



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 14, 2018
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC MEMBERS (*VIA PHONE)

Tony Giancola*
Andrew Kambour
Jacqueline Norris
Robin Lewis
Natalie Pien
Rodney Sobin*
Maggie Shober
Tamara Toles O'Laughlin
Sarah Mazur*
Glenna Tinney
Hyon Rah*

STAFF

Amanda Campbell
Stephen Walz

GUESTS

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County
Corey Miles, NVRC*

1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC Vice Chair

2. REPORT-OUT FROM RESILIENCE AND EQUITY TRAINING

Corey Miles, Senior Environmental Planner, Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Representatives from Arlington County (Rich Dooley), Prince George's County (Erica Bannerman), the District of Columbia (Evelyn Kasongo), Resilient Virginia (Annette Osso), and Northern Virginia Regional Commission (Corey Miles) attended an equity-themed Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy in Pittsburgh, PA, on April 16-18. The training was hosted by the Institute for Sustainable Communities. Participants learned about tools, techniques, and new technologies for engaging local communities on resilience. Workshop presentations and resources are [posted here](#). The [National Equity Atlas](#) contains mapped information on vulnerable populations, poverty, race, air quality, and more. One case study shared was the Chicago Heat Wave of 1995 in which hundreds of people died. Many of the casualties were poor, elderly, and socially isolated, and living in conditions in which they experienced blackouts, could not afford air conditioning, did not have operable windows, or did not feel safe opening windows due to crime in the area. Among the solutions to mitigating urban heat waves are for local governments to adopt green streets policies, locate public housing near bus

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stops and cooling centers, have operable windows and fans, expand tree cover, and improve building energy efficiency.

NVRC plans to characterize infrastructure risks from climate change by stressor, likelihood of occurring, and consequences, and is looking to broaden their work to consider impacts to underserved populations. NVRC is identifying resilience indicators and exploring performance monitoring programs for green infrastructure through a pilot project. There are also plans in motion to investigate impacts from extreme precipitation events through a joint project with George Mason University and the Thriving Earth Exchange volunteer scientist program.

The ISC team discussed ways to approach resilience at the regional level. One other issue the team discussed was how to avoid 'environmental gentrification' and the need for public education and outreach around environmental best management practices.

3. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Associate Director, Sustainability Initiatives, Prince George's County Department of the Environment

Prince George's County's *Greening our Urban Communities* program is about preserving and expanding tree canopy to increase wildlife habitat, improve air quality, and reduce stormwater pollution with an emphasis on underserved communities. Mitigating the losses from development continues to be a priority. Tree planting priority areas overlap with the county's Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative. Efforts aim to boost property values and environmental health as one strategy to lift up communities. The Stormwater Stewardship program offers grants to property owners, such as schools, to plant trees or green infrastructure. So far this year, 300 trees have been planted and another 100 will be planted later this year. The county also provides funds for Arbor Day schools events, has a rebate for homeowners who install green stormwater management projects, and offers other technical assistance for tree maintenance. Planted trees are tracked to help monitor them and ensure they are being maintained.

The county is partnering with the University of Maryland to analyze spatial (mapped) data to measure environmental health indicators. The Maryland EJ Screen Tool is the starting point; the initiative aims to improve the tool using local datasets to understand the cumulative impact of multiple stressors on already vulnerable populations. The tool will include data layers for the natural environment, built environment, and social environment. The resulting public health data will help the county identify which communities bear undue burdens to their health so that resources can be strategically directed to mitigate those burdens. Stakeholder meetings have been held to solicit input from communities in the county.

Members discussed how the environmental data communities could use the findings to communicate needs to policymakers. The issues of cement plant emissions and dust in areas near Bladensburg and the Port Towns was raised.

4. AIR QUALITY WHAT WE CAN DO PROJECT

Amanda Campbell, COG Staff

ACPAC helped initiate a project with the chair of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee to analyze measures that could be implemented or expanded in the region to improve air quality, especially local actions. Many of the actions identified, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electric vehicle adoption also reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The list of measures - referred to as the 'What We Can Do' project - will be presented at the MWAQC meeting on May 23 and are

summarized in a draft report.

ACPAC members provided feedback on the report and priority measures identified in the summary table. Overall, ACPAC said it was an impressive report. Several members suggested ways to make the information clear and accessible, such as using color, using different types of symbols, and pulling out pertinent information in an infographic or fact sheet. The idea is to have the bottom line up front, making it easier to communicate the salient findings to busy policymakers/professionals that are unfamiliar with air quality nuances. One member suggested that we rephrase the description that some utility costs for renewable energy projects 'may' be passed along to consumers to 'will', and that the report indicate that 'decommissioning' costs should be considered in planning renewable energy projects.

5. MEMBER TIME – postponed until June meeting due to time constraints.

6. UPDATES

- Climate & Energy Leadership Awards – Please promote the awards!
- Comment Letter on EPA Proposal to 'Strengthen Transparency in Regulatory Science.' The states are working on a joint letter to request that the comment period for this proposal be extended.

ADJOURN.