



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC)

December 18, 2019
10 A.M. – 11:25 A.M.
Kirby Training Center

Chairman: David F. Snyder, City of Falls Church

MEETING SUMMARY

MWAQC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church (Chair)
Brandon Todd, District of Columbia (Vice Chair)
Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Linda Smyth, Fairfax County
Michelle Davis-Younger, City of Manassas
Robert Day, City of College Park (Vice Chair)
Del Pepper, City of Alexandria
Peter Kovar, City of Takoma Park
Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Tom Dernoga, Prince George's County
Keith Levchenko, Montgomery County
Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Collin Burrell, District Department of Energy and Environment
Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy and Environment
Tina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Collen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation

OTHERS

Robert Burkhart, Prince William County
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County
Sam Gaber, Fairfax County
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy and Environment
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment
Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation

COG STAFF

Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs
Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs

Jen Posey, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Dusan Vuksan, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, APPROVE MINUTES, CHAIR'S REMARKS

Dave Snyder, MWAQC Chair

Chair Snyder called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. There were no public comments. The September meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Sunil Kumar

The TAC held a call in November to discuss EPA's final rule concerning the withdrawal of waiver to California's ZEV mandates and its possible implications on Washington region's on-road mobile emissions, air quality plans, and transportation conformity, the 2015 ozone standard base year inventory, and the ozone season summary.

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

There was no update on ACPAC activities.

Clean Air Partners – Jen Desimone

Slogan Contest – Clean Air Partners held its 9th annual slogan contest for local middle and elementary students. Students in grades 4-8 were asked to submit a creative slogan that brings to light solutions to air pollution and climate change and inspire people to take actions to improve our region's air quality.

Poster Contest – The 12th annual poster contest will launch after the new year. The contest will be open to students in grades 4 – 8 in the Baltimore-Washington region.

Eco-Comedy Video Competition – Clean Air Partners partnered with American University to pilot a video competition for students across the Baltimore-Washington region to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Students are asked to develop a video that's humorous, has a theme of clean air, and be no more than 3 minutes. The competition is open for submission December 15 – February 15. Winners will be recognized at an event during the DC Environmental Film Festival (March 2020).

“Green Guide to the Holidays” – As part of a winter outreach initiative, Clean Air Partners is running a social media campaign around the “Green Guide to the Holidays.” The “Green Guide to the Holidays” provides visual tips for home heating, using energy star holiday lighting, and carpooling/transit when shopping, and reducing waste. The campaign will run from November 18 – December 22 on Facebook and Twitter.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – Steve Walz

The CEEPC held a two-day workshop on the issue of climate change planning on November 20-21.

On the first day, the focus was on the review of the region's progress towards 2020 goals and the region's business as usual projections and 2030 low carbon scenarios. The session also held discussions on sustainable energy access planning and mitigation goals for the region.

On the second day, there were discussions on the resilience goals for the region and how to measure success and the region's climate risk and vulnerability assessment.

3. LOCAL AND STATE UPDATES

Local Updates

None

State Updates

Virginia

Tom Ballou said that the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia directed the development of an energy plan through the Executive Order 43. Virginia will be joining RGGI. DEQ proposed an increase in budget.

Maryland

None

District of Columbia

Ram said that the regional haze SIP is complete. He said a special purpose air quality monitor station required as part of the Photochemical Assessment Monitoring System (PAMS) was revamped and is now running.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The 2020 slate of officers, below, was presented to the committee and approved unanimously:

Chair: Hon. Brandon Todd, Councilmember, District of Columbia

Vice Chair: Vacant, Councilmember, District of Columbia

Vice Chair: Hon. Robert Day, Councilmember, City of College Park, MD

Vice Chair: Hon. Erik Gutshall, Board Member, Arlington County

5. MWAQC STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Steve Walz, Environmental Programs Director

Steve Walz briefed members on the draft MWAQC Strategic Assessment report.

He discussed the history of the development of the report and the process that was followed leading up to the current version of the report. He talked about the region's compliance with the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards for four out of the five criteria pollutants and the steady progress made towards the 2015 ozone NAAQS. However, he also mentioned that the region did not see any improvement in the ozone levels across the region for the last five years. Ozone levels in the region have stalled at concentration levels one to two parts per billion above the 70 ppb 2015 ozone NAAQS. Additionally, the region still experiences days that our air quality is unhealthy for sensitive groups, or on a few occasions, at an unhealthy level where everyone should limit strenuous outdoor activity due to unhealthy air quality.

For above reasons, MWAQC asked that members formally discuss the strategic direction for MWAQC looking ahead to the next five years. This would help MWAQC members and staff help manage resources to meet the committee's primary focus on developing emission inventories and regional state implementation plans and related documents as well as our secondary focus on performing other functions to improve regional air quality. The draft report presented to members in this meeting addresses this strategic assessment process. MWAQC staff sees this work as part of a continuum and thinks that all MWAQC members should agree on the report.

Steve discussed recent activities related to the draft report. COG staff sent a draft to MWAQC members for their review and comments on November 4. This version of the report reflected comments received to that date. This includes

- Input on the survey findings at the December 19, 2018 MWAQC meeting;
- Discussion of a draft report at the February 27, 2019 MWAQC meeting;
- Further discussion of the February 27th draft report at the July 25, 2019 MWAQC meeting;
- Follow-up electronic comments received on the February 27th draft; and
- Electronic comments from MWAQC members on a September 3rd draft.

In addition, staff brought the draft report before MWAQC-TAC members on December 10th for their

input. MWAQC-TAC members agreed that MDOT would develop and send track changes forward for MWAQC consideration. Staff received additional comments late in the week of December 9th, which were included in the report and sent to MWAQC members on December 16th in advance of this (December 18th) meeting.

Steve outlined the following four main areas addressed in the Maryland Department of Transportation comments:

- The strategic direction report is not intended for direct action. Future actions are directed through the work program and budgets. Consensus is still needed regarding future direction before any actions, strategies, or policies are incorporated into the annual work program. Therefore, MDOT recommended removing the detailed information on pages 6-9 about four possible directions going forward and leave further work on these items to a continued interagency consultation, coordination, and a consensus-based process.
- Communication about the importance of air quality and its connection to public health is the role of Clean Air Partners, and MWAQC should support CAP in this work.
- MWAQC should improve internal operations so that it can meet the needs of its diverse members, adhere to its bylaws, and operate collaboratively and transparently.
- Any action related to climate change falls under CEEPC purview and reference to this should not be included in the introduction to the report.

Steve also discussed inputs received in December 10th MWAQC-TAC meeting, which are:

- The Maryland Department of the Environment supports the material submitted by MDOT;
- The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is fine with the suggested revisions, and
- The Virginia Department of Transportation stated that only the items specifically included/allowed in MWAQC's bylaws should be noted as having consensus and that other items referenced can be discussed to seek consensus in the upcoming year.

Following Steve's comments above, members reviewed MDOT's comments and agreed to them. MDOT further suggested that discussion points for each of the four emerging directions and priorities mentioned in the section titled "Next Steps to Identify Strategic Directions and Priorities" be moved to a new appendix in the report. These discussion points will be the subject of further discussion during the year 2020. Members also agreed to this suggestion. Comments and the above suggestion made by MDOT were approved by MWAQC members unanimously.

The committee voted and unanimously approved the Strategic Assessment report, with the above changes incorporated into the final version.

6. OZONE SEASON SUMMARY – OVERVIEW OF THE BASE-YEAR INVENTORY

Sunil Kumar – COG Environmental Engineer

Mr. Kumar provided an update on this year's ozone season and the base year 2017 emissions inventory that is required as part of the 2015 ozone standard. The Washington region had 1 Code Red day for fine particles, which occurred on July 4th. The region continues to meet to fine particle standard. There were 10 Code Orange days for ozone. Preliminary data shows that the region's ozone design value is 72 parts per billion (ppb), which is above the 2015 ozone standard of 70 ppb. This shows that the region is currently in nonattainment of the 2015 ozone standard and may have a challenge to meet the standard by the 2020 deadline.

Mr. Kumar presented the details of draft base year 2017 emissions inventory. A comprehensive emissions inventory of VOC, NO_x, and CO is being developed for the Washington region for a typical day during the ozone season. He described the contribution of the four emissions sources (point, nonpoint, nonroad, and onroad) towards total VOC, NO_x, and CO emissions. Nonpoint, onroad, nonroad, and point sources contribute 57%, 22%, 18%, and 3% respectively towards total VOC emissions. Point, onroad, nonroad, and nonpoint point sources contribute 43%, 33%, 17%, and 7%

respectively towards total NOx emissions.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.