



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 15, 2021
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC ATTENDEES: Tara Failey, Hilary Lewis, Guillermo Ortiz, Natalie Pien, Neil Boyer, Kasparas Spokas, Clair August, Tatiana Eaves, Julie Kimmel, Herb Simmens

COG STAFF: Leah Boggs, Tim Masters

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS *Guillermo Ortiz, Chair*

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made by members and COG staff. The January 25, 2021 ACPAC meeting summary was approved with no amendments.

Leah Boggs announced that ACPAC's second round of new member recruitment process ends on March 19. On February 10th the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) Executive Committee approved a membership of 12 members consisting of 6 reappointments and 6 new appointees. MWAQC Executive Committee advised COG staff to conduct a second recruitment round to get more applicants with air quality expertise. The final 6 members will be appointed at the April 14 MWAQC Executive Committee meeting.

2. MEMBER (RE-) ORIENTATION *Leah Boggs, COG Staff*

Leah Boggs provided an overview of ACPAC's role, the policy boards the committee advises, and pressing climate and air quality issues that ACPAC will address in 2021.

ACPAC advises the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and air quality, climate, and energy issues. MWAQC helps guide and approve state implementation plans (SIP) for air quality standards. The MWAQC Executive Committee appoints individuals to represent elements of the community, seeking a balance among them and a geographic balance. There are 18 members, 6 members per state – MD, DC, and VA – from local governments within the COG region.

MWAQC's role is to meet Clean Air Act requirements, which include reductions in criteria air pollutants (Ozone, Fine Particles, Carbon Monoxide, Sulfur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Lead). CEEPC's role is to provide leadership on climate change, energy, green building, alternative fuels, solid waste and recycling issues. The Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC) is a technical committee to CEEPC, comprised of the energy managers, sustainability and green buildings staff of COG's 24 member governments. BEEAC meets bimonthly to aid in implementing energy and high-performance building goals members by providing a space for deep, technical discussion.

Clean Air Partners is a public-private partnership formed in 1995 and comprised of 30 organizations from including local governments, state transportation and environmental agencies, businesses and advocacy groups. The program was founded by COG and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) to improve the Baltimore-Washington region's air quality and reduce GHG emissions through voluntary actions and to increase public awareness about the health effects of air quality.

ACPAC 2021 priorities include working to meet the 2015 ozone standard, issuing the Climate & Energy Leadership Awards, and environmental justice interface of the implementation of the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan.

3. METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE AND AIR QUALITY 101

Sunil Kumar, COG Staff

Sunil Kumar provided an overview of MWAQC and reviewed the fundamentals of air quality issues in the region.

Sunil Kumar described the genesis of MWAQC and the committee's role in developing the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the MD, VA, DC region. In order to help orient ACPAC members, Mr. Kumar reviewed how ozone is formed, ozone concentrations in the region, the region's ozone plan, ozone data and standards. He also discussed similar information for PM2.5, introduced transportation conformity and what's coming up for regional air quality planning in 2021.

All committee members were sent a dropbox link before the meeting that included orientation materials for ACPAC members, including the bylaws, committee administrative documents, background reading on air quality, transportation conformity and other COG documents, including CEEPC's Action Plan and Resource Guide for reference.

4. CLIMATE & ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS DISCUSSION

Guillermo Ortiz, Chair, Leah Boggs, COG Staff and Members

COG leadership, in agreement with the Committee, postponed the 2020 program due to COVID-19.

Members discussed this years' Climate Leadership Awards program and agreed to offer two categories, government and non-governmental organizations, instead of the three categories.

Discussion

- There was agreement that the awards program should be held this year and if there is one award it should be NGOs because of the difficult to get recognition for their work.
- Chair Ortiz recommended moving forward, the awards program should be inclusive given the protest and racial justice unrest in response to George Floyd's death. More focus should be given to the engagement judging category to better reflect a more structured approach to equity rather than the existing unstructured approach on equity and engagement.
- There was a suggestion to find a way to highlight unawarded projects on the COG website.

5. MEMBER TIME

Neil Boyer, ACPAC Member

Neil Boyer discussed using urban orchards as a mechanism to combat heat islands and improve nutrition in historically marginalized communities. The presentation looked at the intersection of health, air quality and equity as an opportunity to address challenges in DC.

6. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN

The next ACPAC is May 17, 2021. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.