQC meeting after seven years on the committee. The committee has a certificate to present as a small token of their appreciation for her contribution to improving air quality in the Metropolitan Washington Region. Ms. Mach thanked her for her support over the years.

2. Committee Reports

Technical Advisory Committee

Ms. Beall reported on the September 14 meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC heard updates on the ozone season summary, the COG energy outreach campaign, the status of climate and energy reporting, and a recently awarded technical assistance from the EPA for smart growth and adaptation to climate change. The committee discussed the EPA Transport Rule, the MOVES Schedule, and the OTC Model Rule Development. The committee was also briefed on ICLEI's annual meeting taking place September 24-26 and the EPA Portfolio Manager training at COG on September 29.

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

Joan Rohlf's reported on the September 13 meeting of the ACPAC. The committee heard reports on the 2010 ozone season, the regional energy outreach pilot (WE CAN), and a survey of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding and energy contracts in the region. ACPAC discussed the implications of the Office of the Inspector General report on the future of the EECBG program. The group also expressed interest in having an expert present to the group about how monitor locations are selected, including the policy, funding, and data that are considered in these placements. The committee would also like to have a presentation about how the air quality index portrays air quality issues to the public, and whether more can be done to notify the public about the health risks involved with various levels. Chair Mach commented that the MWAQC also has questions about monitor siting.

Clean Air Partners

Harriet West reported on the Clean Air Partners (CAP) marketing campaign. The campaign ended at the close of August and generated 66 million media impressions. The 2011 sponsorship package is being developed and will most likely include a media mix of television, online, transit, and cable advertising. This year's summer outreach had the Education Program Manager and two summer interns present air quality information to more than 1,000 young people at various

locations. The Executive Committee will meet November 18 at the Baltimore Metropolitan Council. The next CAP Board meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2011 at MWCOG.

Jen Desimone presented on the CAP website. The website saw an increase in hits from 2009, totaling nearly 2 million hits through August 2010. The number of individual site visitors is 137,363 through August 2010, also up from 2009. The number of AirAlerts subscribers increased to 3,691 this year, through September 7, 2010, up from 2,889 in 2009. During event weeks the site saw a greater number of hits. CAP is using Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube to help with its campaign.

Randy Mosier of MDE presented about the Great Maryland Lawn Mower Exchange that took place as a joint effort from MDE, CAP, MWCOG, PRR, and Neuton. This is the fourth exchange MDE has done. MDE used \$185,000 in funds for the lawn mower exchange program. The competitive RFP was won by Neuton, and it was a one day event held in Baltimore at Camden Yards on August 14, 2010. Over 1,000 people registered to participate and 710 mowers were collected and new electric mowers purchased. Participants came from around the region. The exchange of 1,000 gasoline-powered lawn mowers for electric mowers has the potential to reduce volatile organic compound emissions by 9.8 tons, the equivalent of removing 230 cars from the highways. Two Neuton models were offered at over 60% off the retail price. Advertising was on television, Facebook and the radio, with a total of over 5 million impressions. There will be a follow-up two day event October 9th and 10th with 290 mowers available. The mowers will not be available to pick up, so \$30 in shipping will be added, and one model will cost \$10 more. MDE is exploring funding a spring 2011 event.

Mr. Fisette asked if an event had been done in Virginia. Mr. Ballou said that money has been available, but has been spent on diesel retrofits because it is easier to organize school bus retrofits. An event could be done with private money, and utilities have been involved in the past. Mr. Fisette suggested the effort could be tied to hazardous waste drop-off education, which would increase the value of the program. If the Northern Virginia Regional Council was used the burden could be taken off of the state. Ms. Bulova suggested that an event could be framed an Arbor Day or an Earth Day event with multiple locations regionally. Mr. Snyder asked if the cost/ton data could be compared with the diesel retrofits to prove which option is the best use of state money. Mr. Srikanth noted that to determine cost effectiveness all numbers, not just the program cost, must be included. Pam Parker also noted that the bus program has fine particle benefits and the lawn mower program has NOx and VOC benefits.

Mr. Fisette noted that he has never heard of Neuton, and assumed that the mowers would have been Black & Decker. Mr. Mosier noted that Neuton came ahead with a great program; the company paid for the dumpster and staffed the event. Neuton's mowers were competitively priced and have a very good product. Most of their mowers are sold online or through similar events rather than in retail locations.

3. Ozone Season Update

Ms. Desimone reported on the ozone season summary. Based on preliminary data there were 3 Code Red days, 30 Code Orange days, 43 Code Yellow days and 56 Code Green days in the 2010 season. The highest recorded concentration was 100 ppb at the McMillan Reservoir on July 7. August 28th to September 3rd was a poor air quality event. This week saw high pressure and

temperatures with limited clouds and re-circulating light winds that kept bringing polluted air back into the region. All three factors led to conditions favorable to high ozone levels. On the August 30th Code Red day there were 10 monitors in exceedance. Compared to 2009 there were more Code Orange and Code Red Days. The Washington, DC Region 8-hour Ozone Design Value has continued to decrease and for 2007-2009 it is 0.080 ppb. For fine particles based on the 24-hour PM_{2.5} concentrations preliminary data shows there were 4 Code Orange days, 51 Code Yellow days and 77 Code Green days this year. Mr. Aburn noted that it was the worst summer for ozone since 1988, but that regional progress in improving air quality is still noteworthy.

4. EPA's new Transport Rule, Comment Letter (ACTION)

Jeff King presented on EPA's Proposed Transport Rule. The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) Budget Trading program began in 1999, and the EPA NO_x SIP Call was in 2003. The EPA Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) was established in 2005 to replace the NO_x SIP call, but was vacated, reconsidered, and then remanded without vacatur in 2008. This 2010 EPA Transport Rule would replace CAIR and respond to court directives. EPA used modeling to determine the emission reduction needed to remedy the requirement that states address contribution to downwind areas. State-level emission budgets were established and intra-and inter-state trading as limited. The EPA will implement FIPs by 2012, with states reserving the option to develop a SIP. The Transport Rule is a 2-step regulatory approach to reduce NO_x and SO₂ in 2012/2014 that only addresses 1997 ozone/annual PM NAAQS and 2006 daily PM NAAQS and does not address the 2008 ozone NAAQS currently under reconsideration. The new Transport Rule was not developed to address lower ozone or PM NAAQS. More stringent ozone and PM NAAQS are expected in August 2010 (delayed) and October 2011, respectively. Additional reductions will be required and subsequent EPA rulemakings are planned.

MWAQC's comment letter generally supports EPA's proposed remedy to CAA Section 110 and CAIR remand. The letter urges timely action to set tighter emission caps to enable new NAAQS attainment, and it supports limited emission trading. Ms. Mach noted that the proposed letter was reviewed by TAC and state air agencies. A motion was made and seconded to approve the comment letter. Mr. Snyder noted that most the region's problems are a result of transport of pollution from out of the region. The source specific option seems helpful however possible sources here are under less stringent requirements. Mr. Ballou said that EPA thinks the source specific option would yield greater emissions because it sets individual emissions rates by facility. This creates unequal rates that were not explained by EPA. Agencies support the EPA proposed option. Mr. Snyder asked to add the phrase "and might not result in improved air." The phrase was accepted as a friendly amendment. Mr. Aburn noted that some are looking ahead at a potential Transport Rule 2, and he is willing to share information.

5. Clean Car Labeling

Mr. King presented information on EPA and DOT's proposed new fuel efficiency labels for motor vehicles. The organizations are seeking comments, there is no letter currently prepared for MWAQC. There are two label designs proposed that cover a range of vehicles with a 60 day window for comments. Mr. Srikanth said that most of the information is currently on the existing labels, but that these proposals add fuel cost savings and a letter grade. Ms. Mach said that the labels would be a good education piece for the public and seem simpler. Mr. Simons said that the labels should be designed to allow consumers to make relevant comparisons across vehicle types.

There was a motion and a second to draft a letter supporting the educational value of the labels. The executive committee was authorized to review and approve the comment letter.

6. MOVES Status Report

Sunil Kumar presented the MOVES status report. MOVES is the EPA's new emissions estimation model for on-road mobile sources. MOVES 2010 was released in December 2009. MOVES2010a, a newer version, was released in September 2010. This model will replace the Mobile6.2 model beginning March 2012. March 2010 to March 2012 is the grace period for this transition. Based on early test runs, the MOVES model estimates higher emissions than Mobile6.2. VOC emissions increase by 6%, NOx increase by 44% and PM2.5 increase by 132%. There is no change in the actual emissions, only the estimation by the model. Meeting existing mobile emissions budgets in ozone and PM2.5 SIPs may pose a challenge with this model. The next SIPs are due December 2013. A number of options are being explored to address possible conformity issues prior to establishing new mobile budgets with MOVES.

7. Diesel Idle Reduction Campaign

Cecily Beall presented on the Diesel Idle Reduction campaign. The 2010 campaign has established a Driver Recognition Program. The goal is to elevate awareness of the diesel idle reduction law in the District, Maryland, and Virginia, to promote idle reduction as a positive behavior that helps bus and truck drivers to avoid fines, to save money, to cut fuel costs, and to engage and involve frontline personnel who ultimately make the decision to let their vehicles run or to turn off their engines. Nominations for the recognition program are due by the 15th of each month and can originate from bus or trucking companies, enforcement personnel, industry stakeholders, or the general public. The nomination form can be found on the campaign website. The selection panel is composed of members of public agencies in the region and other industry stakeholder organizations. Those approved will receive a commendation letter and will be entered in a monthly dinner for two at a region restaurant, and will be entered in a quarterly grand prize drawing for an exciting grand prize from Destination DC. Funding for the initial program ends September 30th. It is uncertain how the program will be maintained. There will be a meeting tomorrow to discuss possible interest and approaches to continuing the program.

8. State and Local Air Reports

Tom Ballou reported for Virginia. The state issued an operating permit for the Mirant station on July 29th. There is a limit of 890 tons of NOx emissions during ozone season. This action helps Virginia meet all requirements in the 2007 ozone SIP. The Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) proposed a 15 MW coal-fired plant in Surry County that will be delayed at least two years. There is an application for a Dominion 1,300 MW natural gas facility in Warren County. There will be a hearing in the next several months. The Regional Haze SIP has gone through public review and is almost ready to submit to the EPA. This new plan will provide for significant SO2 reductions in the future.

Cecily Beall reported for the District. The Regional Haze SIP process is nearing completion. The public hearing was held August 30th. There were no comments so it is being prepared for submission. The VOC regulations have been revamped. There was a September 13th public hearing. There was one speaker and eight or ten letters. The Regional Haze SIP will be finalized this fall. The DC Climate Action Plan, available at green.dc.gov, was released for public comments through November 15th.

Carolyn Jones reported for Maryland. MDE had a meeting of the Air Quality Control Advisory Council last week and approved several clean up amendments to a few regulations. MDE is preparing extensive comments to the Transport Rule that address both the technical and policy issues. MDE will have the comments to the EPA by October 1, 2010. MDE has begun several large climate projects that will help Maryland meet the requirements of the state climate law. These projects include contractual assistance to develop current and as accurate as possible emission reduction estimates from state programs, a multi-pollutant modeling effort aimed at better educating us as to the co-benefits of climate and NAAQS programs, and several large scale studies to be completed by the University of Maryland.

9. New Business

Chair Mach proposed to cancel the October meeting and meet next in December because the EPA is not expected to release the new ozone standard until late October or November.

Elections for officers will be held in December. Chair Mach appointed a nominating committee of Phil Mendelson, Jay Fisette, and herself to nominate candidates for MWAQC officers next year. The Nominating Committee will announce candidates no later than 10 days before the vote on December 8.

10. Set Date for Next Meeting, Adjourn:

The next meeting date will be December 8, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 am.