

**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 December 14, 2011 MEETING**

**Attendance:**

**Members and Alternates**

Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment  
Hon. John Britton, City of Rockville  
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation  
Jessica Daniels, District Department of the Environment  
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt  
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia  
Hon. Ron Peppe, City of Falls Church  
Hon. Redella "Del" Pepper, City of Alexandria  
Caroline Petti, ACPAC  
Hon. Hans Riemer, Montgomery County  
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Ram Tangirala, District Department of the Environment  
Didian Tsongwain, Prince George's County  
Hon. Karen Young, City of Frederick

**Staff**

Jeannine Altavilla, COG/DEP  
Elena Constantine, COG/DTP  
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP  
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP  
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Joan Rohlfis, COG/DEP

**Others**

Mike Lake, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Arthur Marin, NESCAUM  
Scott St. Onge, Clean Air Partners

**1. Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Chair's Remarks**

Chair Pepper noted that the EPA was expected to release the mercury rule on Friday December 16, the court-ordered deadline for the rule. The Chair recently wrote an editorial for the Alexandria Times and Alexandria Gazette about the importance of this rule.

Chair Pepper recognized John Britton for his six years of service on MWAQC. He did not run for reelection so this was his last meeting. He was presented with a certificate for his dedicated service as a committee member and vice chair.

The minutes from the September 28, 2011 meeting were approved with no changes.

## **2. Committee Reports**

### ***Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)***

Diane Franks, MDE, presented on the December 6 TAC meeting. The group heard Mr. Marin's presentation on the low sulfur gasoline rule. They discussed the PM<sub>2.5</sub> redesignation and maintenance plan, including a preliminary draft of the plan, contingency measures, and whether to withdraw the SIPs submitted by the states. The group also saw an analysis of 2011 vehicle registration data that will be used for future conformity analysis and the redesignation request.

### ***Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)***

Caroline Petti, ACPAC Chair, presented on the December 12 ACPAC meeting. The group heard a presentation on proposed plans for the site of the GenOn plant from a project design team. The proposal is for a mixed-use development with a renewable energy park that will power the site. The group also heard a presentation on COG's efforts to increase the regional tree canopy. Anya Schulman discussed her advocacy in DC to expand the use of solar energy. Joan Rohlf's updated the committee on the status of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> redesignation request.

### ***Clean Air Partners (CAP)***

Scott St. Onge presented updates for Clean Air Partners. They have connected with the University of Maryland and will present at the school's Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference in April. The Social Media Task Force, composed of staff and board members, has been trained to post air quality messages on Twitter and Facebook. New materials and taglines will be released, using photos of citizens enjoying clean air and using positive travel means. Clean Air Partners held their first ever Slogan Contest as an extension and precursor for the poster contest. This year's winners were 6<sup>th</sup> grader Rida Ali with the slogan "Go Green and Keep the Air Clean!" and 7th grader Samuel Yosef with "Fresh Air is the Start to Living Life Smart." Samuel's slogan will be used as the theme for the poster contest; posters can be submitted by students in grades four to eight through March 16, 2012. At the 2011 Executive Committee Meeting a new finance and fundraising plan was approved. The 2012 Annual Meeting will take place in Baltimore in May.

### ***MWAQC Budget Committee***

Chair Pepper presented on the meeting of the MWAQC Budget Committee. The group discussed the proposed FY 2012 MWAQC Work Program and Budget and the use of carryover funds for projects in the current year. The Budget Committee will receive a final version of the FY 2012 Work Program and Budget in January and will recommend action to MWAQC in February.

## **3. PM<sub>2.5</sub> Redesignation Request: ACTION ITEM**

Joan Rohlf's, COG/DEP, presented on the status of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> redesignation request. The region was designated as nonattainment for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard when it was released in 2007 and the states submitted SIPs 2008 to document plans to reach attainment. Federal Reference Monitors have demonstrated compliance with the standards, for both the annual and 24-hour design values, since 2007.

In order to be officially recognized as in attainment, states must submit a request for redesignation, as well as a maintenance plan that will keep low levels of fine particle pollution for ten years into the future. Obtaining this recognition will show that the region has made improvements in air quality, and prove that control measures in place are working. This designation would also reduce significant obstacles for location new generation capacity in the region.

The redesignation request will show reduction in emissions from 2002 to 2007. States will withdraw the SIPs that they have submitted. EPA has not yet approved the SIPs, but has started to review SIPs from other states. If the SIPs were approved, the region could be bound to complete additional control measures that will not be in the maintenance plan. The maintenance plan will show attainment in 2007, and modeling will show levels of continued attainment for years 2017 and 2025. A public comment period and hearing will be included in the preparation of the maintenance plan.

A presentation at the February MWAQC meeting will show data going into the maintenance plan, including mobile emissions. Staff is currently working on data inputs for EPA's new model, MOVES, and will have results at that time.

There is discussion that EPA will lower the annual fine particle standard from 15.0 micrograms per cubic meter to 11 micrograms per cubic meter. The region is currently at the lower level.

The committee was asked to vote to approve that MWAQC and the states request redesignation for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. The committee unanimously approved this request.

The committee was asked to vote to request that the states withdraw their PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIPs at an appropriate time. The committee unanimously approved this request.

#### **4. Low Sulfur Gasoline (“Tier 3”)**

Arthur Marin, NESCAUM, presented on EPA's expected proposal for low sulfur gasoline and the reductions it is expected to bring for NO<sub>x</sub> in the Mid-Atlantic region. NEWCAUM is the Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management. The organization is located in Boston and is a nonprofit association of air quality agencies in the Northeast.

Tier 3 rulemakings are the next standards for sulfur following the Tier 2 standards. EPA is considering a new rule to reduce sulfur in early 2012 that would be finalized late in the year. The rule is expected to include a requirement to lower gasoline sulfur from an average of 30 parts per million (ppm) to 10 ppm.

Lowering the sulfur content of gasoline allows pollution control equipment in cars and trucks to operate more effectively, significantly reducing NO<sub>x</sub> and other emissions. This change in gasoline would provide immediate effects in the mobile sector without waiting for fleet turnover. This lower standard is more similar to new standards across the world.

Mr. Marin reviewed expected health and cost benefits, as well as the possible effect on the oil refining industry. The NO<sub>x</sub> reductions would improve health and reduce acid deposition. The mobile sector is a large contributor to NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic, and this rule

would reduce NOx emissions to half of 2007 levels. Additionally, because this is a federal rule, it would benefit the entire region, rather than any single state.

Mr. Britton asked if it would be useful to show improvements and effects in other countries that have already adopted this standard. Mr. Marin noted that each refinery has different equipment and hardware so it would be difficult to compare industries around the world. He noted that the US is an exporter of refined gasoline and should be able to compete in world markets.

Mr. Ballou asked if effects in 2012 would be similar to those shown for 2017. Within a couple of tanks of gas the efficiency and emissions improve. Benefits are greater further in the future due to fleet turnover and new standards for cars and trucks.

Ms. Rohlf asked whether MWAQC should take any action once the rule is proposed. Mr. Marin noted that the EPA needs to hear support from states and localities acknowledging that this would help them reduce emission levels. Several proposed rules are currently postponed, so support would be beneficial.

#### **5. Election of Officers for MWAQC FY 2012**

On November 30 the Nominating Committee sent MWAQC members a proposed slate of officers for 2012. The Committee nominated:

- Chair: Phil Mendelson, Council Member, District Council
- Vice Chair: Jay Fisette, Member, Arlington County Board (VA)
- Vice Chair: Karen Young, Alderman, City of Frederick (MD)

The committee unanimously approved this slate for FY 2012 officers.

#### **6. Set Date for Next Meeting, Adjourn:**

The next meeting date will be February 22, 2012. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.