

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 12, 2011
Room 4/5
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC members: Sarah Bunn, Beverly Fourier, Raphael Isaac, Sally Kane, Daniel Lee, Caroline Petti, Glenna Tinney, Larry Zaragoza

Staff: Joan Rohlf, Maia Davis, Amanda Campbell

Participants: Colin Danville (Pepco), Mike Cakouros

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. The agenda and minutes from November 14, 2011 were approved with no changes.

2. Alexandria Potomac River Green Project (Layton Golding, Cooper Carry)

In 2012, GenOn plans to retire the Potomac River Generating Station in Alexandria, VA. American Clean Skies hired Cooper Carry to create an innovative concept for redeveloping the coal-fired power plant site into an environmentally friendly, mixed-use community. The Potomac River Green Project is focused around an alternative energy interactive wind museum and enhancing views of DC and the monument as a backdrop. Additional elements in the project include:

- Brownfield remediation
- Adding light rail, a new metro station and expanding existing bike trails
- Incorporating the Alexandria Waterfront Plan
- Adding open space, greenspace, green roofs and tree canopy
- 50% of development is net zero
- Geothermal
- Black water treatment system including 2 small constructed wetlands

ACPAC has several questions including the extent of public outreach that has been incorporated into the project, preventing flooding in the proposed underground garage and future traffic concerns. Layton explained that American Clean Skies has incorporated a lot of stakeholder input; however, additional public feedback is needed. The project does not address potential traffic issues on the nearby George Washington Memorial Parkway; however, traffic calming plans onsite include 3 ways in and out of the community, walkability of the proposed development and the addition of public transportation options and bike trail.

3. Regional Tree Canopy Planning (Amanda Campbell, COG DEP Staff)

Amanda provided an overview of the benefits of trees and asked the group about the benefits of trees. Some of the benefits mentioned included stormwater, aesthetics, cooling (heat island), wildlife habitat, soil stabilization, cleans the air and more. Amanda explained that the regional tree canopy plan will focus on stormwater, air

quality and climate benefits. The planning process has just begun with a group of regional stakeholders. One challenge faced is that the region is losing 28 acres per day of open space. ACPAC member suggestions included creating developer education/information and adding Casey Trees in the stakeholder group.

4. MWAQC and CEEPC Updates (Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP Staff)

Joan discussed the status of the MOVES model and PM_{2.5} redesignation plan. The 2002 base year and 2007 modeling has been completed in MOVES and staff is currently working on 2017 and 2025. Air quality monitor data shows the region has been in attainment of PM_{2.5} since 2005. However, to officially be in attainment EPA needs to approve the redesignation to being in attainment as well as approve a plan that shows how the region will maintain attainment. At the next MWAQC meeting, staff will request approval of the draft redesignation plan to go out for public comment.

5. ACPAC Member Recruitment (Maia Davis, COG DEP Staff)

In 2011, there were 10 spots open on ACPAC and extensive outreach was conducted in order to recruit members for ACPAC. There were 20 applicants for 10 openings. This year there are 4 spots open (2 MD, 1 DC and 1 VA) and staff recommends a more targeted approach to recruitment. Staff reached out to the interested applicants from last year that did not make the committee and 3 have shown interest. ACPAC members have heard about ACPAC through sources such as the Northern Virginia Climate Action Network, Greater Greater Washington Blog, Clean Air Partners Facebook pages and Linked In. ACPAC members suggested reaching out to these sources again and staff requested that members forward ACPAC recruitment information onto people they think may be interested.

6. ACPAC Agenda Topics Survey Results (Maia Davis, COG DEP Staff)

Before the December ACPAC meeting, a brief survey was emailed to ACPAC on agenda topics the group was most interested in. This survey will assist staff in planning agenda topics in 2012. The top favorite topics discussed in 2011 were climate adaptation/resiliency, electric vehicle planning, regional environmental outreach programs, progress on regional climate action goals, solar cooperatives, Clean Air Partners air quality forecasting and transportation planning priorities.

7. January Meeting Date

The regularly scheduled meeting date for January 2012 falls on MLK Jr Day. The group decided it would be best to have the meeting the week after; therefore, the next meeting of ACPAC will be held on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 5:30pm in Room 4/5 at COG offices.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Next meeting: January 23, 2012 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5
