

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239
(202) 962-3200 Fax (202) 962-3203

DRAFT MINUTES OF May 20, 2015 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

David Snyder, City of Falls Church, Chair
Michael DeMarco, City of Fairfax, Vice Chair (via phone)
Hans Riemer, Montgomery County, Vice Chair
Ian Lovejoy, City of Manassas
Linda Smyth, Fairfax County (via phone)
Konrad Herling, Greenbelt
Janet Clarke, Loudoun County (via phone)
Preston Banks, Manassas Park (via phone)
Jessica Daniels, District of Columbia Department of the Environment (via phone)
Austina Casey, District of Columbia Department of Transportation
Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Lyn Erickson, Maryland Department of Transportation
Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County (via phone)
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation (via phone)
Gretchen Goldman, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

Staff

Amanda Campbell, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)/ Department of Environmental Programs (DEP)
Maia Davis, COG/DEP
Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP
Stuart Freudberg, COG Deputy Executive Director
Eulalie Gower-Lucas COG/Department of Transportation Planning (DTP)
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Isabel Ricker, COG/DEP
Kanti Srikanth, Director, COG/DTP
Steve Walz, Director, COG/DEP

1. Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Chair's Remarks

Vice Chair Riemer called the meeting to order at 10:14am. Chair Snyder joined the meeting in progress.

Members approved the minutes from the March 4, 2015, meeting, and the current meeting agenda, with modifications: action items were moved to later in the agenda to allow time to

assemble a quorum.

2. Transitioning to the MOVES2014 Model, Jane Posey, COG/DTP

Ms. Posey reported that the Department of Transportation Planning staff is ready to use the MOVES (mobile vehicle emissions estimation) 2014 model a year ahead of EPA's deadline. Federal regulations require use of the new model as expeditiously as possible, but no later than two years (July 2016). The new model accounts for federal emissions reduction programs already in place, contains updated methodologies and new science-based calculations, and is therefore considered more accurate than previous models. TPB staff has conducted the necessary preparations -- including test runs and QA/QC -- to use the new model in regional Air Quality Conformity Analysis and State Implementation Plan analysis.

Relative to the MOVES2010a model, MOVES2014 runs for 2015 and 2040 estimate lower mobile source emissions for particulate matter, ozone, carbon monoxide, and greenhouse gases. Greater emissions reductions are expected by 2040 due to vehicle turnover.

In response to questions, staff explained that updated land use and Vehicle Identification Number data may slightly modify the mobile emissions results, although staff expects lower emissions projections overall. The new findings will help the region meet stricter standards in the State Implementation Plan.

3. Committee Reports

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP on behalf of Tad Aburn, MDE

At TAC's last meeting on May 12, 2015, members heard presentations on the ozone season and an analysis of ozone levels in local jurisdictions under the proposed 2015 federal ozone standard. The analysis projected attainment under the various proposed design values in the region and quantified the population, by city and county affected. TAC discussed the impact of EPA's proposed lower federal ozone standard and the Regional Action Plan. TAC also reviewed the FY2016 Work Program & Budget, heard an update on the Multi-Sector Working Group and discussed the 1-year extension of the 2008 ozone standard attainment date.

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC), Gretchen Goldman, Vice Chair

In May, ACPAC issued a call for applications for the Climate & Energy Leadership Awards, due June 30. At recent meetings, ACPAC discussed the FY 2016 Work Program & Budget and recommended that the budget reflect the need for outreach and education. ACPAC heard a presentation on Smart Cities and considered how the public could use data tools to make informed choices. ACPAC also considered how the region could use the information in the Department of Energy's Quadrennial Energy Review.

ACPAC also discussed the Multi-Sector Working Group's draft greenhouse gas reduction strategies and recommended that priority be given to strategy groupings by sector including:
Energy/Built Environment – Buildings, and energy source & supply
Transportation – Enhancing bicycle/pedestrian facilities, enhance transit, and carbon pricing
Land Use – Tree canopy, walkability, and jobs/housing balance

Clean Air Partners (CAP), Jennifer Desimone, Managing Director

CAP has been participating in many local events, such as festivals and expos, in the Baltimore-Washington region. CAP implemented a media push to publicize air quality awareness week,

asthma week, and the start of the summer ozone season. As part of the campaign, CAP developed a series of humorous and educational air quality videos featuring Larry and Lola lung (available on Clean Air Partner's YouTube website [here](#)), and an infographic entitled "Why You Should Give a Darn about Air Quality" (available on the Clean Air Partners website [here](#)). CAP wrapped up the infographics challenge, science fairs, and poster contest. Winners of the poster contest were recognized at the Annual Celebration held in May.

A quorum was attained, so the Committee returned to the earlier agenda items requiring action.

4. FY2016 Work Program and Budget, Jen Desimone, COG/DEP

The FY 2016 MWAQC Work Program and Budget is proposed at the same as in FY 2015 less the extra funds provided by the Maryland Department of the Environment for the special project. This work was incorporated into the body of the Work Program. The proposed budget totals to \$523,616, with one-third each coming from state environmental agencies, transportation agencies through COG's Department of Transportation Planning, and COG members. The budget was first presented on February 19, 2015, and was reviewed in the Budget Committee meeting in March and the MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) in April and May.

The Work Plan lists the tasks needed to plan for ozone control measures to meet the 2008 federal ozone standard and the proposed future standard, expected to be announced in October. The Work Plan also provides for reviewing the transportation conformity analysis, public participation, meeting support, and program administration and support to the work of the Multi-Sector Working Group.

Lyn Erickson requested re-insertion of language on p. 9, paragraph four on the Multi-Sector Working Group that was inadvertently deleted:

...”identifying viable, implementable local, regional, and state actions in each of the four sectors (Energy, Transportation, Land Use, and Built Environment); quantifying benefits, costs and implementation timeframes; jointly developing an action plan for the region; and exploring specific greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the transportation and other sectors.”

The amendment passed unanimously.

It was noted that the Maryland Department of the Environment representatives were unable to attend and instead submitted a letter to Chair Snyder (attached) regarding the Regional Action Plan and the FY 2016 Work Program and Budget. The letter stated that Maryland requested that the vote on the final approval of the FY-16 work plan be deferred, noting that due to potential budget cuts at MDE, the Department could not support the Work Program and Budget at this time.

Note also that the Transportation Planning Board adopted its Transportation Unified Plan and Work Program in March 2015, including funding of the transportation share of MWAQC's budget at the same levels as in FY2015. The level could be revised once the US Department of Transportation's allocation is announced in September.

The FY 2016 Work Program and Budget, as amended, passed unanimously. The revised Work Program and Budget is available [here](#).

5. Regional Action Plan – Resolution to Support State and Local Measures, Steve Walz, COG/DEP and Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP

Mr. Walz explained that at the March meeting, MWAQC discussed adopting a Regional Action Plan. The issue was taken up by MWAQC’s TAC, whose recommendation is now before the committee as Resolution R1-2015. The resolution is posted on the MWAQC committee website [here](#) along with the state and local Regional Action Plan attachments. The Resolution recognizes that the Region, even while accommodating considerable growth, has benefited from past actions that have resulted in significant reductions in levels of air pollution. The Resolution further recognizes that citizens living in the Region continue to breathe unhealthy air on high ozone days, with its attendant health risks. The Resolution notes that MWAQC has developed the Gold Book with a menu of state and local emission control strategies. The Resolution expresses MWAQC support for implementation of an early Regional Action Plan to address current and future ozone NAAQS and better protect the public health; is committed to achieving reductions through a broad range of cost-effective control measures across multiple sectors; and requests that COG provide periodic updates on the status of implementation of the Regional Action Plan, other emission reduction strategies by state and local governments, and new federal emission reduction measures.

As part of its deliberations on the proposed Resolution, MWAQC had looked at the potential effect of proposed new ozone NAAQS levels. Mr. Kumar presented the results of regional ozone standard attainment analysis under 60, 65, 70 and 75 parts per billion (ppb) ozone design value scenarios. Analysis was conducted for two time periods: 2011-2013 and 2012-2014 for comparison. The analysis shows that with the stricter standard, more jurisdictions and a greater portion of the population would fall into non-attainment, as shown in the table below.

Proposed Ozone Standard	Based on 2011-2013		Based on 2012-2014	
	Jurisdictions Exceeded*	Population	Jurisdictions Exceeded*	Population
75 ppb	7	3,324,056	1	881,379
70 ppb	10	4,900,260	7	3,324,056
65 or 60ppb	11	5,406,032	11	5,406,032

*Out of the 11 major jurisdictions

2012-2014 emissions data resulted in fewer exceedances than 2011-2013. The number of days per year exceeding the proposed standard for 2014 conditions ranged from 4 (75ppb) to 29 (60ppb); this is an improvement over 2011 conditions which resulted in a range of 20 (75ppb) to 77 (60ppb) exceedance days per year.

In response to comments, Mr. Walz explained that the letter MWAQC sent in support of the new ozone standards supported the proposed 65-70ppb design value range, recognizing the need for ongoing improvement to protect public health. Mr. Kumar said that EPA’s science team found more uncertainties of the public health benefits of an ozone standard below 65ppb. EPA reviews national air quality standards every five years.

In response to a question about the effect of rising temperatures, Mr. Walz clarified that due to improving air quality conditions, hot days over 90 degrees Fahrenheit do not necessarily lead to an ozone action day as they did previous to 2006.

Mr. Walz explained that the Regional Action Plan is a living document of air quality best practices, many of which are already being implemented but could be adopted more broadly in the region.

The resolution passed unanimously.

6. Greenhouse Gas Multi-Sector Working Group Update, Steve Walz, COG/DEP
COG's Multi-Sector Working Group (MSWG) was formed in response to MWAQC and Transportation Planning Board resolutions and is charged with analyzing costs, benefits, and co-benefits of various greenhouse gas reduction strategies. To date 13 MSWG and subgroup meetings have taken place to inform the strategy development process. In addition, COG held a public input period in April, including discussions with the Air & Climate Public Advisory Committee and TPB's Citizen's Advisory Committee. This resulted in development of 22 strategies for quantitative analysis of potential GHG emission reductions. Now the consultant (ICF, Inc.) is analyzing how close the identified strategies will bring us to meeting our regional greenhouse gas reduction goals. The consultant will bring forward the analysis results in July and August. The final strategy memo is on the MSWG committee website [here](#).

The next MSWG meeting will be held June 18th. At that meeting, presentations and discussion will focus on an exploration of policies, goals and targets by sector. The interim technical report will be presented to MWAQC in fall and the final technical report in December, 2015.

Chair Snyder remarked that the Committee could spend more time on this topic at a later meeting.

7. State and Local Air Reports

Virginia

Mr. Ballou reported that Virginia submitted their letter to the EPA requesting a 1-year extension to meet the 2008 Ozone Standard.

District of Columbia

Ms. Daniels reported that the District of Columbia sent a similar extension letter to EPA.

Maryland

No report.

8. The next meeting is tentatively set for **Wednesday, July 29, 2015**. The next meeting may be held as a conference call unless action items are necessary on the agenda.

Attachment



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230
410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • www.mde.maryland.gov

Larry Hogan
Governor

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

May 19, 2015

David Snyder, Chair, Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Chairman Snyder:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) will not be able to attend the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee Meeting on May 20, 2015. This letter will serve as a proxy vote for MDE on two items.

1. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) votes in favor of the resolution to support the Regional Action Plan, Item #4: Regional Action Plan.
2. MDE requests that the vote on the final approval of the FY 2016 Work Program and Budget, Item #3: FY 2016 Work Program and Budget be deferred. Because of potential cuts to the MDE budget, we simply cannot support the proposed work program and budget at this time and will have to vote against final approval of the FY 2016 Work Program and Budget if the vote proceeds. We expect to finalize internal budget discussions to resolve this issue in the near future.

We also find it discouraging that MDE's effort to make sure that there is an honest and transparent system in place to insure that the transportation planning process in the region is considering some of the newer, very difficult environmental issues (such as the new ozone standard and climate change) is almost universally opposed by the transportation agencies in the region. We appreciate the efforts of the COG staff to resolve this issue.

Over the past two years your leadership as Chair of MWAQC has been vital to the air quality progress the region continues to make. It is my hope that MDE can work out the difficult issues it is facing and that we can continue to help you bring the area clean air.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tad Aburn", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

George (Tad) S. Aburn, Jr., Director
Air and Radiation Management Administration