

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
October 11, 2022, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Present:

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Alexander Paulos, District Department of Energy & Environment
Amir Shahpar, Virginia Department of Transportation
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Collin Burrell, District Department of Energy & Environment
Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Hannah Ashenafi, District Department of Energy & Environment
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Mathew Gaskin, District Department of Transportation
Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy & Environment
Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation
Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Thatch Gerike, District Department of Energy & Environment
Thomas Foster, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Anna Marshall, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Sheila Salo, Cheverly Green Infrastructure Committee

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP
Mark Moran, COG/DTP
Tim Masters, COGDEP
Wanda Owens, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order, Review of Meeting Summary, and Proposal to Add an Agenda Item

Chair Tad Aburn called the meeting to order at 10 am. The September 13th meeting summary was approved without any changes. Chair Aburn proposed adding to the agenda an item on the Claybrick road project in the district. He talked briefly about the importance of this project in terms of Environmental Justice and its impact on the people in Cheverly in the Prince George's County in Maryland. Dawn said that she was not in favor of adding that item. Colleen said that this is a permitting issue between the District and Maryland. Mayors are discussing this issue and he objects to this item being added to the agenda. Mathew read a

statement from DDOT that said that “the District intends to share the draft scope of work for the Claybrick road project with the Mayors of Cheverly, Seat Pleasant, and Capitol Heights, and members of MDE by October 17th 2022. The project team will then schedule a working session with all parties to review the scope discuss any necessary changes and finalize the document for advertisement. We look forward to a productive and thoughtful partnership with our neighboring local and state entities.” Hannah said that she does not support adding that item and would like to discuss that in a separate meeting. Tad asked Jeff about voting on the proposal. Jeff said that given there was a clear objection to adding that item, there is a need for the support of two-thirds of all members and a second to Tad’s motion to add it. Tad asked if there is a second to the motion. Nobody seconded that. The motion did not pass.

2. Status Update on Ozone Planning

Sunil talked about two documents. The first document was related to a proposal to EPA on the methodology for updating the 2008 ozone NAAQS maintenance plan. The second document was related to a template letter for state air agencies to use for requesting an early publication of Clean Data Determination (CDD) and contingency measures guidance document. Joseph said that he had concerns regarding including the language on contingency measures guidance for maintenance plan and growth factor discussion in the proposal. Doris said that Sunil’s letter was only a template for states to use and states can edit the letter as per their interests. Roger said that we need a guidance for contingency measures for attainment plan not maintenance plan and he also supported deleting the growth factor discussion in the proposal. Tom and Joseph were also in favor of dropping the language related to growth factor discussion. it was decided to include the growth factor discussion if EPA asks for it. it was also decided to send an e-mail to EPA for the proposal instead of a letter.

3. State/Local Updates

Virginia – Tom indicated there were no updates.

Joseph said that he heard from COG that the District got the funding over to the contractor to replace the first of two Amtrak Switcher engines to repower it. There are three left in the yard that are of older tier and are highly polluting. We anticipate that after these are done using Volkswagen funds, we will substantially decrease the impact of those Switcher engines in Ivy city. Also, we are almost complete with the contract that should be signed probably next week with a company to conduct mobile air quality monitoring and for communities including Ivy city and the District. We're particularly interested in seeing what kind of data is available to get the impact of various locomotive engines in the District for the switchers and all of the commuter rail that idle at Ivy city. Once all three engines are replaced, NOx emission will go from 62 tons/year down to 5 tons/year. The decline in PM emission is also pretty substantial too because they're going from Tier 0 to Tier 4.

Tad talked about new upcoming regulations for Municipal Solid Waste landfills that are mainly driven by greenhouse gas and climate change policy. However, there will be some benefits for ozone and other criteria pollutants. On Maryland’s next Advisory Council meeting, members will be talking about an update to the Clean Cars program, which will allow the implementation of some of the newer provisions in California associated with both criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas emission reductions. Finally, we also have a buildings regulation which will be very interesting as it is driven by Maryland’s new 2022 law on climate change, which will have both climate change and very significant ozone and fine particular matter benefits. He also talked about the Claybrick road project.

4. Comparison Of Growth Assumptions - 2008 Ozone NAAQS Maintenance Plan Vs Current Estimates

Sunil discussed a comparison of growth factors for 2025 and 2030 that were used to project non-point & MAR source emission in the 2008 ozone NAAQS maintenance plan and the current ones developed using the latest COG cooperative forecast Round 9.2. He said that growth factors for population are higher now compared to what they were in the 2008 plan and so are the household growth factors for 2030. What factors for other surrogates we're lower now. Since non-point and MAR SCCs associated with population contribute to about 60% of the total VOC population, either a very small increase or no increase at all in projected emissions to 2025 and 2030 are expected.

5. Local Engagement on Clean Air Action

- A. Briefing on Arlington County's Think Big initiative – Rich Dooley talked about Arlington county's "Think Big" initiative to reduce emissions.
- B. Update on COG Board Resolution Establishing the Regional EV Workgroup – Jeff King talked about the cardboard resolution establishing a regional EV workgroup.