



---

## **METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC)**

February 26, 2020  
12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.  
Board Room

Chairman: Brandon Todd, District of Columbia

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

#### **MWAQC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES**

Brandon Todd, District of Columbia (Chair)  
Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church  
Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt  
Michelle Davis-Younger, City of Manassas  
Del Pepper, City of Alexandria  
Peter Kovar, City of Takoma Park  
Michael DeMarco, City of Fairfax  
Jason Groth, Charles County  
Penny Gross, Fairfax County  
James Walkinshaw, Fairfax County  
Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County  
Tom Dernoga, Prince George's County  
Collin Burrell, District Department of Energy and Environment  
Kelly Crawford, District Department of Energy and Environment  
Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy and Environment  
Tina Casey, District Department of Transportation  
Alex Brum, Maryland Department of Environment  
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation

#### **OTHERS**

Sam Stephenson, District of Columbia  
Dorri O'Brien, Loudoun County  
Megan Landis, Prince William County  
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy and Environment  
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation

#### **COG STAFF**

Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs  
Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs  
Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs

Mark Moran, COG Department of Transportation Planning  
Jane Posey, COG Department of Transportation Planning  
Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs

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

*Brandon Todd, MWAQC Chair*

Chair Todd called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm. There were no public comments. The December meeting summary was approved without any changes.

## **2. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Tom Ballou

The TAC held a call in February to discuss the 2015 ozone standard base year inventory, joint MWAQC/TPB comment letter on EPA's proposed Clean Truck Initiative, and Visualize 2045 transportation conformity analysis and comment letter.

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) – Leah Boggs

ACPAC met in February to outline priorities for the upcoming year. Priority areas include CEEPC climate and energy awards, CEEPC action plan, 2015 ozone standard, update to the environmental justice initiative and report, tree canopy, and transportation's impact on air quality.

Clean Air Partners – Jen Desimone

Poster Contest – The Clean Air Partners annual Poster Contest is open for submissions. The contest is open to local students in grades 4-8. Posters should have a theme of air or climate. The deadline is March 20.

Science Fairs – This year, Clean Air Partners will again be involved in ten local science fairs throughout the region. Projects relating to air quality and climate will be evaluated to win a Clean Air Partners sponsored community award. Fairs include Baltimore, Fairfax, Alexandria, Falls Church and Arlington, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, Prince Williams County and Washington D.C.

Summer Campaign - Clean Air Partners is in the process of planning this year's summer campaign. The campaign will feature various initiatives including:

- Media Campaign will include paid radio advertising, in-kind advertising with transit agencies, and enhanced social media.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Breathe Easy concert promotion where residents are asked to take action to improve the air. They submit their actions for a chance to win a pair of concert tickets.
- Dedicated meteorologist outreach on social media and specific call-to-action messages for higher alert days.
- Breathe Easy Emissions Challenge - a unique, hands-on educational display that will be featured at events in the Baltimore-Washington region. The challenge is composed of a quiz with questions on driving behaviors and their impact on emissions and air quality. Alongside the interactive quiz is a branded campaign vehicle encased in a clear plastic bubble. When a player chooses an incorrect answer, a puff of "smoke"—representing vehicle emissions—shoots from the tailpipe into the bubble, and the game provides the player with information about air pollution linked to their answer delivered in a fun, compelling, and memorable way.
- Updated Messaging - Clean Air Partners' current messaging reflects the positive trends around the progress made to improve the region's air quality, but emphasizes that there is more to do. In reality, the region is not meeting federal standards, and that shift could be reflected in messaging to create more urgency around taking action.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – Steve Walz

CEEPC is in the process of updating the climate and energy action plan. The Global Covent of Mayors

will be used as a template for the plan. The plan will include resiliency and mitigation goals and short, intermediate, and long-term actions.

The COG Board approved a resolution in support of continuing the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) development process. The resolution was sent to the Governors in Maryland and Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia.

### **3. LOCAL AND STATE UPDATES**

#### Local Updates

Takoma Park: Governor Hogan was at an event to celebrate the opening the first electric vehicle gas station. Takoma Park's climate action plan set a target of net 100% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2035.

Alexandria: Alexandria's Environmental Commission established a committee that will meet monthly to track and review their climate action plan.

#### State Updates

Virginia: none

Maryland: None

District of Columbia: Kelly Crawford is DOEE's new air director. EPA approved the District's SIP revision for NOx reasonably available control technology (RACT). Planning is underway for Air Quality Awareness Week. DOEE will be working with EPA's Enterprise for the Environment to pilot a combined emissions form.

### **4. 2015 OZONE STANDARD BASEYEAR INVENTORY**

*Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Engineer*

Sunil Kumar briefed the committee on the baseyear inventory for the 2015 ozone standard. The inventory was developed as a requirement under the Clean Air Act and will be formally submitted to EPA in August. The inventory includes emissions for point, area, nonroad, and on-road sources for nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds (VOC), and carbon monoxide (CO).

The timeline for the inventory submission is:

- MWAQC approves for PH&C process: February 26
- Public comment period: March - May
- MWAQC-TAC approves response to comments: May 12
- MWAQC approves final inventory document for EPA submittal: May 27
- State air agencies submit BY2017 inventory to EPA by August 3

Dave Snyder requested that the committee discuss the region's priority actions to meet the standard at a future meeting.

After discussion, the committee voted and unanimously approved the inventory to be released for the public hearing and comment process.

### **5. TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY ANALYSIS AND COMMENT LETTER**

*Jane Posey, COG Department of Transportation Planning*

*Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director*

Jane Posey briefed members on the conformity analysis for the 2020 amendment to Visualize 2045. The analysis includes mobile emissions for VOCs, NOx. Greenhouse gases are also included but not required to meet conformity. Inputs and tools used in the analysis include round 9.1a cooperative forecasts, regionally significant transportation projects, travel demand model, vehicle registration data, and MOVES2014b mobile emissions model. The findings from the conformity analysis show that VOC and NOx are both within the approved mobile budgets.

Steve Walz presented the transportation conformity comment letter, which will be submitted to TPB.

A motion was made to approve the comment letter and discussion followed. MDOT suggested a minor edit to the third paragraph, third sentence to state the following; "The draft base year 2017 emissions inventory developed *and approved* by MWAQC shows on-road sources constitute 39% of total NOx emissions in the region."

The edit was accepted as a friendly amendment and a second motion was made. The committee voted and unanimously approved the comment letter.

## **6. VOLKSWAGEN SETTLEMENT APPENDIX D INITIATIVES**

*Leah Boggs – COG Environmental Planner*

Ms. Boggs provided an update on the Volkswagen settlement funding, including activities that are taking place in the District, Maryland, and Virginia. The settlement was reached for allegations of cheating emissions.

The District of Columbia received over \$8 million across 4 funding streams including a locomotive switcher engine replacement, Electrification and Low-NOx (DEAL) program, rebates for tailpipe pollution reductions retrofits, and program administration.

Maryland received \$75 million across multiple funding streams including EV charging infrastructure deployment, Maryland Aviation Administration Bus Replacement, transit bus replacement, and school bus replacement,

Virginia received \$93 million across five funding streams including all electric transit buses, statewide public EV charging network by Evgo, electric clean school bus program, administration costs, and other projects to be determined.

## **7. PROGRAM UPDATES**

*Jen Desimone – COG Air Program Chief*

Ms. Desimone provided an update on program activities. This spring, the final round of outreach for the Diesel Idle Reduction Campaign will be completed. Outreach will be conducted with truck and bus drivers across the region – educating them on the DC, MD, and VA idling regulations. Additional funding from DDOT will allow for double the amount of outreach than originally expected.

The federal administration recently proposed their FY2021 budget. Under the proposed budget, EPA's overall budget would be reduced by 27%, including cuts to clean air grants to state and local agencies under section 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act, Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) programs, the transition of funding for the Energy Star program to a manufactures' fee based-approached, and the elimination of a number of climate-related programs. The Chair of the Senate Appropriates Committee has refused hearings on the administration's budget.

## **8. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.