



## AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 25, 2021  
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

### DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

**ACPAC ATTENDEES:** Tara Failey, Hilary Lewis, Robin Lewis, Sarah Mazur, Guillermo Ortiz, Natalie Pien, Rodney Sobin, Gabriel Thoumi, Glenna Tinney, Tamara Toles O’Laughlin

**CANDIDATES:** Clair August, Amy Bailey, Scott Barstow, Tiziana Bottino, Neil Boyer, Randy Freed, Kamita Gray, Robert Jordan, Chloe Koseff, Ed Monroe, Audrey Nwaze, Jan Opper, Era Pandya, Greg Snyder, Kasparas Spokas, James Waller, Markus Walther

**COG STAFF:** Leah Boggs, Jen Desimone, Jeff King, Kanti Srikanth

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

*Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, Chair*

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made by current members and candidates. The November 16, 2020 ACPAC meeting summary was approved with no amendments.

Leah Boggs announced that Steve Walz retired in December 2020.

#### 2. 2021 COG PRIORITIES

*Leah Boggs, COG Staff*

Leah Boggs presented COG-wide priorities, as well as those for the climate, energy and air programs.

##### COG-wide Priorities

- Integrated multi-sector planning and implementation of the 2030 Climate and Energy plan

##### CEEPC/Climate Priorities

- Support for local implementation of 2030 Climate and Energy Plan.
- Support local action cost effectiveness.
- Continued support local climate action plan development.
- Zero Emission Buildings panel/roundtable.
- Community Choice Aggregation.
- Zero Emission Vehicles.
- Transportation Mitigation and Resilience Studies.
- Tree Canopy Guidance.

##### BEEAC/Energy Priorities

- Building and energy system decarbonization.
- Energy resiliency and climate adaption.
- High performance buildings.

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- Transportation mitigation and resiliency.

#### Air Quality Priorities

- Apply for an extension of the attainment date for 2015 ozone.
- Continue to work with TPB on conformity on the Visualize 2045 plan update.
- Transportation Priorities.
- Visualize 2045 Update.
- TPB Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Studies

#### Discussion

- A candidate requested getting more details on the listed priorities. COG Staff posted additional information in the chat and will send a follow-up email to interested participants.
- There was discussion concerned using fruit trees to not only address climate spikes, but also food insecurity and nutrition issues typically facing marginalized communities. COG's regional tree canopy committee is attempting to build out it's urban agriculture program.

### **3. ACPAC PLANNING DISCUSSION: 2021 OUTLOOK AND PRIORITIES**

*Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, Chair; Members, and COG Staff*

The Chair presented the following committee priorities:

- Ozone planning - an extension of the attainment date for 2015 ozone.
- Ozone season update and COVID-19 impacts.
- 2030 Action Plan implementation and EJ interface.
- Updates on local climate action plans across the region.
  - Fairfax
  - Frederick County
  - Montgomery County
  - Rockville
  - Prince George's County
- 2021 Climate and Energy Awards continuity.
- Regional transportation impacts to air quality including clean cars, buses initiatives, resiliency and adaptation.

#### Discussion

- There was discussion concerning the importance of continuing the Climate and Energy Awards Program and its linkage to the environmental justice.

### **4. CLEAN AIR PARTNERS PRIORITIES UPDATE**

*Jen Desimone, COG Staff*

Jen Desimone provided an overview of Clean Air Partners and the 2021 priorities.

Clean Air Partners is a public-private partnership formed in 1995 and comprised of 30 organizations from:

- Local governments (DC, MD, and VA),
- State transportation and environmental agencies.
- Businesses and major employers and

- Advocacy groups (health, environmental, education, and transportation).

The program was founded by COG and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) to improve the Baltimore-Washington region's air quality and reduce GHG emissions through voluntary actions and to increase public awareness about the health effects of air quality.

Due to COVID-19, in 2020 there was a shift to focus on virtual and broadcast news channels, targeting parents on social media and shifted messaging to focus primarily on the public health impact of air pollution and the cost-saving benefits of simple steps the public can take.

Activities and campaigns throughout the year included:

- Air Quality Awareness Week, May 4-8: promoted activities and challenges that parents could participate in with their children,
- Ozone Action Week, August 3-7: heightened awareness during the hottest time of the summer
- Winter Eco-driving: promoted money-saving tips to reduce mobile source pollution every Tuesday throughout November and December and
- Education Program Activities: 2020 slogan contest, 2021 poster contest and 2021 science fair.

### Discussion

COG Staff will connect the Clean Air Partners' Education Program Manager, Rebecca Davis, to Prince William County Schools' Sustainability Council.

## **5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

### *Nominating Committee*

Gabriel Thoumi, Hilary Lewis and Gretchen Goldman nominated Guillermo Ortiz representing Virginia and Tara Failey representing DC for the Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. There were no floor nominations. The two nominations were not contested and was voted in by a show of hands.

Chair Ortiz introduced himself, explaining that he recently took a position at the University of California; but, has been working remotely during the pandemic. His expertise is in the intersection of sustainability, climate policy and climate justice.

Leah Boggs reviewed the appointment process for the new candidates. Appointments to ACPAC will be made by February 10, 2021 and candidates will be notified of the decision by February 19, 2021.

Outgoing members expressed warm regards and salutations to members.

## **6. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN**

The next ACPAC is March 15, 2021. The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.