

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 14, 2013
Room 4/5
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC members: Sarah Bunn, Bill Butler, Michael Cakouros, Andrew Kambour, Sally Kane, Daniel Lee, Brian McFarland, Caroline Petti, John Reed

Staff: Joan Rohlf, Maia Davis, Tanya Spano, Dana Minerva, Mike Farrell

Guest Attendees: Dan Barry, Blain Collison, Ed Comer, Danielle Glaros, Gretchen Goldman, Ravi Gupta, John Howes, Alan Loeb, Ken Schantz, Jim Wilson

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm. The agenda and minutes from December 10, 2012 were approved with no changes.

2. Introductions for Interested New Members

ACPAC has been recruiting people interested in ACPAC membership and invited those that have expressed interest to the January ACPAC Meeting. Caroline Petti welcomed everyone, provided a bit of background on ACPAC, her experience, and her role. Current members and people interested in membership introduced themselves and shared a little about their interest in or experience with ACPAC. Maia Davis briefly explained that there are 7 openings this year on ACPAC and there more people interested in membership than openings. MWAQC will appoint people for the 7 openings and she will inform everyone if they've been appointed before the end of the month.

3. Responding to Extreme Weather Events – Derecho and Sandy (Tanya Spano, COG DEP Staff)

The NOAA Climate Prediction Center's goal is to provide impact-based decision support. This means producing reliable, timely, and accurate forecasts and warnings in a manner that helps people prepare, respond, and recovery from extreme weather events. Derecho came with much uncertainty and little warning. Leading up to Hurricane Sandy NOAA implemented a collaborative forecast process and communication strategy to more accurately predict and warn emergency personnel and the public about Sandy's path and destructive potential. One ACPAC member commented that even with warning about Sandy, evacuations in New York were not sufficient.

Derecho and Sandy provided some lessons learned for emergency response agencies and water utilities in the region. The need for accurate forecasts and warning from NOAA is imperative to these entities ability to prepare for the storms; however, when more warning is given a lot more money is spent on planning for these events and it is not yet clear if that extra planning can impact results (such as less or shorter power outages). Additional hours of preparing also can lead to other concerns such as employee fatigue. One concern from the audience included whether entities have emergency back up plans and drills, in which Tanya responded that yes and drills include desktop and physical drills.

4. Complete and Green Streets Policy (Danielle Glaros and Jim Wilson, Prince George's County, and Dana Minerva, Anacostia Watershed Partnership)

Complete streets are designed to enable safe access for all users. Green streets are a fairly newer concept about managing stormwater runoff as a resource rather than waste. Prince George's County combined these two concepts into a combined Complete and Green Streets Policy in order to create more livable communities and places, manage stormwater in an environmentally friendly way, to address water quality, increase tree canopy, and to make it easier for people to walk, bike, and use public transportation.

Dana Minerva described the Anacostia as one of the most polluted watersheds in the country and how green streets can be a great tool for addressing pollution in the Anacostia as well as mitigate climate change by reducing impervious surfaces and/or increasing tree canopy. The Anacostia Watershed Partnership wrote a letter in December 2012 to the COG Board, Transportation Planning Board, and Region Forward Coalition encouraging the adoption of a regional green streets policy. Mike Farrell, COG transportation staff, stated that they plan to start off educating committees about green streets. It could take a few months or up to a year for a decision to be made about a regional green streets policy. ACPAC will be updated on its progress.

ACPAC members and attendees had several questions related to cost versus benefits and public perception. A main local government concern that has been expressed so far is about the potential higher cost of implementing green streets. One case study in Prince George's County showed green streets cost \$200,000/acre but has a much higher value when considering water quality benefits. A study from North Minneapolis showed that green streets can save money by reducing future costs of paving and less snow removal. The public may have concerns about parking reductions, maintenance, standing water but with strong public outreach the public mostly understand the benefits to them and their property value. Green streets require less maintenance and are more attractive than grass and can also be traffic calming.

5. MWAQC and CEEPC Updates (Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP Staff)

Joan provided a bit of background regarding the Draft PM_{2.5} Maintenance Plan. EPA has declared that the region has clean data for PM_{2.5} since the data shows the region is below both PM_{2.5} existing and proposed standards. Officially, EPA still has the region as being in non-attainment; therefore, MWAQC is the process of requesting re-designation of the region to attainment. This involves officially requesting re-designation and submitting a maintenance plan. The draft plan is out for public comment and public hearings are scheduled in January and February. MWAQC will review comments, approve changes to the maintenance plan based on comments and then send the maintenance plan to EPA.

Joan announced Roger Berliner, Montgomery County Councilman, as the new CEEPC Chair. Roger is also an energy lawyer who has expressed interest in discussing topics such as energy efficiency, grid modernization, and trees at CEEPC meetings this year. Joan also requested meeting topic ideas from ACPAC and request that they are emailed to Maia. A couple key items CEEPC is currently addressing are recruiting CEEPC members for the Legislative Sub-Committee and the draft 2013-2016 CEEPC Action Plan. Joan invited ACPAC members and attendees to the upcoming Electric Vehicle Forum the morning of February 1 at the Washington Auto Show. All registered attendees receive free admission to the Auto Show that afternoon.

6. Officer Nominations

Caroline Petti will be running for ACPAC Chair again for 2013 and she also nominated Andrew Kambour for Vice Chair position. Andrew accepted the nomination. Elections will take place at the February 11, 2013 ACPAC Meeting.

7. Adjourn

Dan Barry, District Department of the Environment, handed out an update of the District of Columbia's progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and announced that community-wide greenhouse gas reduction between 2006 and 2011 total 12.5%!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.

Next meeting: February 11, 2013 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5
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