

Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).

Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 14, 2008
Room 3
5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Coalition for Environmental Equity
Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, Episcopal Stewardship of Creation – Virginia
Deron Lovaas, Maryland Urban
Brian Holmes, Maryland Highway Contractors Association
Larry Zargoza, Northern Virginia
Bill Butler, Mirant
Lee Schoenecker, APA
Ann Brown, Washington Academy of Sciences
Jessica Daniels, District of Columbia
(By phone): Peter Owen, Virginia Urban

COG Staff:

Joan Rolfs, COG DEP
Jeff King, COG DEP

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

There was intense discussion about meeting protocol in the absence of a vice chair; it was concluded that leadership would default to a former chair.

Vice Chair Deron Lovaas called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm and the Agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of Minutes

The unedited version of the December minutes was brought to the meeting. Action was deferred to the next meeting.

Rodney requested that a video or audio version of meetings be posted on the COG website because minutes are not sufficient.

3. Staff report on MWAQC, TAC, and CCSC

MWAQC met on December 12. The draft SIP was approved. State hearings have been scheduled for January and February. (See handout for dates).

Julie mentioned that Jill did not follow through with the motion made at the December AQPAC meeting to ask MWAQC for follow-up on a request made by Nancy Floreen regarding River Terrace. Deron suggested discussing the matter at the next meeting when Jill is present.

TAC met on January 8. They made technical edits to the inventory SIP for PM2.5; for example, emissions for open burning were overstated and were changed to zero. TAC's edits should be made an integral part of future public hearings. VA DEQ should comment on them since they have already written their attainment modeling report.

TAC will be meeting on January 16th to review the 2007 constrained long-term plan and the conformity analysis, which can be found at:

http://www.mwcog.org/transportation/activities/quality/draft_conformity.asp.

MWAQC sent a letter to the TPB (Transportation Planning Board; see handout). AQPAC was surprised to see that, according to the letter, the conformity analysis just completed meets both the 8-hour and 1-hour PM budgets. The committee would like to review the conformity analysis to ensure that potential impacts have not been overlooked. Lee expressed it is likely that the TPB is very concerned about conformity because their transportation dollars depend on it. Joan mentioned that mobile budgets are set at the end of the year, so they may not conform to standards when unplanned projects come into play. The TPB will meet on Wednesday to discuss the letter.

Five stakeholder candidates were nominated to the TAC but have not been officially appointed. Rodney expressed concern that (1) the public and (2) DC are not represented. Larry said that Flint Webb, a nominee, actually provides significant public outreach and suggested that AQPAC support his involvement. In order for DC to be represented, someone from DC needs to complete an application to TAC; applicants need to be solicited.

The state air agencies asked for comments about daily fine particles in the SIP. (There is dispute about the annual PM 2.5 standard, and the states are suing EPA about having to do a SIP at all.) Virginia is asking to be found in attainment, since they had no exceedances this past year and are expecting to be in attainment in 2009 based on modeling. DC is asking to be in nonattainment.

CCSC: There is a CCSC meeting on January 23. They will discuss joining the COOL Capital Challenge (<http://www.coolcapitalchallenge.org/>) to reduce the region's carbon footprint.

4. Discussion of draft PM2.5 SIP, agreement on comment letter, and dates of the public meeting

Deron asked that all comments be addressed to the chair to avoid dispute.

Draft SIP: Lee asked Julie to explain her suggested additions to AQPAC's letter to MWAQC. In summary:

- Third paragraph – Section 2.2 of the SIP should quantify the health benefits of meeting the PM2.5 standards for the region. This is the kind of information the public wants to know. Otherwise, why would the section be included in the SIP?
 - o No SIP does this. Health benefits are quantified using extensive technical analysis when a new standard is developed. The paragraph could focus on uncertainties; is the standard being met with confidence?
 - o To address the concern, the SIP could explain what happens when attainment is met. Language can be taken from EPA's preamble to the PM2.5 standards.

- Lee offered an amendment that the last clause, “only meet a chemical standard,” be deleted from the additions.
 - Brian suggested an addendum: add a “.” Instead of a “;” before “only.”
- Fourth paragraph – Section 2.6 does not define OCMs, nor does it explain what they have to do with sulfates.
 - Brian suggested changing the question to a positive statement.
 - The language needs to be clearer. Larry suggested adding a sentence that explains the chemistry that occurs when OCMs and aerosols react and the contribution to overall PM.
- Fifth paragraph – People in Northern Virginia are concerned about whether TRONA, an additive that prevents the release of SO₂ from power plant stacks, actually makes emissions worse. They have not found research that proves otherwise.
 - Ann and Larry agreed that it is likely that EPA has studied TRONA extensively.
 - The committee agreed to mention the concern about TRONA “and other additives.”
- Second page, second full paragraph – Section 9.4.4 questions the location of site monitors.
- Second page, third paragraph – The margins of safety in Section 9.4.5 are not reasonable.
 - The committee wants assurance that the design values include an adequate margin of safety. The language is not clear.

Deron suggested that a bulleted list of concerns would make the letter more readable. Issues should be ordered according to priority and with a call for action at the end. The tone of the letter from beginning to end needs to be made consistent. He will make changes to the letter for approval at the next meeting.

5. Election of 2008 AQPAC Officers

The Nominating Committee (Lee Schoenecker, Larry Zaragoza, and Deron Lovaas) selected Jill as chair and Deron as vice chair. There were no additional nominations from the floor. Ann made a motion to cast a unanimous slate. Lee moved the motion. Larry seconded the motion. AQPAC approved the motion.

6. New Business

Lee asked where the CCSC currently stands. Joan expects they will set regional climate change goals and make recommendations to COG by March.

Rodney is concerned about air impacts as a result of the new stadium, which he said is technically being built on the National Mall. He discussed cars; the waste of time and money; health care in DC; a Wall Street Journal report on energy. He felt like the AQPAC efforts are a waste of time and members need to put more effort into the committee.

7. Next Meeting

The next AQPAC meeting will take place on February 11. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.