

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)

PHONE CONFERENCE SUMMARY: DECEMBER 14, 2016

MWAQC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE (on phone):

Tom Ballou, VA Department of Environmental Quality
Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Robert Day, College Park
Stan Edwards, Montgomery County
Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Brienne Nadeau, Washington DC (Chair)
Del Pepper, City of Alexandria
Hans Riemer, Montgomery County (Vice Chair)
Linda Smyth, Fairfax County
Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church
Ram Tangirala, District of Columbia
Glenna Tinney, ACPAC Chair
Brandon Todd, District of Columbia

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of Energy and the Environment
James Davenport, Prince Williams County
Jim Ponticello, VDOT

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Programs
Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs
Lyn Erickson, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs
Jane Posey, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Kanti Srikanth, 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 Nadeau opened the meeting at 9:06am. The meeting summary from the September 2016 MWAQC meeting was accepted with no changes.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (*Sunil Kumar, COG Staff*)

MWAQC-TAC held a call on December 13 and discussed the Volkswagen Emissions Mitigation Trust Fund. The Fund was established as part of the court settlement to mitigate excess NOx emissions from VW vehicles. The states are nominating trustees for their part of the fund. Potential projects include electric vehicle infrastructure and educational materials. TAC also heard a presentation on the Constrained Long Range Plan Performance Analysis, and an update on the Clean Products Market Study.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) (*Glenna Tinney, Chair*)

ACPAC heard presentations on two energy financing mechanisms: Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loans and green bonds – World Bank Green Bonds and DC Water’s Green Bond. ACPAC also heard a presentation on EPA’s renewable energy on brownfields program. The committee’s Environmental Justice Toolkit is still undergoing revisions.

C. Clean Air Partners (CAP) (*Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs*)

Clean Air Partners completed its 6th annual slogan contest for grades 4 through 8. Two hundred entries were received across the Washington and Baltimore metropolitan regions. Winners will be announced this week. For fall and winter, CAP focuses on home heating, wood burning, and green holidays guidance, using tools and visuals developed last year. See <http://www.cleanairpartners.net/> to download and share materials. Next year is CAP’s 20th anniversary. The website will be redesigned this year. The annual awards event will be in May.

3. TPB CONSTRAINED LONG RANGE PLAN PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS (*Lyn Erickson, TPB Plan Development and Coordination Program Director*)

The Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP) and Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) were approved in November, after receiving comments from the Transportation Planning Board. The next step is to assess the performance of the plans, comparing characteristics of the region’s transportation system now and as projected in 2040. The region expects to add 1.2 million in population and 940,000 jobs over the period. Part of the analysis consists of examining the CLRP’s alignment with TPB’s Regional Transportation Priorities Plan. The CLRP contains a commitment to maintenance and operations and state of good repair for transit and roads. The regional plans add over 76 miles of high capacity transit, and contain congestion relieving measures such as adding 1,000 additional lane miles which include more than 200 toll lane miles.

The analysis shows that 15 new Activity Centers will be connected to high-capacity transit and growth in other modes will outpace single driver trip growth. However, due to growth, congested lane miles will increase from 10% to 15%. The number of jobs within a 45-minute auto commute is expected to decrease by 1% while the number of jobs within a 45-minute transit commute is expected to increase by 31%. Commuters in the eastern portions of the region can be expected to see their auto commute time increase. The opposite is true for the western portions of the region. Overall, more jobs will be accessible by transit. Emissions of all criteria pollutants and carbon dioxide are expected to drop steadily between now and 2040.

4. REGULATORY UPDATES

Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs

A. Cross State Air Pollution Rule

In September, EPA issued an update to the Cross State Air Pollution Rule. The rule addresses transport of air pollution across state lines. EPA estimates that the rule will help reduce ozone season NOx emissions by 20%. For every dollar invested, the rule will result in \$13 dollars' worth of health benefits. The rule applies to 22 states including Virginia and Maryland. States may see benefits in 2017 that help in meeting the 2008 ozone standard. The rule allocates emissions budgets for the 22 states. The states must use EPA's flexible emissions trading program to meet the budgets. The program does not require specific controls to be installed, just that the budget is met within the guidelines.

B. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Medium and Heavy Duty Vehicles (Phase 2)

EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a final rule on greenhouse gas and fuel efficiency standards for medium and heavy duty vehicles. Known as 'Phase 2', the rule will become effective on December 22, 2016, and will reduce oil consumption for combination tractors, trailers pulled by tractors, heavy vans, and vocational vehicles such as buses trucks, and mixers. The rule is designed to be flexible and achievable, allowing banking and trading to meet standards. Combination tractors comprise 60% of the medium and heavy duty vehicles the rule applies to; EPA estimates that combo tractor greenhouse gases will be reduced by 25%.

Mr. Walz added that the region will see some benefits from the rule in the emissions inventory for heavy and medium vehicles.

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (*Brianne Nadeau, MWAQC Chair*)

Chair Nadeau presented the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee:

- Chair – Hans Reimer
- Vice Chair (DC) – Brandon Todd
- Vice Chair (MD) – Robert Day
- Vice Chair (VA) – Del Pepper

The slate of officers was approved unanimously.

6. STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS (*Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy and the Environment; Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*)

- DC: No update
- MD: No update
- VA: No update

7. ADJOURNMENT

- Chair Nadeau requested that staff share information on the potential impact of the new administration on air quality and environmental protections.
- Chair Nadeau concluded the meeting at 10am.

The next MWAQC meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2017.