



MEETING SUMMARY: DECEMBER 20, 2017

MWAQC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES IN ATTENDANCE (*on phone):

Hans Riemer, Montgomery County (Chair)
Del Pepper, City of Alexandria (Vice Chair)*
Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County*
Robert Day, College Park*
Jason Groth, Charles County*
Michael DeMarco, City of Fairfax*
Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt*
Kathy Smith, Fairfax County*
Linda Smyth, Fairfax County*
Dave Snyder, Falls Church

Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Cecily Beall, District of Columbia
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment*
Stan Edwards, Montgomery County*
Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment*
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality*
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Steve Charles, Maryland Department of Transportation
Matt Dernuga, representing Mary Lehman, Prince George's County
Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Chair
Joshua Fleitman, representing Brandon Todd, District of Columbia (Vice Chair)
Regina Moore, Maryland Department of Transportation
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Programs
Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs
Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs
Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
Ron Milone, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Jane Posey, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, APPROVE MINUTES, CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chair Riemer opened the meeting at 10:12am. There were no public comments. The meeting summary from the September 2017 MWAQC meeting was accepted with no changes.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (*Cecily Beall, DC Department of Energy and Environment*)

At their most recent meeting, MWAQC-TAC finalized responses to comments received on the redesignation request and maintenance plan. TAC considered and supports the comment letter on the Clean Power Plan and discussed the What We Can Do project. TAC heard a presentation on Visualize 2045 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Plan.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) (*Gretchen Goldman, Chair*)

ACPAC's Climate and Energy Leadership Awards winners this year, which were Mundo Verde Public Charter School, Arlington AIRE, and City Blossoms, were recognized in a ceremony at the October 11 COG Board meeting. Videos of winning projects are on the [COG website](#). In November, ACPAC identified meeting topics for 2018 such as anti-idling initiatives, climate resilience, environmental health, and carbon taxes. ACPAC members discussed the clean power plan comment letter being considered today, and enthusiastically support the letter.

A. Clean Air Partners (CAP) (*Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs*)

CAP held its 7th annual slogan contest for students in grades 4-8. The winning slogans are "Clean the air we all share" (Poole Middle School, Montgomery County) and "Walk or bike, take a hike. Preserve the air to show you care" (Blue Ridge Middle School, Loudoun County). CAP's new website will be up January 2. The poster contest, open to grades 4-8, will launch after the new year. CAP is planning the Annual Awards event, to be held in May.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Hans Riemer, MWAQC Chair

The Nominating Committee, which consisted of Councilmembers Michael DeMarco from Fairfax County, Brandon Todd from the District of Columbia, and Hans Riemer from Montgomery County, has nominated the following 2018 slate of officers:

MWAQC Chair: Councilmember Hans Riemer, Montgomery County

District of Columbia Vice Chair: Councilmember Brandon Todd, District of Columbia

Maryland Vice Chair: Councilmember Robert Day, City of College Park

Virginia Vice Chair: Councilmember Del Pepper, City of Alexandria

MWAQC members unanimously accepted the proposed 2018 slate of officers listed above.

4. COMMENT LETTER – CLEAN POWER PLAN

Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director

EPA is holding a public comment period on their proposal to repeal the Clean Power Plan, a nationwide plan to cut carbon pollution from power plants 30 percent by 2030. The Clean Power Plan would have produced substantial air quality and public health co-benefits. Following guidance from the Chair, COG staff developed a joint MWAQC, CEEPC and Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee comment letter with input from the same committees, ACPAC, TAC, and state air agencies. The letter does not include legal arguments, since the District of Columbia is submitting legal comments.

The comment letter was also updated with evolving information associated with the repeal, such as the timing and number of hearings. Members suggested including information about what the Clean Power Plan repeal means to the general public and the fiscal impacts of climate change that the plan would help reduce in the long term.

All present members approved the letter, with the exception of Maryland Department of the Environment and Department of Transportation representatives, who abstained.

5. 2008 OZONE STANDARD MAINTENANCE PLAN AND REDESIGNATION REQUEST

Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Engineer

Chair Riemer said that the committee will now consider approving the Redesignation Request & Maintenance Plan for the 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQS) standard for EPA submittal. He acknowledged the work and dedication of state and local members, their staff and COG staff that developed the draft plan.

Mr. Kumar presented an overview of the elements in the plan. The metropolitan Washington region met the 2008 ozone standard starting in 2015. (The region has experienced an overall downward trend in ozone pollution. At present the design value is 2 parts per billion over the 2015 standard.) In July, MWAQC approved of the plan for public hearing and comment. Public hearings were held this fall. States responded to comments, and recommends that MWAQC provide final approval of the plan for EPA submittal.

The Redesignation Request shows attainment, and the Maintenance Plan demonstrates compliance for the milestone years 2014, 2025, and 2030. The plan sets out contingency measures to be put in place should the region exceed the 2008 ozone standard in the future. The plan also contains air quality data, emissions inventories, and mobile emissions budgets to ensure continued compliance. The inventory data includes projections for the milestone years for point sources, area sources, nonroad sources and on-road sources. NO_x and CO emissions are expected to decrease over the period, and VOC emissions decrease initially and rise slightly in the out years.

The plan contains Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets (MVEBs) that set the maximum allowable emissions from motor vehicles. Regional transportation plans must not result in emissions above this level. The plan contains 'Conformity Buffers' that allow for a slightly higher level of future mobile emissions to account for modeling irregularities and unforeseen changes in data or planning assumptions. Should the region exceed the 2008 standard in the future, contingency measures would be triggered. Contingency measures include short-term actions such as retiring a unit in a Maryland power plant and long-term measures such as adopting the OTC model rule for consumer products in Virginia. In response to questions, COG staff explained that the State Air Agencies agreed to the suite of measures even if some were needed in one state but not the others since overall, each of the states were responsible for implementing at least one should the contingency measures be triggered. Mr. Walz clarified that the plan does not rely on new federal actions, but if current regulations are rolled back, it could trigger state and local contingency actions.

This presentation, including a summary of a few of the comments from Sierra Club and EPA and responses from the states, as well as all of the documents associated with the plan are available on the [MWAQC event site](#).

Mr. Walz added that the EPA has not yet made designations under the 2015 standard, but that the region is expected to be designated 'marginal attainment' based on 2015-2017 data. In that case, the region would need to submit a base year inventory and work towards attainment but would not be required to develop a State Implementation Plan.

Chair Riemer suggested that the states could agree to work together towards achieving a 65 parts per billion ozone design value. Mr. Walz said that the MWAQC Bylaws would allow that action.

The 2008 Ozone Standard Redesignation and Maintenance Plan was approved unanimously.

6. WHAT WE CAN DO

Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Planner

Gretchen Goldman, Chair ACPAC

ACPAC's involvement in this 'What we can do' project was sparked by a conversation between Chair Riemer and ACPAC members at their April meeting, and further discussed at MWAQC meetings this year. MWAQC asked ACPAC to explore options for a project that would identify and analyze the types of measures that could help the region get to no code orange unhealthy air days. ACPAC formed an Air Quality Subgroup to develop a project description, looking initially at what would be involved in either a qualitative or quantitative approach. ACPAC was briefed by MDE staff Brian Hug at their November meeting, which was very helpful in understanding all the layers of data and analysis and the level of effort needed to run air quality models. Ultimately, APCAC recommended focusing on the qualitative analysis. TAC had several comments at their November and December meetings and changes have been made accordingly.

The work scope involves identifying potential NOx reduction measures along with their estimated cost and degree of NOx reduction benefit, and overall feasibility. The project will draw on previous COG work, such as the Gold Book and the Multi-Sector Working Group and available literature. Two to four priority measures will be identified based on findings and presented in a report for TAC and MWAQC feedback. The study should consider future planned actions such as opportunities relating to Electrify America's programs.

COG staff identified existing funding in this years' program budget for COG staff resources as a cost-effective way to complete the analysis in lieu of contracting for the study. Ms. Goldman asked the committee for feedback on the proposed project.

Members suggested exploring actions such as green buildings, mobile electrification, Maryland Public Service Commission's potential rule to increase renewable energy on the PJM power grid, and appliance standards.

Ms. Turner pointed out the projected 40 percent decrease in NOx emissions between 2014 and 2025 that should be celebrated. She said that the report should acknowledge that some actions are not under state and local control.

Ms. Goldman said that the report is intended to strategically prioritize local actions to inform current work. Chair Riemer and other members agreed that the information generated by the project would be useful, and recommended moving the project forward.

7. STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS

DC: Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy and Environment:

The state plan for the Volkswagen Settlement funds will be released for public comment in late January.

MD: Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment:

No report.

VA: Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality:

Virginia is in the process of submitting the paperwork to serve as the beneficiary of funding from the Volkswagen Settlement. Electrify America reportedly plans to announce an RFP for electric vehicle infrastructure in January or February. Virginia's carbon trading program will be released for public comment soon.

8. ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.