



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 21, 2022
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC ATTENDEES: Kasparas Spokas, Chloe Koseff, James Wang, Herb Simmens, Elizabeth Spike, Julie Kimmel, Deborah Shprentz, Neil Boyer, Tara Failey, Tamara Toles O' Laughlin, Herb Simmons, Era Pandya, Stacey Simone Garfinkle, Samuel Gaber, Peter Mecca

COG STAFF: Leah Boggs, Jen Desimone, Sunil Kumar

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made by members and COG staff. The January 24, 2022, ACPAC meeting summary was approved with no amendments.

Elizabeth Spike announced the annual Student Environmental Action Showcase (SEAS) event and opportunity for teens in the DMV to earn community service hours. The opportunity which is on May 7 provides high-school-age youth an opportunity to share their approaches, successes, and/or failures in addressing environmental problems, and to explore methods used in environmental research, at George Mason University's Potomac Science Center on Belmont Bay. Participation in SEAS planning and/or volunteering on the day of the event may also be counted toward community service hours.

Leah Boggs of COG Staff announced the preparation for the upcoming 2022 Climate and Energy Leadership awards which launches on April 22. The committee will receive follow-up information to provide input on potential changes to the program.

2. MEMBER (RE-) ORIENTATION

Leah Boggs, COG Staff

Leah Boggs provided an overview of ACPAC's role, the policy boards the committee advises, and pressing climate and air quality issues that ACPAC will address in 2022.

ACPAC advises the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) on air quality, climate, and energy issues. MWAQC helps guide and approve state implementation plans (SIP) for air quality standards. The MWAQC Executive Committee appoints individuals to represent elements of the community, seeking a balance among them and a geographic balance. MWAQC's role is to meet Clean Air Act requirements, which include reductions in criteria air pollutants (Ozone, Fine Particles, Carbon Monoxide, Sulfur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Lead).

CEEPC's role is to provide leadership on climate change, energy, green building, alternative fuels, waste, and recycling issues. CEEPC is responsible for developing regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emission and resilience goals for 2030.

Reasonable accommodations are provided on request, including alternative meeting material formats. For more information, visit: www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD)

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The Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC) is a technical committee to CEEPC, comprised of the energy managers, sustainability, and green buildings staff of COG's 24 member governments. BEEAC meets bimonthly to aid in implementing energy and high-performance building goals members by providing a space for deep, technical discussion.

Clean Air Partners is a public-private partnership formed in 1995 and comprised of 30 organizations from including local governments, state transportation and environmental agencies, businesses, and advocacy groups. The program was founded by COG and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) to improve the Baltimore-Washington region's air quality and reduce GHG emissions through voluntary actions and to increase public awareness about the health effects of air quality.

ACPAC 2022 priorities include working to meet the 2015 ozone standard, issuing the Climate & Energy Leadership Awards, and environmental justice interface of the implementation of the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan.

3. AIR QUALITY 101

Sunil Kumar, COG Staff

Sunil Kumar provided an overview of MWAQC and reviewed the fundamentals of air quality issues in the region. He described the genesis of MWAQC and the committee's role in developing the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the region. To help orient ACPAC members, Mr. Kumar reviewed how ozone is formed, ozone concentrations in the region, the region's ozone plan, ozone data and standards. He also discussed similar information for PM2.5, introduced transportation conformity and what's coming up for regional air quality planning for the coming year.

The Washington metropolitan region is currently designated as a marginal nonattainment area for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The region did not meet the federal standard for Ozone by the 2020 base year deadline but met the standard in 2021. The current planning status includes:

- Waiting for EPA action on bump-up to Moderate NAA and/or Clean Data Determination, which would suspend 2015 ozone NAAQS plan submittal and other requirements.
- Working on both attainment and maintenance plans simultaneously.

The region is in attainment of both daily and annual standards for particulate matter 2.5 (PM 2.5).

All committee members were sent a [dropbox link](#) before the meeting that included orientation materials for ACPAC members, including the bylaws, committee administrative documents, background reading on air quality, transportation conformity and other COG documents, including CEEPC's Action Plan and Resource Guide for reference.

4. PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES: CLEAN AIR PARTNERS, MWAQC, CEEPC, AND BEEAC ACPAC

Leah Boggs and Jen Desimone, COG Staff, Members

Clean Air Partners Priorities:

- Communicate the health effects of air pollution and related "calls-to-action" to individuals, organizations, media, meteorologists, and school children.

- Communicate unhealthy air days to enable residents to change behaviors to protect health and improve the air and impacts related to climate change.
- Promote the use of the “On the Air” air quality curriculum in DC, Maryland, and northern Virginia schools and conducting outreach at summer schools and camps.

MWAQC Priorities:

- Develop an attainment State Implementation Plan (SIP) and/or maintenance plan and redesignation request (MP/RR) for the 2015 ozone NAAQS.
- Track monitoring data and EPA actions to determine the area’s designation status for the 2015 ozone NAAQS.
- Work with members to identify and implement initiatives to reduce air pollution.
- Track regulatory actions related to transport of pollution and comment when appropriate.

CEEPC Priorities:

- Develop draft and final GHG emission calculations for the 2020 community-scale GHG local and regional inventories.
- Support local climate action plan development, emphasizing both mitigation and resiliency.
- Collect and analyze utility energy data for the region and analyze renewable energy trends within the COG region.
- Continue to support local government EV planning efforts and continue regional electric vehicle (EV) readiness planning to support broader EV infrastructure deployment.

BEEAC Priorities:

- Clean electricity.
- Equity: mitigation and resiliency.
- Resilient infrastructure.
- Zero Energy Buildings.

5. ACPAC 2022 OUTLOOK AND PRIORITIES

Tara Failey, Chair, Members, and COG Staff

ACPAC Priorities:

- Follow attainment SIP process for the 2015 Ozone and provide input on voluntary SIP measures if/when directed by MWAQC.
- Equity Emphasis Areas interface.
- Updates on local climate action and EV plans across the region.
- 2022 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards.

6. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN

Chair Tara Failey adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm. The next meeting is May 16th.

Speaker presentations can be found on the committee page [here](#).