



Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

MEETING SUMMARY: MAY 24, 2017

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: (*) Indicates participation by phone

- Hon. Penny Gross, Fairfax County (Chair)
- Hon. Mary Lehman, Prince George's County
- Hon. Del Pepper, City of Alexandria
- Hon. Pamela Sebesky, City of Manassas
- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Dyan Backe, City of Gaithersburg *
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Nicholas Bonard, National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
- Rich Dooley, Arlington County
- Ira Dorfman, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- Gretchen Goldman, Chair, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
- Megan Goold, Environmental Protection Agency Region III *
- Maureen Holman, DC Water
- Kate Johnson, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- John Lord, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS)
- Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- George Nichols, DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU)
- Scott Pomeroy, Scalable Strategies
- John Settles, Capital Sustainability
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University *
- Chris Somers, Arlington County
- Tim Stevens, Virginia Sierra Club
- Daniel Sze, City of Falls Church
- Theodore Trabue, DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU)
- Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director
- Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Gross called the meeting and introduced Pamela Sebesky as a new CEEPC member. The March meeting summary was approved with no changes. As a new member who did not attend the previous meeting, Ms. Sebesky abstained from the vote. The agenda was also approved with no changes.

Chair Gross said the focus of the meeting would be to explore approaches to tackling resilience and how we can leverage ongoing initiatives to benefit the broader region. She also announced that CEEPC was sending a team to Denver, Colorado next month on scholarship to a Sustainable Communities Leadership Academy on Building Resilient Regions organized by the Institute of

Sustainable Communities (ISC). She noted that the discussion at this meeting will provide direction to the team as they work together at the Academy and bring back next steps for CEEPC to pursue.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC) (*Gina Mathias, Chair*)

Gina Mathias was introduced as the new BEEAC Chair. Ms. Mathias shared that she will be part of the team heading to the ISC Academy next month. The ISC Director of Urban Resilience, Steve Adams, recently talked to BEEAC about how to frame local resilience initiatives. He emphasized the importance to creating a single understanding of resilience and the issues across a wide variety of planning and implementation organizations to make the most efficient use of resources to address the problem.

BEEAC has also recently reviewed the FY18 Work Plan that CEEPC was asked to approve at this meeting. BEEAC's conversation focused on tasks for its sub-group, RESF-12, that addresses energy emergency response and planning.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) (*Gretchen Goldman, Chair*)

ACPAC is wrapping up its work on the Environmental Justice (EJ) Toolkit and it will be ready for their review in July. The Climate and Energy Leadership Awards is accepting applications through June 23, 2017. Ms. Goldman encouraged CEEPC members to submit nominations and apply for the Awards.

C. Member Updates

- Chair Gross shared that Fairfax County's environmental committee is working on an update of the County's environmental excellence vision.
- Kambiz Agazi added that the updates include a new climate and energy section as well as a variety of additional changes that align with County initiatives. Ms. Agazi also noted that the Solarize Fairfax Campaign - a partnership between the County - NVRC and Virginia Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) - kicked off on April 18 and already has 775 sign-ups and 6 contracts signed with a total 52 kilowatts of solar. Steve Walz noted that across northern Virginia solarize programs are close to achieving 1 million kilowatts and the Fairfax program is sure to help the region surpass it.
- Ira Dorfman announced that 4 school districts participated in their clean school bus event in northern Virginia the previous day and another dozen are expected to attend this event in Prince George's County the next day.
- Daniel Sze recently received a letter from the Virginia Municipal League appointing him as Chair of its environmental quality committee.
- Kate Johnson announced that the Mayor introduced legislation to create a green bank (similar in structure to Montgomery County's program). In addition, the open call for comments on the City's Comprehensive Plan update has been extended if anyone wants to comment. The update does include a resilience element.

D. Staff Updates and Announcements

- Steve Walz announced that the draft Regional Tree Canopy Management Strategy Report will be ready for their review and comment this summer. John Settles asked how this relates to the EJ Toolkit. The Toolkit sets a broad framework but Mr. Walz and Ms. Goldman noted that ACPAC will look into it and consider taking tree canopy on as an implementation project once the Toolkit is adopted.
- Mr. Walz also shared that COG is serving as the non-federal sponsor for an Army Corps of Engineers Coast Storm Risk Management Study which will investigate flood risks in the vicinity of the region's tidal areas, and identify potential solutions to protect the vulnerable

infrastructure assets upon which the region relies. COG is coordinating with members on scoping and identifying additional cost-share for the study.

- Last week, the Clean Edge released the 2017 Clean Tech Leadership Index. Mr. Walz commented that Metropolitan Washington is moved up to third among the 50 top metropolitan regions around the country, just behind San Francisco and San Jose for the highest levels of clean tech activities. Upon Chair Gross' request, the Index report will be distributed to CEEPC members.

3. RESILIENCE: THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

A. Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities (100RC)

Eric Wilson, Associate Director, City and Practice Management, North America

Mr. Wilson provided an overview of Rockefeller's 100RC Initiative and the status of their support for the District of Columbia's Program Launch. 100RC defines urban resilience as '...the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and grow no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.' 100RC works with cities worldwide to address the challenges of social, economic, and environmental resilience. Work with the District of Columbia has recently begun, starting with an agenda setting workshop and hiring a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO). Although 100RC is only providing direct financial and technical assistance to the District of Columbia, Mr. Wilson recognized the importance of regional collaboration and framing opportunities to benefit the broader region.

B. District of Columbia's 100RC Findings and Next Steps

Harrison Newton, 100 Resilient Cities Launch Director, District of Columbia

As first steps towards launching the District's Resilient City Initiative, the Mayor's Office established a Resilience Cabinet including a number of District department directors, that Mr. Newton is serving as as the Launch Director as the District works on hiring a CRO, and that the District has established an advisory committee and workgroups to bring community interests and tactical expertise into the decision-making and development of the initiative. Some of the core values of this effort are to be outcome driven, community centered, and equity focused. Several district departments have established equity officers, and Mr. Newton envisions these officers working together in support of the 100RC resilience work. The Resilience Cabinet has established a resilience innovation fund and has the ability to operate as a "shark tank" where they can greenlight innovative ideas using the innovation fund. Some of the initial ideas for of focus areas of the fund include smart microgrids, resilience hubs/corridors/communities, and Anacostia waterfront enhancements.

C. Maryland Climate Change Commission Adaptation and Response Working Group - Achievements and Work Plan

Nicole Carlozo, Natural Resource Resiliency Planner, Maryland Department of National Resources

Maryland's Adaptation and Response Working Group focuses on cross-departmental coordination to address economic, social, and environmental impacts of climate change. Their work is based of state strategies that have been developed over the last several years that comprehensively address sea level rise, precipitation, and temperature. Adaptation has not only been adopted into Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan but has also been incorporated into a variety of state plans and initiatives. A few examples include the State Highway Administrations comprehensive vulnerability assessment of transportation assets, the Resilience Target Map that informs conservation and resilience investments at the local level, and the CoastSmart Communities Grant that supports local government coastal planning and projects that address non-coast climate impacts.

D. NoVA Climate Resilience Team - Findings and Next Steps

Dale Medearis, Senior Environmental Planner, Northern Virginia Regional Commission

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission was awarded a 2016 Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Grant to develop a Northern Virginia Resiliency Roadmap. The Roadmap will assess impacts on the natural and built environment, identify methods to manage risks, develop an adaptation policy framework and provide guidance on integrating climate change into local plans and policies. The NOVA Climate Resiliency Team was established to support and guide the project. The team is an interdisciplinary collaborative network comprised of technical and policy experts from throughout the region. Key climate stressors identified include heat waves and flooding from extreme events or coastal storms. The team has identified infrastructure, including green infrastructure for stormwater management, and public health as priority focus areas. Next, the team will examine policy solutions and strategies to address these challenges holistically. The findings will be shared to inform regional climate resilience strategies.

Discussion:

- In response to a question on strategies to address the resilience of individuals, Mr. Wilson shared examples from Los Angeles and Miami. Los Angeles has identified resilience strategies at the neighborhood, community, household, and individual level. The Miami CRO met with several communities and uncovered there are different levels of the perception of preparedness and the government's ability to respond. This helped the City identify gaps and develop a strategy to equip individuals to be resilient.
- Mr. Wilson shared Pittsburgh's Resiliency Strategy to address a question about how cities are addressing energy and electricity infrastructure. In partnership with the local utility, the state, Sandia National Labs, and 100RC, Pittsburgh evaluated microgrid potential city-wide and developed policies around energy and resiliency to support microgrid implementation.
- In terms of distributed generation, Mr. Wilson said that it may evolve into part of a city's resilience plan but the planning starts with identifying the shocks and stressors.
- Ms. Gross noted the similarities of the comprehensive frameworks of Region Forward and 100RC and suggested this should be further explored. She suggested that the Region Forward Coalition may be interested in hearing about 100RC.
- Mr. Wilson was asked to address how supporting smaller cities fit into 100RC. Mr. Wilson reiterated the importance of broad regional resilience and how the City of Miami is partnering with Miami-Dade County and the smaller municipalities within the County to partner on resilience. San Francisco, Berkeley, and Oakland are individual cities participating in 100RC; however, they are partnering with the Association of Bay Area Governments to identify how the smaller cities and region as a whole can leverage the 100RC resources and benefits.
- To address a question on how federal cuts may affect the District of Columbia's funding plans, Mr. Newton commented that federal agencies, such as FEMA and HUD, are looking at ways to support infrastructure investments.
- A question was raised on how citizen science supports resilience. Although it may not be a regular practice in citizen science, Mr. Wilson pointed to Louisville as one example. Louiostat is a crowdsourcing website and the city recruits citizens to collect and report data and information on their communities.
- Based on the discussion, Ms. Gross noted a few challenges the team going to the Resiliency Academy in Denver may want to consider addressing, including the resilience of individuals, resilience for small jurisdictions, financing resilience, how citizen science can support resilience, and Region Forward connections.

4. REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT FUND WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director

Mr. Walz presented to DRAFT Regional Environmental Fund Work Program and Budget. The proposed work program will support the Climate and Energy Action Plan and cover climate and energy policy; support for the region's Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee and the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee; projects on energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy infrastructure, and vehicle emission reductions; sustainability and resilience initiatives; green infrastructure, forestry, and agriculture; and solid waste and recycling. Mr. Walz addressed CEEPC member questions related to Electrify America and adaptation funding levels. The response was that Electrify America isn't quite ready to move forward yet on coordinating with COG members on electric vehicle infrastructure locations and funding for the Corp Coastal Risk Study will be supported not only through this fund, but possibly through COG water program funds.

5. ADJOURNMENT

With no objection, the meeting was adjourned. The next CEEPC meeting is scheduled for July 26, 2017 as a joint meeting with the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).