

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**February 14, 2017, 10 AM to 11:4 AM**

**Present:**

Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Alexandra Catena, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute  
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation  
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Collen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environmental  
Liz Entwisle, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Mike Lake, Fairfax County  
Leal Boyd, Mid-Atlantic Navy Region 3

**Staff:**

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Steve Walz, COG/DEP  
Jeff King, COG/DEP  
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP  
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP  
Lyn Erikson, COG/DTP  
Ron Milone, COG/DTP  
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP  
Jane Posey, COG/DTP

**1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary**

Cecily Beall called the meeting to order at 10 am. The January 10 meeting summary was approved without any substantive changes. The minutes would be corrected for typos.

**2. 2008 Ozone NAAQS Redesignation Request & Maintenance Plan**

Sunil briefed members on the status of the 2008 ozone NAAQS redesignation request and maintenance plan. He also presented a draft timeline for the plan and informed members regarding the progress made towards developing emission inventories and the plan document to date. He also presented preliminary emission inventories for point, area, MAR, and nonroad model sources. Sunil said that an emissions inventory sub-committee call will be held soon to discuss the selection of surrogates for projecting emission inventories to the future years. Ram pointed to low VOC emission for area sources for Maryland. Brian said he would get back to the group after talking to the emission inventory staff. Doris requested Sunil for the draft plan document. Sunil said he would send it soon.

**3. Multi-Sector Greenhouse Gas Work-Group Recommendations**

Steve briefed members on the MSWG recommendations adopted by the COG Board of Directors. Cecily enquired about the next step. Steve said these are the recommendations that need to be looked at for working on them going forward. Jim Ponticello enquired about the

progress made on the initiative for reducing carbon intensity of different fuels. Steve said that our focus currently should be on not allowing EPA to go back on the fuel carbon intensity initiative.

#### **4. Final MPO & Performance Based Planning and Programming Rules**

Jane Posey and Lyn Erikson discussed the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) rule. The goal of the MPO rule is to better align the planning regulations with statutory provisions concerning the establishment of metropolitan planning area (MPA) boundaries and the designation of MPOs. To achieve this purpose, the rulemaking incorporates the 23 U.S.C. 134 requirements that the boundaries of MPAs at a minimum include an urbanized area in its entirety and include the contiguous area expected to become urbanized within a 20-year forecast period for the metropolitan transportation plan. The rule includes new coordination and decision making requirements for MPOs that share an MPA, to better ensure that transportation investments reflect the needs and priorities of an entire region. Lyn said that an exception could be granted to the MPO coordination rule if states could determine that the size and complexity of the MPA merits multiple MPOs. Ram asked about the process for seeking exception. Lyn talked about the basis for that exception. These are:  
Compliance is not feasible due to the extraordinary size of the MPA,  
The large number of MPOs or State/local jurisdictions required to participate,  
Clean Air planning requirements, or  
Adverse results of the regional planning process  
Ram said the large MPA concept seems similar to the large nonattainment area concept.

Jane discussed the Performance Based Planning and Programming (PBPP) Rule. The PBPP requirements were developed under the federal surface transportation act Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) and continued in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). States, MPOs, and providers of public transportation must link investment priorities to the achievement of performance targets in:  
Highway Safety, Highway Assets: Pavement and Bridge Condition, System Performance (National Highway System, Freight, CMAQ), Transit Safety, and Transit Assets.  
The System Performance rule requires all state DOTs and MPOs with national highways to set targets for greenhouse gas emissions and report the progress on the percent change in the tailpipe CO2 emissions. This rule also requires setting targets and reporting for total emissions reductions for each applicable criteria pollutant and precursor for all projects funded by the CMAQ program in areas designated as nonattainment or maintenance for ozone, carbon monoxide, or fine particles. The effective dates for the final MPO rule were extended by sixty days (now March 21, 2017).

#### **5. Local Government Initiatives**

Jen Desimone provided an update on the MWAQC Chair's priorities for the upcoming year. The Chair would like MWAQC to focus on ways to continue to improve the region's air and highlight opportunities for local governments. MWAQC meetings will focus on local government programs where they could share their experience regarding the implementation of various air quality improvement measures. The March MWAQC meeting will focus on transportation measures including electric vehicle infrastructure, green fleets initiatives, Fleets for the Future program, and the diesel idle reduction campaign. Cecily asked how we could increase the participation from local governments. Jen said since MWAQC is mainly involved in the SIPs, the idea of this new initiative is to focus on what locals can do to improve air quality. Steve said the chair is looking to motivate the local governments to do more to improve the air quality.

The Chair also mentioned that he is interested in setting a goal to reduce pollution beyond current standard. The goal could be lowering ozone levels to 65 ppb, no code orange and red days, etc. Doris said the health based studies do not support the 65 ppb NAAQS. VDEQ does not have the technical expertise to support the above mentioned new air quality targets. She also mentioned that with the relatively low levels of emissions reductions from the local government initiatives coupled with bad meteorology can make it difficult to achieve the above targets. Instead, Doris suggested a potential goal of the number of localities that implement control measures. Colleen Turner had the same concerns about the 65 ppb NAAQS as Doris. Ram suggested looking at other targets such as, expediting the ozone attainment date. Brian suggested taking up the discussion on this issue in the March MWAQC meeting. He said since this (65 ppb) is only an aspirational target, we do not need any epidemiology study. Steve summarized the ideas received on the call for air quality targets namely, number of new air quality improvement programs in place and the expedited attainment date.

## **6. State & Local Updates**

Brian informed the group that the Maryland Governor accepted the recommendation to keep the 2015 ozone NAAQS nonattainment area boundary same as the 2008 ozone NAAQS. Doris said a notice was issued for the Loudoun county power plant. DOEE did not have any updates.

## **7. Adjourn**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.