



## AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 18, 2020  
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

### DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

**ACPAC ATTENDEES:** Tara Failey, Robin Lewis, Sarah Mazur, Jacqueline Norris, Guillermo Ortiz, Hyon Rah, Ron Rodriguez, Rodney Sobin, Maggie Stogner, Gabriel Thoumi, Glenna Tinney, Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, Elizabeth Vasatka, Diane Von Fleet

**COG STAFF:** Leah Boggs, Jeff King, Sunil Kumar, Steve Walz

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

*Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, Chair*

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made, and the March 16, 2020 ACPAC meeting summary was approved.

The chair noted that she will be leaving the meeting at 6:00 pm due to home renovations but may possibly return to the meeting. Leah Boggs of COG Staff will facilitate the meeting in the Chair’s absence.

#### 2. CLIMATE & ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS UPDATE

*Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, Chair*

The Chair noted that due to COVID-19 and its impacts, COG leadership has postponed the Climate & Energy Awards program this year. The program will restart next year in 2021.

#### 3. 2030 REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING UPDATE

*Steve Walz, COG Staff*

COG’s first regional goal of a 10% reduction in GHG emissions below 2005 levels by 2012 was achieved. Looking forward, there is a desire to be more aggressive in some areas. The 2030 goal could be 40 to 50%, with the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, if state measures are included and aggressive implementation of local actions. The proposed resilience goal of “resilient-ready” region is an interim goal by 2030, as the level of capital investment for full resilience is not seen yet. Local governments are taking the lead on making their data public; therefore, COG is providing the Methodology Report and the GHG Inventory Input-Output Summary to the committee for review.

#### Discussion

- The Chair and Members Glenna Tinney and Hyon Rah expressed support of an aggressive goal.
- Gabriel Thoumi put forth a motion for a 55% goal and Glenna Tinney seconded the motion.
- The committee recommended a 50% reduction goal.

Reasonable accommodations are provided on request, including alternative meeting material formats.  
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#### **4. 2015 OZONE STANDARD BASEYEAR INVENTORY AND COVID-19 IMPACT**

*Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Engineer*

- Sunil Kumar discussed the base year 2017 emissions inventory.
- The current ozone standard was published in 2015 at 70 parts per billion (ppb), with the Washington region designated as a “marginal” Nonattainment Area for 2015 ozone standard. The attainment deadline is August 3, 2021.
- The four major sources are point, area, nonroad and on-road.
- The largest source of VOC, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO emissions for the 2017 are nonpoint (57%), on-road (38%), and nonroad (49%) sources respectively.
- CO is not required but may be added for the maintenance plan.
- May 27 is the last date for Virginia’s initial public hearing & comment process, as well as when MWAQC Executive Committee approves the final inventory document.
- As of May 17<sup>th</sup>, there were only two Code Yellow days for ozone, the rest were all Code Green days.
- For PM<sub>2.5</sub>, there was only one Code Yellow day, rest all were Code Green days.
- NO<sub>2</sub>, ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels generally seemed lower after COVID-19 lockdown though it is too early to tell if all of that happened due to lower emissions. Role of weather needs to be investigated to determine how much that contributed towards lower pollutant levels.
- On-road and point sources are major sources of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions.
- For the on-road sector, heavy-duty traffic is not impacted by COVID as much as other vehicle traffic, although both heavy-duty and other vehicle traffic seem to have increased after a decrease during the early to mid-April.
- For the nonroad sector, emissions are expected to decline like other sectors as activities have declined.
- Draft 2020 ozone levels are mostly lower compared to 2019 both before and after lockdown.
- Draft 2020 PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels are generally lower compared to 2019. Role of weather needs to be studied.
- GHG emissions from the non-road sector assumes 40% average weekly reduction in traffic volume in the metropolitan Washington region during the period of shutdown (March 20 - June 19 – 25% of the year).
- GHG reductions will equal 2,051,963 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> based on 20,515,631 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> 2020 BAU for on-road sector emissions.
- Overall air quality impacts of the lockdown is expected to be more visible in summer, if it gets extended to those months.

#### **5. CLEAN AIR ACT FILM SCREENING: “UNBREATHABLE: THE FIGHT FOR HEALTHY AIR”**

*Maggie Stogner, American University*

*Danielle Wagner, American University*

*Diana Van Fleet, American Lung Association*

- “Unbreathable: The Fight for Healthy Air” is a 30-minute documentary that highlights the progress the nation has made in cleaning up air pollution since the Clean Air Act was passed 50 years ago. The film was created by American University’s (AU) Center for Environmental Filmmaking, in partnership with the American Lung Association and AU’s Center for Environmental Policy. ACPAC is prescreening the film prior to the launch and are asked to provide recommendations on how MWAQC, Clean Air Partners and CEEPC might use the film,

including potential audiences and what supplemental outreach materials would be needed, to address air quality in the metropolitan Washington region.

- The film is not open for public release yet; however the [Trailer](#) is available.
- June 18, Film Premiere at the DC Environmental Film Festival, [dceff.org](http://dceff.org)
- Due to technical difficulties in screening the full documentary, ACPAC members were given temporary access to view the film on their own and to provide comments on the following questions:
  - Who are the target audiences for this film in the Metropolitan Washington region?
  - In order to inspire diverse stakeholders in the region (i.e., students, local policy makers, health officials) to take action to strengthen air quality, what content and delivery format for accompanying materials would be useful?
  - How can environmental justice communities and their advocates use this film to raise awareness about the connections between equity and air quality?
- Members were asked to provide feedback to COG Staff.

## **6. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:30 PM.**

*Leah Boggs, COG Staff*

The meeting adjourned at 7:30. The next ACPAC meeting is July 20<sup>th</sup>.