

Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).

Draft Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 13, 2004
Room 3
5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

In Attendance:

Sam Black, Greater Washington Board of Trade
Bill Butler, Mirant
Jim Clarke, Washington Regional Network
Julie Crenshaw, Stewardship of Creation, Chair
Jill Engel-Cox, District of Columbia
Brian Holmes, MD Highway Contractors Assn.
Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Com. Environmental Equity (DICEE)
Lee Schoenecker, American Planning Association
Larry Zaragoza, Northern Virginia

Staff

Joan Rohlfs, Chief of Air Quality MWCOG
Jen Desimone, Air Quality Action Day Coordinator/Environmental Planner MWCOG

1. Call To Order, Approval of Minutes, Adoption of Agenda

Julie Crenshaw, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm. No changes had been received for the July 19, 2004 draft minutes so they were approved as submitted.

Staff and at least one AQPAC member have asked for informational presentations for upcoming meetings. Ms. Crenshaw suggested that this be discussed under new business. Sam Black offered to present research on a visioning exercise for the Washington Region for 2030, with air quality as a central concern. Rodney Livingston requested that Sam present this information at the next Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG) meeting.

Ms. Crenshaw stated that time may permit only discussion of Sections 7 and 8 of the bylaws. Last spring the committee scheduled the Section 9 discussion with Section 10 that will be at the next meeting in October.

2. Ozone Season Summary

Ms. Desimone gave an update on the 2004 Ozone Season. To date, the Washington Region recorded seven 8-hour ozone exceedance days and two 1-hour ozone exceedance days. Ozone season summary tables were provided to committee members.

Jill Engel-Cox asked if we were meeting the annual PM2.5 standard. Staff said that at this time,

there is not enough data to form a conclusion.

3. Membership Application for the Virginia Urban Representative

AQPAC discussed the membership application from Einar Olsen. Paul Ferguson, MWAQC member from Arlington, Virginia recommended Mr. Olsen for the vacant VA-Urban seat. A member said he has worked with Mr. Olsen in other groups and thought he would be a good addition to the AQPAC. One member asked if Mr. Olsen would know about the haze problem in the Shenandoah parks. Ms. Crenshaw said his affiliation with the National Park Service would probably include some understanding of the concern. AQPAC recommended that Mr. Olson's application be sent to MWAQC for approval.

4. Nominating Committee

Ms. Crenshaw asked for at least three but no more than five volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Ms. Crenshaw had asked COG's legal counsel what would constitute the need for disclosure of a conflict of interest for an AQPAC member to hold an office. Counsel said that only if a member were a policy maker for their company or organization would they need to disclose this. Rodney Livingston objected that the correspondence between the chair and COG legal counsel was not presented to the committee in writing. Ms. Crenshaw stated it was a short verbal discussion as the COG counsel was very busy with the MWAQC bylaws.

The following members volunteered for the nominating committee:

Larry Zaragoza
Brian Holmes
Lee Schoenecker

Ms. Crenshaw stated that for a member to be chair or vice chair they must have had good attendance. Anyone who received an attendance letter last May is on attendance probation and not eligible.

The nominating committee will make nominations recommendations at the next meeting in October. In addition, nominations may come from the floor. AQPAC will vote at the next meeting after the Nominations Committee report, either November or December.

5. Report on the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Activities

Ms. Rohlfs briefed the committee on TAC and MWAQC activities. The TAC met Friday, September 10, 2004. The next MWAQC meeting is Wednesday, September 22, 2004.

Mid-Course Review

COG staff is preparing a mid-course review analyzing the Region's progress towards attaining the 1-hour ozone standard by November 15, 2005. This review will be sent to the EPA.

EPA will examine the review to see if the Region exhibits a downward trend of 1-hour exceedance days. Meteorological conditions in 2002 were unusually hot, possibly leading to the large number of exceedance days. Staff will begin an additional trends analysis, which will factor out meteorology. This analysis will give us an idea of how meteorology is affecting the 1-

hour exceedance day trends.

Attainment of the standard is determined by the 1-hour design value. The 1-hour design value is based on the three-year period from 2002-2004. As long as 2002 is considered in the calculations, the Region's design value will not meet the 1-hour standard. The current design value is 131 ppb.

Transport continues to be an issue for the Region. The NOx SIP call requires power plants in the Midwest to reduce NOx emissions by installing new control equipment beginning in 2004. It appears that the plants upwind may not have completed all the installations this year. For that reason, the Washington, DC-MD-VA region will not expect to see all of the benefits until the 2005/2006 time period.

Rodney Livingston asked if monitor relocations and calibrations have been incorporated in the analysis. Ms. Rohlf's stated that there are reference points in the data for relocations and calibrations. EPA has guidance to deal with these specific issues.

Brian Holmes stated that he finds it troubling that non-attainment is determined by the number of exceedances at any one monitor.

Jim Clarke requested a map of the Region's monitors. This map can be found on the air-watch.net website.

Lee Schoenecker asked if the TAC or MWAQC examine monitor locations. Ms. Rohlf's stated that the TAC and MWAQC have no say in monitor locations. The Air Agencies are responsible for siting the monitors and must follow EPA guidance. There are currently 17 monitors in the Metropolitan Washington region.

Attainment Modeling

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has taken the lead on 8-hour ozone modeling. This modeling is expected to be complete by the fall of 2006. The modeling results will be submitted in the States' attainment plans, which are due in 2007. The deadline for attainment is 2010. EPA's second phase 8-hour guidance will be released in November 2004.

Conformity Schedule

The Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is analyzing a new transportation improvement plan. The TPB will model 2 possible route scenarios for an Inter County Connector (ICC). The conformity analysis is scheduled to be complete by October 1, 2004. Results will be presented at the October TPB Technical Committee and TAC meetings.

An issue with the 8-hour conformity analysis is which mobile budget to use. EPA guidance, released in July 2004, suggests two options for the Washington Region since the 8-hour and 1-hour non-attainment areas are the same, except for one county. Stafford County was not named in the 8-hour non-attainment area. The first option is to use the 1-hour mobile budget, with no additional changes. The second option is to remove Stafford County emissions and re-calculate the mobile budget. TPB staff has recommended the use of the 1-hour mobile budget, with no

additional changes.

Energy Renewables Guidance

EPA released guidance on energy renewables and efficiency measures. This guidance proposes SIP credits on energy renewables and efficiency measures. Nine percent of the total reductions required could be gained by using energy renewables and efficiency measure voluntary reductions, such as mobile sources, stationary sources, or energy efficiency measures. COG has proposed to include an energy renewable measure, the wind energy purchase, in the Washington Area SIP. The Gold Book suggestions are where this region has gone with this thus far.

In order to take credit in the SIP for such measures, a NOx set-aside program needs to be in place. Maryland currently has a NOx set-aside program, but Virginia does not. Therefore, Virginia would have to determine a means to account for the credits to ensure that they would not double count any NOx reductions from these measures.

Ms. Crenshaw stated that this guidance “Emission Reductions from Electric-Sector Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Measures: State Implementation Plan Credits: Guidance Document” is available on the EPA website, under Air and Radiation. Ms. Crenshaw said she and others to include Tad Aburn of MDE and Debra Jacobson for ERT had met with EPA about this guidance last July. The guidance uses both Montgomery County, Maryland and Dallas, Texas as national examples for this guidance.

Gas Containers

An Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) measure, in the current Severe Washington Area SIP, is one that requires the use of California Air Resources Board (CARB) compliant non-venting gasoline cans. The Fairfax County fire marshal discovered that under high temperatures there is a potential for one brand of gas can to cave in, change shape, or fall on its side allowing gasoline leakage. The Fairfax County fire marshal is conducting tests on a variety of cans. CARB and the manufactures are aware of the issue and are looking into it.

Ms. Crenshaw stated that TAC discussed recalling the cans or placing a consumer warning sticker on the cans about proper usage and dangers. Ms. Crenshaw asked whether AQPAC wanted to comment to MWAQC. AQPAC discussed and agreed that comments about the quality and safety of the gas cans as well as the air quality benefits and the public view of the program being poorly or well run as public concerns should be made to the MWAQC.

Ms. Crenshaw will draft a statement addressing AQPAC’s concerns with the gas cans and circulate it for comments and approval before presenting it to MWAQC.

Section 185 Legislation

The AQPAC’s suggestion to MWAQC at the July MWAQC meeting that a letter be sent to the State of Maryland about Maryland’s lack of including Section 185 in their SIP was responded to that AQPAC should send the letter, but wait until September.

Sam Black motioned that a letter be drafted and sent to the committee for review. Lee Schoenecker seconded the motion. Ms. Crenshaw will draft a letter, circulate it to the

committee, and present it to MWAQC at its September meeting.

MWAQC Agenda

The main item on the September MWAQC meeting agenda will be the proposed bylaw revision. Currently, a draft is being circulated to the states and local elected officials. The bylaws are expected to be sent to the entire MWAQC committee next week.

There are three issues under discussion.

1. The State Secretaries of Transportation and Environment want a greater role in the planning process. They have proposed to create an Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC) that would meet 1-2 times per year. This council would give direction to MWAQC. Local officials are concerned that this council will take away their authority and the authority of MWAQC.
2. There is a proposed change in the District's voting ability. The change would move a vote from the DC Mayor and give it to the City Council. This would make the DC votes more equitable and ensure that the DC Mayor would not have the ability to veto a plan.
3. There is a proposed change to MWAQC's authority to enable it to deal with any air pollutant in the Washington Region. Maryland and the District are opposed to this change. They want to keep MWAQC's authority limited to ozone until EPA makes further designations on additional pollutants.

The proposed bylaws will be presented to MWAQC on September 22, 2004. MWAQC will vote to approve the bylaws at their October 27th meeting.

Sam Black asked as to whether the draft bylaws made mention of the public advisory committee. Ms. Rohlfs responded that the bylaws state that the MWAQC develop a method of addressing public comments/input. Ms. Crenshaw stated that there has been no mention of AQPAC, she has not brought it up, and sees no reason to. Ms. Rohlfs said that there has been some discussion about TAC changes.

Sam Black stated that if the proposed MWAQC bylaws diminish the public advisory functions, we should comment.

6. Control Measures List Review

The control measures list was made available to the committee as requested. Ms. Engel-Cox said that she wants the committee to discuss these and asked when the two control measures the committee has asked be included on the list would be included. Ms. Crenshaw asked staff what needed to be done to have these included. Ms. Rohlfs replied that she just needed to include them in her notes. A further discussion of the list will take place at the next meeting.

7. Discussion of Updating the Bylaws

The committee discussed revisions of Sections 7 and 8 of the AQPAC bylaws. Sections 9 and 10 will be discussed at the October meeting. AQPAC will look at the suggested changes for their bylaws as a whole before finalizing them for approval.

8. Report on the Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG)

Ms. Crenshaw updated the committee on the JTWG meeting held Friday, September 10th, 2004.

The Regional Mobility and Accessibility Study First Phase Results will be presented to the TPB next week. The results include comments from the previous TPB meeting on the report the AQPAC saw at their last meeting. The next phase of modeling will include transportation, land-use, air quality, and water quality information applied to each of the scenarios.

9. New Business

A discussion of potential presentations took place.

Presentation suggestions included:

- Visioning exercise results presented by Sam Black.
- Monitoring Specialist
- PM2.5 Forecasting
- Aircraft flight results from the 2003 Blackout by Jeff Stehr. Copies of the paper will be made available to AQPAC members.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is Monday, October 18th.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.