

**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee**  
**Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**  
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**DRAFT MINUTES OF September 27, 2006 MEETING**

**Attendance:**

**Members and Alternates**

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Hon. John Britton, City of Rockville  
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County  
Ricardo Canizales, Prince William County  
Jill Engel-Cox, JCET/AQPAC  
Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County  
Victoria Greenfield, Charles County  
Maurice Keys, District of Columbia Department of Transportation  
Hon. Leta Mach, Greenbelt City Council  
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia City Council, MWAQC Chair  
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County  
Hon. Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church  
JoAnne Sorenson, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Jim Sydnor, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Stanley Tracey, District of Columbia Department of Environment  
Hon. Patrice Winter, City of Fairfax

**Others Present:**

Robert Ballenger, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Charley Baummer, MWAA  
Charlene Bearisto, District Department of the Environment  
Kevin Black, FHWA  
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, AQPAC  
Deirdre Elvis-Peterson, District of Columbia Department of Environment  
Barbara Hardy, Fairfax County  
Sandra Jackson, FHWA  
Randy Mosier, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Pam Parker, Montgomery County  
Kanti Srikanth, VDOT  
Julie Thomas, National Park Service  
Flint Webb, Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations  
Carl Winstead, Fairfax County

**Staff:**

Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP	Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP	Mike Clifford, COG/DTP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP	Erin Morrow, COG/DTP

### **1. Call to Order, Public Comment Period**

Chair Mendelson called the meeting to order at 12:21 p.m. There were no public comments.

### **2. Approval of Minutes, Announcements**

Mr. Mendelson called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the July 26, 2006 meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Mr. Mendelson made several announcements. Chair Mendelson gave tribute to Don Wambsgans, who passed away on August 15, 2006. Don was a long-standing member and founder of MWAQC. He was the Program Manager for the District of Columbia's Air Quality Division and his career with the District government spanned 34 years. Don was an exceptional advocate for the District and the health of its citizens through his dedicated public service as a manager and leader in air pollution management and regulation. On behalf of MWAQC, Mr. Mendelson expressed sympathy to the District Department of Environment for their loss. In losing Don, the region has lost a leader committed to improving the environment and the health of its citizens.

Stan Tracey has been appointed Acting Program Manager for the Air Quality Division. Mr. Mendelson offered congratulations and support for the task ahead. Mr. Mendelson also congratulated Jim Sydnor, who was appointed Air Division Director for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

This week marks the official end of the 2006 ozone season. Today MWAQC leadership held a press briefing to talk about the ozone season and the progress the region is making towards attainment.

EPA announced a new fine particle standard last week. The announcement came after EPA held a series of public meetings and received comments on the proposed standard. Members were provided with a fact sheet describing the new standard. EPA will keep the annual standard the same but lower the 24-hour standard from 65  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to 35  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . EPA designations for the new standard will be proposed in late 2009 and final designations will take effect April 2010. Staff will provide more information about how the Washington region is expected to fare under the new standard.

### **3. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Report of the Technical Advisory Committee**

Mr. Sydnor reported on the activities of the TAC. He referred members to the one page summary of relevant policy issues and said that most of the items are on the agenda today for discussion. The SIP schedule was adjusted to account for emissions inventory inputs that are needed from outside the region. The modeling effort is planned to be completed before December. The Conformity Subcommittee met to review the results and discuss potential comments on the conformity analysis for the 2006 CLRP and 2007-2012 TIP. The Local Government Initiatives Subcommittee is working to assess which local programs may be included in the attainment plan. The TAC also received a report on the status of the non-road equipment survey that could be

eligible for emission controls. States also provided an update on regulatory development, including rules to address Reasonably Available Control Technologies (RACT) and EPA's Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR).

**B. Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee**

Ms. Engel-Cox, Chair of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC), reported on a recent meeting. AQPAC has been considering recommending a number of short- and long-term control measures. Another area of focus is public outreach. Two new brochures are being developed on air quality and ozone attainment planning. AQPAC will also co-host a town meeting at COG on air quality on October 19 from 5 to 7 pm. There will be a panel of experts and the public will be invited to provide input on the SIP and air quality improvement. She invited members to participate and to announce the meeting to constituents.

**C. Report of the Clean Air Partners**

Ms. Linda Smyth reported. The end-of-season survey measuring awareness of air quality issues was conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University in mid-September. The final report will be available in October. The air quality curriculum consultant (Environmental Education Exchange) has completed the first two units of the six-unit curriculum. The consultant will be completing the other four units by early November and piloting the curriculum in Northern Virginia schools later this year.

Clean Air Partners received \$142,500 in sponsorships for the 2006 public awareness campaign, exceeding the goal of \$100,000 by 42%. The additional funding was used to purchase an extra week of radio advertising in the Baltimore and Washington markets and design bus and rail ads for WMATA, which were run for a two-month period (Aug-Sep) at no charge as part of WMATA's sponsorship package.

The Marketing Committee is working with the marketing consultant (PRR) on redesigning the Clean Air Partners logo. The new logo will be unveiled as part of the 10-Year Anniversary preparations in 2007.

The Managing Director conducted five one-on-one interviews with local printers in August to discuss the pilot project concept and complete the "Voluntary Air Quality Action Survey for Printers." Input will be used to modify the survey instrument and an expanded survey of nearly 1,000 printers will be conducted in September. In August 2006, EPA issued a proposed rule to limit VOC emissions by lithographic printers. Clean Air Partners is working with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality to determine how this might affect voluntary efforts under consideration.

Clean Air Partners Chairperson, Kim Greer of Washington Gas, hosted an orientation session for new Board members in August. The session provided an introduction to regional air quality issues, the health effects of ground-level ozone and particle pollution, and FY 2007 initiatives.

**D. Report of the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC)**

Mr. Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment, reported on the IAQC. The IAQC did not meet in the last month. Recent activity at the OTC is related to programs being considered by the IAQC. States are actively working on regulatory initiatives advanced by the OTC, including rules

covering consumer products and adhesives/sealants. Other initiatives recently considered at OTC meetings include high electricity demand day and multipollutant emission reduction programs. The OTC will hold its Fall meeting in mid-November. OTC initiatives on small stationary sources like cement kilns and asphalt plants are also still being developed.

#### **4. EPA's New PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)**

Sunil Kumar reported on EPA's new NAAQS for PM<sub>2.5</sub>. EPA promulgated a final rule that lowers the 24-hour standard from 65 µg/m<sup>3</sup> to 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) had recommended that EPA adopt a lower annual standard between 13-14 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and develop a new standard for PM<sub>2.5-10</sub>. EPA decided to retain the annual standard at 15 µg/m<sup>3</sup>, and did not adopt a new standard for PM<sub>2.5-10</sub>. Compared to the old 24-hour NAAQS, the region is in attainment. However, based on the new 24-hour standard of 35 µg/m<sup>3</sup> the region is currently in nonattainment. The region must prepare a plan by 2013 to attain the standard by 2015. The timeline for the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP remains unchanged.

In response to questions, Sunil Kumar said that the annual DV is based on the average for 3 consecutive years. Phil Mendelson asked whether PM<sub>2.5</sub> is included in the SIP currently being developed. Joan Rohlf said the current SIP is for ozone only, but many of the measures included will provide PM<sub>2.5</sub> benefits. A fine particle SIP for the annual standard will be developed starting early next year which is due in 2008. Mr. Aburn said that EPA modeling predicts that the Washington DC region will attain the new daily standard by 2015.

#### **5. Ozone Season Report**

Ms. Desimone provided an ozone season report. There have been 22 days with air pollution levels in the unhealthy range. 19 days were for ozone and 3 days were for fine particles. Most orange and above days were in July and August where there were 15 days. There were three multiday air pollution episodes this year. Significant multi-day episodes occurred at the end of May, mid-July, and late August.

Jen Desimone presented an analysis of the historical distribution of air pollution episodes. She showed charts covering two four year periods from 1999-2002 and 2003-2006. Between 1999 and 2002, there were 114 days with code orange or above. Between 2003 and 2006 there were 63 days with code orange or above. These results suggest that local and regional controls have led to 44 percent fewer unhealthy air days since 2002.

Since the 8-hour ozone standard was established in 1997, the number of 8-hour ozone exceedance days averages 24 per year. There were only 19 days in 2006 even though this year was warmer than normal. There is also an overall downward trend in the number of exceedances per year. Although recent values remain above the federal standard, the 8-hour ozone Design Value for the region has also declined by about 16 percent. Exceedances also occur less frequently during days with temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit and the overall spatial extent of exceedances across the region is smaller. High elevation monitors are registering lower concentrations indicating reduced transport of pollution into the region.

#### **6. Air Quality Plan (SIP) Status**

Joan Rohlf discussed the status of the air quality plan. Due to delays in regional emissions inventories needed for attainment modeling, the overall SIP schedule has been delayed by a

month. The draft SIP is planned for presentation to TAC in November and to MWAQC in January 2007. The 8-hour ozone SIP is due to EPA in June 2007. Staff have been preparing draft sections of the SIP and are now waiting for the modeling results. A survey of potential local voluntary initiatives has been completed and staff are working with local governments to secure formal commitment letters for the SIP. MWAQC will hear a presentation on potential contingency measures in November. There may not be a need to hold an MWAQC meeting in both November and December; a decision on a date will be made in October.

Revised inventories are being received from other areas of the Ozone Transport Region and VISTAS region, and are currently being incorporated into the attainment modeling effort being handled by Virginia DEQ. Phil Mendelson asked if the current proposed schedule will continue to pose problems given the reliance on information from entities outside the region. Jim Sydnor said that the current delay may lead to an improved modeling inventory that is consistent with what other modeling centers are using. Ultimately, even if the regional planning organizations are unable to provide timely inputs, Virginia DEQ is committed to completing the attainment modeling by the end of the year.

#### **7. State Regulatory Initiatives: Report**

Tad Aburn reported for Maryland. One of the top regulatory priorities in Maryland is implementation of the Healthy Air Act, which is currently on the agenda of the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) Committee. MDE has asked that the regulation be expedited through the review process. Over the next several months, Maryland will also move forward with regulations to implement EPA's Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), Mercury Rule, and to update the New Source Review (NSR) regulation. Maryland will also initiate the regulatory process for the three new OTC initiatives (consumer products, adhesives/sealants, and portable fuel containers). A second tier of regulatory initiatives is moving forward on a slower schedule that includes rules covering industrial, commercial, and institutional boilers, asphalt plants, and cement kilns, among others.

Jim Sydnor reported that Virginia is addressing many of the same control strategy regulatory requirements as Maryland. The CAIR rule will be on the agenda of the State Air Pollution Control Board for adoption in December. The mercury rule has been on the Board agenda three times and there has been some controversy about specific requirements. Virginia will move forward with the OTC VOC regulations as soon as there is a model rule completed by the OTC.

Stan Tracey reported that the District is working on the CAIR, OTC VOC, and NSR regulations and hopes to have the regulations completed and adopted by early spring 2007. The District of Columbia may not need to adopt a mercury rule because there are no coal-fired power plants in the District. In response to a question, Stan Tracey said that the only coal-fired facility in the District is the Capitol Heating Plant which does not produce electricity.

#### **8. Local Government Initiatives: Survey**

Jeff King provided a report on development of local government initiatives for inclusion in the SIP. Over the summer members of the Technical Advisory Committee's Local Government Initiatives Subcommittee met to identify and develop priority local measures for inclusion in the SIP. In August, a survey was circulated to collect information on implementation of these priority local measures in each of our jurisdictions. The completed survey forms were to be submitted by

September 22. Jeff King provided a one-page summary sheet that lists the programs identified by each of the reporting jurisdictions.

Staff will review and analyze the survey results to develop a potential proposal for the Local Bundle. The Local Government Initiatives Subcommittee will meet on October 4 to review a draft proposal and to discuss any outstanding implementation or commitment issues. The proposed local bundle will be presented to the Technical Advisory Committee for consideration on October 10. In order for the bundle to be included in the SIP, those jurisdictions wishing to be included will need to send a commitment letter to the states. Given the delay in the SIP process, commitment letters from each of the jurisdictions will be needed by the November/December timeframe.

Dave Snyder acknowledged the role of COG and staff in providing a forum for local governments to come together to develop a part of the solution to the air quality challenge in the region. He also said that it is important to include the public in contributing to the solution to these challenges. Local government and private citizen contributions together with state and federal actions combine for form a comprehensive approach to address the air quality problem.

Jill Engel-Cox asked about the process used to identify the priority local measures and whether local governments have had the opportunity to make additional suggestions about what to include as a local air quality initiative. Jeff King said that before the survey was conducted local government representatives were asked to review a master list of potential measures and indicate which programs to pursue for further development.

JoAnne Sorenson asked about credits for energy efficiency measures. Jeff King said that like the wind energy purchase measure, analysis of the measures must link the reduced energy demand to emissions at power plants, and the states will need to agree to retire NOx allowances to generate the commensurate emission reduction credit. COG is also receiving technical assistance from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to develop protocols for estimating the air emissions benefits of energy efficiency measures.

Phil Mendelson asked whether the District would be providing any voluntary measures reports for the bundle. Stan Tracey said that the District does have a number of programs that would fit well with the bundling concept and that a report should be prepared. Maurice Keys said that DOT has been working with the D.C. Department of Environment to assess which programs could be advanced for the SIP.

Leta Mach asked whether there are additional jurisdictions for which reports are pending that need to be considered. Jeff King said that the survey summary lists reports pending for those jurisdictions that have indicated that additional time is needed to complete the response. There are also several jurisdictions that have not been actively involved in the MWAQC process where survey responses are not anticipated.

JoAnne Sorenson said that the LED traffic signal reports for Northern Virginia should be closely examined to make sure that VDOT and local municipality signals are not being double counted.

Tad Aburn asked about the overall coverage of the responses and whether staff believed that local jurisdictions were being conservative. He clarified that if there are any shortfalls in the total overall bundle commitment, it is the responsibility of the states to backfill with additional reductions. Jeff King said that a robust set of programs is being proposed for inclusion in the bundle, including some that are fairly aggressive such as green building and urban heat island mitigation initiatives. He said that the survey results do not equate to formal commitments, so continued dialogue with the local jurisdictions is needed.

In response to a question from Nancy Floreen, Jeff King said that the potential commitments listed in the summary table would be above and beyond the current set of commitments contained in the 1-hour ozone SIP bundle. Joan Rohlf's said that MWAQC will hear a report of the recommended package of local measures in October and will ultimately approve the bundle as part of the overall SIP at a subsequent meeting.

In response to a question from Howard Simons, Jeff King said that the base year for the ozone SIP is 2002, so the bundle will cover measures implemented since 2002 that have not already been credited.

#### **9. State Air Agencies' Report**

Stan Tracey reported for the District. The NO<sub>x</sub> RACT recertification regulation was released for public comment on September 23.

Jim Sydnor reported for Virginia. There is a public hearing scheduled for the RACT recertification next week.

Tad Aburn reported for Maryland. Maryland is interested in developing a high electricity demand day initiative as well as a code orange/code red telecommuting program. Phil Mendelson asked that staff begin work to scope out these potential measures.

#### **10. Other Business**

In response to a request from Joan Rohlf's, members authorized the Executive Committee to take action on a comment letter being prepared on the conformity determination for the 2006 CLRP and 2007-2012 TIP.

Joan Rohlf's said that an Air Quality Town Meeting will be held on October 19 from 5 to 7pm.

#### **11. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn**

The next meeting will take place on October 25. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.