



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC)

May 22, 2019
12 P.M. – 2 P.M.

Walter E. Shieber Board Room

Chairman: David F. Snyder, City of Falls Church

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

MWAQC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES (*VIA PHONE)

Michelle Davis-Younger, City of Manassas*

Erik Gutshall, Arlington County

Peter Kovar, City of Takoma Park

Kevin Levenchenko, Montgomery County*

Sara Love, Maryland House of Delegates

Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt

Del Pepper, City of Alexandria

Kathy Smith, Fairfax County*

Dave Snyder, Falls Church

Linda Smyth, Fairfax County*

Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church (Chair)

Deni Taveras, Prince George's County*

Dolly Turner, representing Brandon Todd (Vice Chair), Council of the District of Columbia

Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County

Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*

Cecily Beall, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment

Paolo Belita, Prince William County*

Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment*

Patty Bubar, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection*

Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment*

Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation

Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation*

Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation

Ram Tangirala, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment*

Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC Chair*

Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation*

OTHERS (*VIA PHONE)

Sam Gaber, Fairfax County

Mike Lake, Fairfax County Department of Transportation

COG STAFF

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

Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Programs
Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs
Paul Desjardin, Director, COG Community Planning and Services
Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs
Erin Morrow, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Jane Posey, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Kanti Srikanth, Director, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Dusan Vuksan, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Steve Walz, Director, COG Environmental Programs

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

Dave Snyder, MWAQC Chair

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 12:10pm. There were no public comments. Attendees introduced themselves. The February meeting summary was approved as written.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

MWAQC's Technical Advisory Committee advises and assists MWAQC in planning for and maintaining the region's air quality. TAC members, consisting of state environmental and transportation agencies and local representatives and stakeholders, conducts technical work related to regional air quality plans and discusses the region's response to air quality challenges and opportunities.

Brian Hug, TAC Chair

- At its February meeting, TAC members discussed the air quality forecast protocol for the coming ozone season.
- TAC discussed issues related to the development of the base year emissions inventory to meet the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), including EPA's feedback to questions submitted in March. The base year will likely be 2017.
- TAC finalized the comment letter to EPA involving the revisions to the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard (MATS) rule. The proposed rule contains a revised cost-benefit calculation method that does not account for particulate matter co-benefits. MWAQC's executive committee reviewed and approved the letter and it was submitted to EPA.
- TAC discussed the FY 2020 MWAQC Work Program and Budget.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

COG's Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee membership is comprised of environmentally engaged individuals who live or work in the region. ACPAC advises MWAQC on air quality issues and COG's Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee on climate and energy issues.

Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC Chair

- The Climate & Energy Leadership Awards is accepting applications from government, educational institutions, and NGOs that are engaging diverse stakeholders as they develop and implement innovative energy and environmental projects through June 28. Please apply and nominate organizations or agencies that are doing good work in this arena.
- This year, ACPAC is interested in supporting COG's work to increase electric vehicle adoption, setting a strong 2030 greenhouse gas emissions goal, and promoting equity considerations in policy development and implementation. ACPAC is interested in working on projects to support air quality and clean energy as part of its service to the MWAQC and CEEPC if the committee has any requests.

C. Clean Air Partners (CAP) <http://www.cleanairpartners.net/>

Clean Air Partners is a public-private partnership educating the greater metropolitan Baltimore-Washington region about the health risks of poor air quality.

Jennifer Desimone, COG staff and Clean Air Partners Managing Director

- Clean Air Partners launched a summer campaign with a highly visible press conference and awards recognition event at The Wharf in DC on May 22. The event featured high-level speakers, including Brandon Todd and Dave Snyder, and recognized student winners from the annual poster contest and science fair project contest.

- Poster contest winners included:

Category One: Grades 4-6

1st Place: Valeria Castro Dugarte, Montgomery County

2nd Place: Arena Del Rio Montgomery County

3rd Place: Risha Manthini, Montgomery County

Category Two: Grades 7-8

1st Place: Ava Lee, Montgomery County

2nd Place: Natalie Kim, Baltimore County

3rd Place: Robin Brino, Baltimore County

- Educators will be conducting air quality activities at summer camps.
- The Media Campaign will include paid radio advertising, in-kind advertising with transit agencies, and social media, following industry best practices.
- CAP will hold the 5th Breathe Easy concert promotion: residents may submit their action to improve the air for a chance to win a pair of concert tickets. This year's performer is Jennifer Lopez.
- The summer outreach campaign will include street teams that will be deployed to engage with the public at targeted events on simple actions people can take to improve air quality. Please share your local public events and festivals with Jen Desimone to coordinate on air quality messaging and outreach. Clean Air Partners has a digital toolkit that members can share.

Chair Snyder asked how the region's air quality successes and challenges could be more effectively shared, including with the COG Board, to vaunt the benefits of all of the measures to improve the air and discuss how the region could work towards eliminating code orange days.

D. Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

The Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee is the COG Board's principal policy adviser on climate change, energy, green building, alternate fuels, solid waste and recycling, and other environmental issues as the board may assign. CEEPC is responsible for managing implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

Membership includes representatives from COG jurisdictions, states, federal and regional agencies, and private, academic, and non-profit sectors.

Steve Walz, Director, COG Department of Environmental Programs

- The Tree Canopy Subcommittee will hold a meeting on June 14. The group was newly re-formed under CEEPC to address tree canopy management challenges.
- COG partnered with the Greater Washington Clean Cities Coalition and District of Columbia Department of Transportation to hold the DC Circulator Bus and Charging Facility Tour and workshop on March 26th. Participants experienced the bus and facilities first-hand and learned best practices.
- WMATA is planning to launch an electric bus pilot program.

3. LOCAL AND STATE UPDATES

There were no local member updates.

A. Virginia (Tom Ballou)

- Virginia completed a Reasonable Available Control Technology major source review and has issued three new permits on facilities (Covanta and Possum Point) that will produce

significant NOx emissions reductions – on the order of 1,000 tons. The changes will be installed over the next two years.

- Regarding the VW Settlement funds – Virginia held the first groundbreaking of a DC Fast Charger in Vienna. Virginia is preparing to issue grant awards for several electric bus transit programs and is developing an electric school bus replacement program.
- The Air Pollution Control Board approved the new Carbon Rule, which will be published soon.

B. District of Columbia (Cecily Beall)

- The District of Columbia (DC) issued a request for applications for a contractor to examine the feasibility of repowering the remaining Amtrak diesel switcher locomotives at Union Station.
- DC ran a pilot program, based on a similar program in New York City, that enables citizens to assist with idling violations enforcement by submitting pictures to staff. Participants sign an affidavit to validate the submission.

C. Maryland (Brian Hug)

- Maryland released its annual [Clean Air Progress Report](#) which highlights successes and trends.
- Maryland held stakeholder meetings on proposed rules to limit methane and plans to hold additional stakeholder meetings this summer on proposed HFC regulations.
- The [Idle-Free Maryland](#) program website was updated with new toolkit materials.

4. FY 2020 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

Jennifer Desimone, COG Air Program Chief

The FY 2020 Work Program and Budget was developed based on Strategic Assessment feedback, although overall funding has remained the same. The budget funds the following core work areas:

1. Emissions Inventory Development
2. Regional Control Measures
3. Transportation Conformity/Mobile Emissions Analysis
4. Public Participation
5. MWAQC Support
6. Program Management

Some specific elements include continuing follow-up on the What We Can Do report recommendations and updating the report, assisting with and reviewing transportation conformity analysis, supporting the emissions inventory, and supporting ACPAC and TAC. This year more funding will be allocated towards the emissions inventory development and regional control measures balanced by lower funding levels for project management and public participation. Staff plan to use new tools to foster public outreach with MWAQC leadership. The full Work Program and Budget is posted among the meeting materials.

Discussion revolved around the region's air quality successes and challenges. Although ozone is the only remaining criteria pollutant standard that has not been achieved, there are signs that progress on reducing ozone is leveling off. Also, it is possible that EPA will tighten the standard in future years. The Turn Your Engine Off and other anti-idling campaigns are examples of the continued work needed to address vehicle emissions that have direct impacts on public health.

5. TURN YOUR ENGINE OFF CAMPAIGN

Kenna Williams Swift, Sherry Matthews

The Turn Your Engine Off campaign engaged truck and motorcoach drivers to raise awareness of idle reduction benefits and encourage compliance with idling laws. Outreach teams shared information cards on local idling rules and the environmental impact. While sharing outreach materials, COG and

contractor Sherry Matthews conducted a driver survey at locations throughout the metropolitan Washington region. Drivers were given a \$5 gift card for completing the survey. A total of 233 drivers responded to the survey. The survey found that two-thirds of companies have an existing engine idling policy, but only 18% of companies offer incentives to encourage drivers to follow the policy and 33% offer consequences for not following the policy. Committee members may contact Ms. Swift for outreach toolkit materials for their jurisdiction.

Members discussed school bus idling as another concern to protect children's exposure to diesel exhaust. Takoma park identified an issue with long term idling at a utility construction project. Barriers to reducing idling include education and enforcement. It was recognized that the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia have different rules which could be causing confusion. The Ozone Transport Commission inventories idling policies and develops model regulations that the region could examine. Other approaches include installing auto shutoff functions and facilitating interconnection of delivery vehicles to a store's electric power source during delivery.

6. MWAQC STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT NEXT STEPS

Jen Desimone, COG Air Program Chief

Several recommendations from the MWAQC Strategic Assessment conducted in fall, 2018, are already being implemented, but some questions remain on the broader role of MWAQC and its core functions over the long term. A work session will be held July 25, 10am-2pm, to form a strategic vision to accomplish MWAQC's mission of improving air quality in the region. There will be read-ahead materials shared.

Chair Snyder added that he is interested in exploring the relationship between the Transportation Planning Board and MWAQC, and how federal actions may affect the region's ability to achieve air quality standards. The Strategic Session will allow members to share and discuss additional ideas about MWAQC's future work.

Staff shared the new Air Quality Progress Dashboard which is available here:

<https://www.mwcog.org/environment/data-and-tools/air-quality-progress-dashboard/>

6. ADJOURN

Meeting Documents:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2019/5/22/metropolitan-washington-air-quality-committee/>