



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 17, 2017
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC MEMBERS (*VIA PHONE)

- Leah Fisher
- Gretchen Goldman, Chair
- Seth Heald
- Robin Lewis*
- Sarah Mazur
- Maggie Shober
- Glenna Tinney
- Gabriel Thoumi
- Tamara Toles - O'Laughlin, Vice Chair
- John Howes
- Ron Rodriguez*

STAFF

- Amanda Campbell
- Maia Davis
- Stephen Walz

1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Chair

The meeting agenda was approved with a few changes in the order of agenda items to accommodate several attendees' schedules. The meeting summary was approved without changes.

2. UPDATES

- Air Quality Actions Analysis – Subgroup call in August

To follow up on the local measures discussions with MWAQC Chair Reimer, ACPAC was asked to form a subgroup this summer to form a scope of work description for a qualitative analysis of actions the region could take to get to more code green days. Gabriel Thoumi, Sarah Mazur, and Gretchen Goldman volunteered. A notice will be sent to the rest of the committee for additional volunteers.

- EJ Toolkit – Progress update (All)

Members shared their efforts to solicit feedback on the toolkit. Several members said that contacts were supportive of the toolkit but often did not have time to provide thorough feedback.

Ms. Davis received comments from a few jurisdictions and EPA, and changes were made accordingly.

Changes included the order of the sections and providing the context in the introduction that sections #1 and #2 (*Identifying Potentially Vulnerable Populations* and *Providing Meaningful Engagement Opportunities*) are essential, while the other sections describe implementation tools. Also, a few changes to the citizen science section were made. The toolkit will go to CEEPC and MWAQC at the joint meeting in July, and the supplemental sections will be finalized and posted later this fall as they are ready.

Members discussed ways to promote the release of the toolkit. Attendees agreed to continue the discussion on toolkit outreach at a future meeting.

3. CLIMATE LEADERSHIP AWARDS JUDGING

Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Chair (moderator)

Members discussed Climate Leadership Awards applications as part of the judging process. Awardees will be announced at the COG Board meeting in October.

4. OZONE SEASON STATUS AND NEW OZONE STANDARD BRIEFING

Brandon Fox, COG Air Quality Intern

In October 2015, EPA announced a new primary and secondary 8-hour ozone standard of 70ppb to protect human health and reduce ecological and agricultural effects. EPA is delaying final designations one year. Now designations will now be made October 1, 2018, based on 2015-2017 data (although litigation outcomes are pending). The Washington region is expected to be designated a marginal nonattainment area, with no attainment plan required. Thus far this year, the region has experienced 6 code orange days and 45 code yellow days due to ozone pollution. The Beltsville, Prince George's Equestrian Center, and McMillan NCORE monitors showed the highest readings of ozone levels on the six code orange days. The exceedance days saw high temperatures, sunny skies, light winds, and ozone build-up on previous days. Both local and regional emissions contributed.

COG recalculated air quality levels over the past 20 years using the 2015 ozone standard. Ozone exceedances have been decreasing over the last 20 years. Over time, fewer days above 90F have resulted in air quality exceedances due to decreasing overall emissions. Federal, state, and local programs have helped reduce emissions. Monitors show that the region's fine particles levels are well below the standard. Members can sign up for air quality alerts and see real time forecasts at <http://www.cleanairpartners.net/>.

5. ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- *Paris Agreement responses from COG members*

Staff presented the local responses to the announcement of US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement. ACPAC unanimously supported the concept of a resolution from CEEPC and MWAQC that would serve as a regional response statement of continued support of local and regional efforts to meet the greenhouse gas reduction goals set out in the Paris agreement and in the Climate & Energy Action Plan.

- *Army Corps of Engineers Study update:* The study launched on Tuesday the 18th.
- *VW Settlement:* COG is participating in EV infrastructure planning with Electrify America.

6. ADJOURN