

Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

Meeting Conference Call Summary: April 20, 2017

BEEAC MEMBERS:

- Gina Mathias, Takoma Park (*Chair*) (*)
- Jeffrey Bond, Prince George's County
- Rich Dooley, (*)
- Noel Kaplan, Fairfax County (*)
- Gina Mathias, Takoma Park (*)
- Kevin Milsted, Prince William County (*)
- Mary Olean, Fairfax County (*)
- Lisa Orr, Frederick County (*)
- Najib Salehi, Loudoun County (*)
- Tim Stevens, Sierra Club (*)
- Cory Weise, Falls Church (*)
- Jay Wilson, District of Columbia

COG STAFF:

- Leah Boggs, COG DEP
- Michael Truax, COG DEP
- Amanda Campbell, COG DEP

(*) Indicates participation by phone

1. Call to Order and Introductions, Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park, BEEAC Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves in person and by phone.

2. BEEAC Committee Business, BEEAC Chair & Committee Members

- *New Committee Leadership*

Leah Boggs began the call by welcoming Gina Mathias as the new BEEAC Chair. Leah explained the process COG staff and BEEAC leadership took to choose the successor to former chair, Michelle Vigen, and allowed Gina to provide an opening message to BEEAC members.

- *Committee Meeting Schedule*

Expressing her gratitude for being chosen as chair, the Chair began by presenting BEEAC's attendance over the previous year, with an average of 15 in-person attendees and 10 phone attendees per meeting, and suggested that BEEAC move from a monthly meeting to an every

other month meeting schedule, alternating with CEEPC, to improve participation amongst members. The proposal was opened BEEAC members for input and suggestions. COG staff expressed that this proposal has been suggested previously, and has recently been revisited. Staff explained that the workload to organize monthly meetings was preventing more thorough and meaningful discussions and meeting agendas. An every other month schedule will allow staff to have more time to consider meeting topics, which can coincide with CEEPC agenda. Staff also stated that former chair, Michelle Vigen, also supported the move to alternating monthly schedule, which will allow for meetings to focus on the work that jurisdictions are performing and how other jurisdictions can build off the work. Members from Loudoun County echoed the Chair's statements and supported proposed new meeting schedule. Fairfax County members also agreed that the move to meeting every other month would be beneficial to attendance and meeting discussions. Fairfax County members also suggested that BEEAC on the off months, if necessary, to address important discussion topics.

COG staff explained that a transition to an alternating monthly schedule will need to be taken in an official manner, through a jurisdictional voting process.

- *BEEAC Meeting Topics and Content & Coordination with CEEPC*

COG staff reminded BEEAC members that the BEEAC planning call occurs two weeks before the meeting date. The purpose of the call is to help BEEAC leadership and staff develop the meeting topic and align speakers. Staff will like to work closer with BEEAC leadership and members to coordinate the meeting topics with that of CEEPC to emphasis the intention of BEEAC of being the technical group to CEEPC.

3. Regional Resilience Planning Discussion, Steve Adams, Institute for Sustainable Communities

Leah Boggs introduced Steve Adams to help BEEAC begin its discussion on resiliency planning and how to think about what resiliency is. Steve began the discussion by requesting participants to imagine a three-tiered circle, representing the partnership between planners, cities and city departments, and communities. Each tier represents the levels needed to bridge communication to address climate change impacts. Each level has its own idea of what resiliency is, and their own method of addressing impacts of a changing climate. This method creates a mismatch of actions by each partner, since they all have different ideas that are not coordinated with anyone else. Municipalities are better served if their organizations came together to determine a single definition and course of action to address resiliency. This will help determine what organization or partner is responsible for when the roles for addressing the adaptation issues arise. The ultimate goal is to form a collaboration to create a single understanding of the issues across a wide variety of planning and implementation organizations to make the most efficient use of resources to address the problem.

4. Upcoming Meetings and BEEAC Adjournment, Gina Mathias, BEEAC Chair

- BEEAC Planning Call – May 4, 2017
- BEEAC Meeting – May 18, 2017
- CEEPC Meeting – May 24, 2017