MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
April 9, 2024, 10 AM to 11:20 AM

Present:
Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment
Anna Marshall, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Bill Eger, Arlington County
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment
Melissa Atwood, City of Alexandria
Richard Dooley, Arlington County
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Thomas Foster, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation

Staff:
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Alissa Boggs, COG/DEP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP
Kelsey Boatright, COG/DEP
Leah Boggs, COG/DEP
Mark Moran, COG/DTP
Robert Christopher, COG/DEP
Tim Masters, COGDEP
Wanda Owens, COG/DTP

1. **Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary**
   Roger Thunell called the meeting to order at 10 AM. The March 12th meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. **2024 Air Quality Forecast Protocol**
   Sunil briefed members on the 2024 air quality forecast protocol. In general, air quality forecasts will be developed for the next three days during Monday through Thursday and for 5 days on Friday to cover through weekends based on the 8-hour averaged ozone and the 24-hour averaged fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentrations. Forecasts will be issued for a greater number of days in case of holidays. Starting this year, the Washington region has been divided into four forecast subregions (NoVA/DC, Suburban DC, Maryland Piedmont, Southern Maryland). While COG. DOEE, and VDEQ will provide forecasts for the NoVA/DC subregion, MDE will do so for the rest three. COG staff will submit forecasts to EPA's Airnowtech website and COG, VDEQ, and Clean Air Partners websites will display forecasts for all four subregions. Forecasts will be sent through Enviroflash to participants that request forecast notifications. Participants can receive notifications for one or all four subregions and for a specific forecast threshold (Code Green, Code Yellow, Code range, etc). Real-time notifications will be sent to participants who

request them. Participants can receive these notifications for one or all subregions and for a specific air quality threshold (Code Orange and above only).

The National Weather Service (NWS) will automatically issue Air Quality Alerts (AQA) and Air Quality Index Statements for forecast areas in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. based upon the forecasts submitted through AIRNowTech. Air Quality Index Statements are issued daily with a description of the next-day forecast. AQAs are only issued when the next-day forecast is Code Orange or greater and are displayed on the NWS Hazards Map.

Previous day's peak AQI value and AQI color code will be automatically posted on the COG (www.mwcog.org) and Clean Air Partners (www.cleanairpartners.net) web sites for ozone and PM2.5.

3. FY2024-25 MWAQC Work Program & Budget

Jen Desimone brief members on the FY2024-25 MWAQC Work Program & Budget. Core work areas are

1. Emissions Inventory Development
2. Regional Control Measures
3. Transportation Conformity/Mobile Emissions Analysis
4. Public Participation
5. MWAQC Support
6. Program Management

Roger said there was a comment from the members of the general public that environmental justice issues are not being made high priority. He said he doesn't agree with that comment. EJ subcommittee has been established and an EJ plan is being developed. MWAQC-TAC can take up EJ issues if MWAQC requests it to do so. En agreed with Roger.

4. CPRG Update

Kelsey Boatright updated members on the CPRG. Two proposals were submitted to the EPA on April 1st. The first aimed to provide implementation funding for the CPRG, targeting government agencies, planning organizations, and federal tribes to implement projects. It focused on residential building sector upgrades, electrification of municipal fleets, and workforce development, with a focus on low-income communities. The second proposal, a coalition effort with lead applicants from the Richmond and Hampton Roads regional planning districts, focused on accelerating commercial and multifamily building decarbonization in Virginia. Both proposals prioritize greenhouse gas reduction and offer benefits to disadvantaged communities.

5. Final Multi-Pollutant Rule for Light-Duty & Medium-Duty Vehicles

Tim Masters briefed members on the final multi-pollutant rule for light-duty and medium-duty vehicles that EPA announced on March 20, 2024. The final rule builds upon EPA's final standards for federal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks for model years 2023 through 2026 and leverages advances in clean car technology. These standards will phase in over MY 2027 through 2032. The standards establish technology-neutral, performance-based standards for cars, SUVs, light pickup trucks, and medium-duty large pickups and vans for model years 2027-2032. EPA projects that cumulative CO2 reductions as a result of the new standards are approximately 7.2 billion metric tons over the life of the program. In 2055, EPA estimates harmful pollutants will be significantly reduced compared to 2055 levels without the final standards) including: 8,700 tons of particulate matter, 36,000 tons of nitrogen oxides, and 150,000 tons of volatile organic compounds.

6. State/Local Updates

There were no updates.