



Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)

PHONE CONFERENCE SUMMARY: JULY 26, 2018

MWAQC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE:

Paolo Belita, Prince William County
Patty Bubar, Montgomery County
Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Peter Kovar, Takoma Park
Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Del Pepper, City of Alexandria
Hans Riemer, Montgomery County (Chair)

Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Cecily Beall, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment
Andrea Lasker, Prince George's County
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ram Tangirala, District of Columbia
Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation
Norm Whitaker, Virginia Department of Transportation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Koran Saines, Loudoun County
Gary Erenrich, Montgomery County
Joshua Fleitman, representing Brandon Todd, District of Columbia (Vice Chair)
Mike Lake, Fairfax County
Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC Vice Chair

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Programs
Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs
Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs
Erin Morrow, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Dusan Vuksan, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, APPROVE MINUTES, CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Riemer opened the meeting at 12:35pm. There were no public comments. The summary from the May 2018 meeting was accepted with no changes.

2. WHAT WE CAN DO UPDATE

Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director

The What We Can Do report, available on the meeting website, ranks measures that could reduce NO_x emissions to achieve no code orange or worse unhealthy air days. The region has stalled out on ozone reductions at around 72 ppb, and federal actions are less supportive, so more local work will be needed to improve air quality and protect public health.

COG staff solicited additional guidance from local member air and energy staff at a work session on June 21 to explore how the region can work together to move the actions forward. Meeting highlights

are posted on the MWAQC meeting website. The resulting top priority measures are listed below with several actions that could be implemented.

1) Reduce emissions from heavy duty on-road vehicles and construction equipment.

- a) Encourage anti-idling through programs such as the *Turn Your Engine Off* anti-idling campaign for tour bus companies, encouraging or requiring use of supportive electric or batter power for emergency vehicles or refrigeration trucks
- b) Retrofit, repower, and upgrade heavy duty vehicles to clean engines (Tier 4; new efficient or alternative fuel).
- c) The Smartway Partnership is an example of a program that could be encouraged or expanded for heavy-duty vehicles that operate in the region.

2) Increase adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy, including renewable electricity storage.

- a) Reduce demand (peak shaving) specifically on high electricity demand days during the ozone season
 - Encourage participation in low emission demand-response measures including battery storage
 - Utilize lower-emission technology backup generators – local government facilities and local regulation of generators
- b) Modify building policies to foster or require cutting-edge building energy efficiency and renewable energy, such as net zero strategies, for new, existing, commercial, and residential facilities
- c) Expand green power purchases such as through synthetic and other PPAs, and advocate for stricter state and local requirements

3) Improve transportation system choices that reduce mobile source pollution

- a) Electric vehicle planning; facilitate EV adoption and infrastructure expansion; expand AFV adoption in local government fleets
- b) Expand pedestrian and bicycle system improvements, including share options

4) Engage in education, outreach, and advocacy in all areas

Outreach and education for a variety of stakeholders will be part of the implementation of each control measure. Additional advocacy activities for state and federal standards and programs that support air quality in the region will be part of the work that is needed to improve air quality.

Chair Riemer said that these findings will play a role in MWAQC's focus going forward and the strategic planning work slated for this fall and thanked everyone for their input.

3. STRENGTHENING TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY SCIENCE – COMMENT LETTER

Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Engineer

At the May MWAQC meeting, members asked staff to develop a comment letter on EPA's proposed rule "Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science" over concerns that it could result in reversal of air quality gains that would negatively impact public health in our region. Mr. Kumar summarized the draft comment letter, posted on the MWAQC meeting website, that was developed in coordination with the state air agencies in response to EPA's proposed rule.

MWAQC unanimously approved the letter.

4. PROGRAM UPDATES

Jen Desimone, COG Air Program Chief

Thus far this year, the region has experienced seven code orange days and one code red day. The code red instance is significant because it breaks a several year-long streak with no code red days. The design value is currently 72 ppb.

The planned Strategic Planning session will take a close look at current programs and services and identify potential new tasks and initiatives. The current budget structure, which is shared in equal parts between the local members, state air agencies, and transportation agencies, will be examined. The session is planned for October.

5. STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS

DC: Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy and Environment:

DC has submitted the state plan for the Volkswagen Settlement funds and is waiting for approval before starting work. On July 27, DC intends to propose the State Implementation Plan for the Reasonably Available Control Technology for NO_x for the 2008 ozone standard.

MD: Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment:

No report.

VA: Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality:

Virginia proposed a carbon trading rule which is under review. The Request for Proposals for regional projects funded by the VW Settlement Funds is moving forward. The associated activities will reduce NO_x from diesel.

6. ADJOURNMENT