

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239
(202) 962-3358 Fax (202) 962-3203

DRAFT MINUTES OF JULY 25, 2007 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Cecily Beall, District of Columbia Department of Environment
Hon. John Britton, City of Rockville
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Del. Adam Ebbin, Virginia General Assembly
Jill Engel-Cox, JCET/AQPAC
Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County, MWAQC Chair
Maurice Keys, District Department of Transportation
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia
Hon. Redella Pepper, City of Alexandria
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Hon. Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church
JoAnne Sorenson, Virginia Department of Transportation
Hon. Mick Stanton, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
Jim Sydnor, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Hon. Beverly Warfield, Prince George's County
Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple, Virginia
Hon. Patrice Winter, City of Fairfax

Others Present:

Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Charley Baummer, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, AQPAC
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County Department of Health
Jeff Harn, Arlington County
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Pam Parker, Montgomery County Department of the Environment
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria
Harriet West, Clean Air Partners

Staff:

Mike Clifford, COG/DTP
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP

Naomi Friedman, COG Assistant Executive Director
Nabeel Keblawi, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Ron Kirby, COG/DTP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Erin Morrow, CG/DTP
George Nichols, COG/DEP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Dave Robertson, COG Executive Director
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP

1. Call to Order, Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Announcements

Chair Floreen called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. There were no public comments.

Ms. Floreen called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the May 23, 2007 meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Reports

A. Report of the Technical Advisory Committee

Ms. Beall reported on the activities of the TAC. She referred members to the one page summary of relevant policy issues. The main focus of the TAC was to consider issues related to a potential redesignation request for the PM_{2.5} annual standard and to discuss PM precursor significance. States have made significance determinations for each of the PM precursors for both SIP planning and mobile budget purposes. MWAQC will receive a briefing on the proposed determination and will be asked to approve the recommendations. PM SIP Planning Options are on today's agenda under Item #4. The region's monitors are showing attainment the current PM_{2.5} annual standard. However, consensus was not reached on whether to request redesignation and prepare a maintenance plan instead of continuing to prepare an Attainment SIP. MWAQC will hear a summary of the technical and policy issues with the available planning options and will be asked to make a recommendation.

B. Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Ms. Engel-Cox, Chair of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC), reported on recent AQPAC activities. AQPAC has sent a letter to MWAQC regarding the decision on whether to submit an attainment SIP or a redesignation request. The letter urges MWAQC to prepare an attainment SIP because there is a need to do more to protect public health from the risks of exposure to PM. The letter refers to the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee's recommendations that the annual PM standard should be lower. She reported that AQPAC continues to plan for a public meeting in the early Fall, including developing an agenda, an informational brochure, and a meeting announcement flier.

C. Report of the Clean Air Partners

Harriet West, managing Director of Clean Air Partners, reported. Piloting of the air quality curriculum has been completed. COG will be issuing a Request for Qualifications for a part-time education coordinator to expand the dissemination and use of the curriculum by teachers and to conduct outreach presentations as needed in FY 2008. The radio campaign concludes the end of

July. The print ads are under development and will run in August/September. Clean Air Partners is continuing to work with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on the County's auto parts washer rebate program. Tracey Funn, with Washington Gas, will serve as Chair in FY 2008. Ms. Funn has been involved with Clean Air Partners since its inception, more than 10 years ago. The next Board meeting will be held at COG on September 13, 2007.

The 10-Year Anniversary signature event was held on June 5, 2007 at the Belair Mansion in Bowie, Maryland. Speakers included The Honorable Frederick Robinson, Mayor of Bowie; Mr. Terry McCallister, President and Chief Operating Officer of Washington Gas; Mr. Charles Wilson, Director, Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources; The Honorable David Craig, Chair of the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC); The Honorable Penny Gross, Vice Chair of COG; Larry Klimovitz, Executive Director of BMC; and David Robertson, Executive Director of COG.

Clean Air Partners will be working with the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources to help develop and implement Phase I of the County's Air Quality Strategic Outreach Plan. The objective of Phase I is to increase County employee awareness of and participation in air quality improvements. Specific tasks include surveying County employees to assess their basic level of air quality awareness, developing and customizing messages using survey results, and proposing employee participation programs that encourage the adoption of voluntary measures. Clean Air Partners may also be asked to assist with the implementation of some of these voluntary measures, contingent on the availability of funding.

D. Report of the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC)

Mr. Sydnor, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, reported on the IAQC. At its May meeting, the IAQC asked staff to develop information on greenhouse gas emission controls and to prepare a briefing on the PM_{2.5} SIP. The next IAQC meeting has not been scheduled but will likely be held in the Fall.

E. Report of the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC)

Ms. Floreen, Chair of the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC) reported on a recent meeting held on June 27. Members received a briefing on several federal policy issues, including federal energy legislation. A Policy Subcommittee was formed that will consider and recommend potential advocacy positions. The CCSC work program and schedule was adopted. Ron Kirby of COG DTP presented an analysis of CO₂ emissions from automobiles through 2030. Results indicate significant increases in emissions in the absence of programs such as CAFÉ standards or CAL LEVII to reduce emission rates from automobiles. TPB sent a letter to the local Congressional delegation urging action on CAFÉ in the federal energy bill. Ms. Floreen said that this month Montgomery County, Arlington County and Fairfax County signed the Cool Counties agreement to reduce greenhouse gases 80 percent by 2050. The next meeting of the CCSC is scheduled for September 26.

3. PM_{2.5} Significant Precursors (ACTION)

Mr. Kumar, COG DEP, presented a TAC recommendation on the significance of PM_{2.5} precursors for SIP planning purposes. EPA requires that direct PM_{2.5} and the precursors SO₂ and NO_x be controlled in the SIP. The PM implementation rule requires that the states, through interagency

consultation, make an assessment of which precursors are significant for SIP planning purposes and for conformity/mobile budgets. Mr. Kumar referred members to a memorandum containing EPA's recommendations, a summary of the TAC recommendations, and detailed information on the steps and criteria used to determine the significance of PM precursors for both SIP planning purposes as well as for conformity/mobile budgets. The TAC recommendation is to consider direct PM_{2.5} and the precursors SO₂ and NO_x significant for SIP planning purposes, and to require mobile budgets for only direct PM_{2.5} and the precursor NO_x. A mobile budget for SO₂ was not recommended because SO₂ emissions from transportation are a small fraction of the total regional emissions, and SO₂ emissions from motor vehicle fuel are already controlled through federal fuel sulfur requirements. The precursor recommendation is subject to EPA approval through the SIP review process.

Mr. Ebbin asked about the significance of lower SO₂ fuel content on ambient air quality. Mr. Aburn said that SO₂ is a critical pollutant to control to reduce PM_{2.5} concentrations. While the fuel sulfur controls will provide some benefit, the largest source of SO₂ emissions and the greatest potential for air quality improvements will be from electric generating power plants.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the TAC PM_{2.5} precursor significance determination. The motion was approved unanimously. Ms. Rohlf's said that staff will prepare a letter to send to TPB regarding the recommendation on the mobile budgets.

4. PM_{2.5} Planning: SIP or Redesignation Request (ACTION)

Ms. Rohlf's provided background on the planning options available for the PM_{2.5} SIP. Monitoring data indicate that the Design Value for the region is currently below the 1997 PM_{2.5} annual NAAQS. As such, the region can request redesignation to attainment, which would involve preparing a maintenance plan instead of an attainment SIP. EPA's Clean Data Policy could also be invoked, which involves a written request to EPA that suspends SIP requirements until the official redesignation request and maintenance plan are submitted. The region is still on track to submit an Attainment SIP by April 2008. AQPAC sent a letter to MWAQC urging members to support the Attainment SIP option. Ms. Rohlf's discussed two other considerations. First, the region will need to prepare an Attainment SIP for the new lower daily standard, but the SIP is not due until 2013. Second, Maryland and the District have sued EPA arguing that the annual standard should be lower.

A motion was made and seconded to continue to prepare an Attainment SIP for submission to EPA in April 2008. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. EPA's New Proposed Ozone Standard (NAAQS)

Mr. King provided an overview of EPA's proposal to lower the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone. On June 20, 2007, EPA proposed to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone, the primary component of smog. EPA proposes to set the primary (health) standard to a level within the range of 0.070-0.075 ppm (70 - 75 ppb). The Agency also requests comments on alternative levels of the 8-hour primary ozone standard, within a range from 0.060 ppm up to and including retention of the current standard (0.084 ppm). EPA is also proposing two options for the secondary standard. EPA will take public comment for 90 days following publication of the proposal in the Federal Register. EPA will issue final standards by March 12, 2008.

A motion was made and seconded to have staff prepare and circulate to all members a draft comment letter and to authorize the MWAQC Executive Committee to approve the final letter. Members also requested that staff provide additional information on the specific recommendations of the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC).

6. Ozone Season Summary

Ms. Desimone provided a summary of the ozone season to-date. She said there have been 5 code orange days, three in May and two in June. The day with the greatest number of monitors (11) in the orange range and the highest concentrations was June 18. The highest concentration was 100 ppb at the Southern Maryland monitor. The back trajectories for June 18 were from the Ohio River valley.

Ms. Desimone said that the Clean Air Partners website was recently updated. There is a calendar that contains historical data on air quality. Users can also now sign up for automatic forecasts and health alerts. The current air quality page provides information on air quality for the Washington, Baltimore, Western Maryland, and Eastern Shore regions.

Ms. Floreen said that there were no code red days so far this year. She suggested that MWAQC needs to do a better job in communicating this success story. She asked staff to compare this year's air quality data to last year.

7. State Air Agency Reports

Mr. Aburn reported for Maryland. Maryland's Clean Car implementing regulation is in the advisory council process. The current schedule is for the regulation to be published in the Maryland register within the next two weeks with full adoption by November. The goal is to have the regulation adopted by the end of the year so that model year 2011 cars will be covered. He said that Florida recently adopted the CAL LEV II program as well. As more states adopt the program it is possible there will be federal adoption of these standards.

Maryland has also established a Climate Change Commission. There are three workgroups: mitigation, adaptation, and scientific/technical. Recommendations are due to the Governor in November. The full Action Plan is anticipated by April.

Mr. Sydnor reported for Virginia. A petition was filed to reopen for public comment a portion of the Virginia CAIR rule, specifically the no trading provisions. DEQ has started the process of finalizing the OTC VOC regulations. Virginia has joined the Climate Registry.

Mr. Keys reported for the District. He deferred the report until the next meeting.

9. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn

The next meeting will take place on October 24, 2007. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.