



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACPAC)

July 17, 2023
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC ATTENDEES: Era Pandya, Deborah Shprentz, James Wang, Herb Simmons

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES: George Aburn

COG STAFF: Leah Boggs, Kelsey Boatwright, Alissa Boggs, Jeff King

- 5:30 P.M. 1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Era Pandya, Chair

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made by members and COG staff. The meeting did not reach a quorum (9 members). There were no amendments to the May 15, 2023 meeting summary or to the July 17, 2023 agenda.

- 5:40 P.M. 2. CODE PURPLE UPDATE**
Jeff King, COG Staff

COG Staff will provide an update on the Code Purple Air Quality Health Advisory that was issued for the metropolitan Washington region in June 2023.

Presentation Summary

- From January 2023 – July 4, 2023 Combined Ozone & PM2.5 Days
 - Code red days – 3
 - Code orange days - 11
 - Code yellow days - 67
 - Code green days – 104
- COG issues health alerts when the forecast or current air quality are Code Red or higher (e.g, Code Purple).
- On June 7, PM2.5 levels rose at very fast pace from early morning onwards. Levels reached above 150.5 ug/m³ at 9 am and continued for another hour.
 - EPA's Airnow and COG/Clean Air Partners websites started showing current conditions at Code Purple levels. Expecting Code Purple and based on COG protocol, COG issued a health advisory accordingly.
 - Atmospheric conditions changed shortly afterwards and the final PM2.5 recording (based on the 24-hour average) was short of meeting the criteria for Code Purple. It still recorded high Code Red level (103.2 ug/m³)

- The 2015 8-hour Ozone Design Value is 70 parts per billion (ppb)
 - The region is back in non-attainment at 71 ppb
 - Based on draft data as of July 4, 2023
 - Three monitors recorded highest ozone levels in this season; McMillian (DC) - 71, Beltsville (MD) - 68 and Prince George's Equestrian Center (MD) - 68

Discussion

- Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are precursors to Ozone.
- Members want a presentation on how Canada's wildfires impacted the region's monitors in real time.

5:50 P.M. 3. OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING CLIMATE AND AIR WORK PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Jeff King, COG Staff

Presentation Summary

- COG Staff will provide an overview of the anticipated FY24 priority work program activities for CEEPC and MWAQC, including the equity programming. Members can discuss and provide input.
- In May, MWAQC adopted its FY24 work program including an objective to include a racial equity lens in work activities.
- COG's climate and energy activities includes EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Program, which is a climate plan program for the MSA requiring significant new community engagement, emphasizing Justice40.

Agenda Item 4 was a closed session for ACPAC members and COG Staff only.

6:10 P.M. 4. CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS JUDGING

Era Pandya, ACPAC Chair (Moderator)

ACPAC Members

Members judged the 2023 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards applications in the categories of government, non-governmental organization, and educational institution. Winners will be announced at the COG Board meeting in October.

7:30 P.M. 5. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN

- 2023 Meeting Schedule:
 - September 18, 2023 (*potential in-person/hybrid meeting*)
 - November 13, 2023 (*virtual only meeting*)

Meeting Documents:

<https://www.mwco.org/events/2023/7/17/air-and-climate-policy-advisory-committee/>

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials. Visit www.mwco.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

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