

**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee**  
**Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**  
**(202) 962-3358 Fax (202) 962-3203**

**MINUTES OF December 15, 2004 MEETING**

**Attendance:**

**Members and Alternates**

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Larry Bohn, Frederick County  
Nat Bottigheimer, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County  
Rick Canizales, Prince William County  
Julie Crenshaw, Chair, AQPAC  
Hon. Redella S. Del Pepper, Alexandria  
Hon. Thomas Dernoga, Prince George's County; MWAQC Chair  
Hon. Paul Ferguson, Arlington County  
Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County  
Fariba Kassiri, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection  
Hon. Dana Kauffman, Fairfax County  
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt  
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia Council  
Michelle Pourciau, District of Columbia Department of Transportation  
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County  
Hon. David Snyder, Falls Church  
Joanne Sorenson, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Hon. Mick Staton, Loudoun County  
Don Wambsgans, District of Columbia Department of Health  
Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple, Virginia General Assembly  
Hon. Patrice Winter, City of Fairfax

**Others Present:**

Heidi Adams, Clean Air Partners Managing Director  
Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County  
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Terry Darton, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Matthew Jalali, District of Columbia Department of Transportation  
Maurice Keyes, District of Columbia Department of Transportation  
Betsy Massie, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission  
Mary Richmond, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Programs  
Bill Skrabek, Alexandria  
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Kanathur Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Ram Tangirala, District of Columbia Department of Health  
Didian Tsongwain, Prince George's County  
Stan Tracey, District of Columbia Department of Health  
Flint Webb, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

**Staff:**

Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP  
Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP  
Rich Denbow, for COG/DEP  
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP

Mike Clifford, COG/TPB  
Eulalie Lucas, COG/TPB  
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Lee Ruck, COG General Counsel

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

Vice-Chair Kauffman called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Mr. Flint Webb, Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations, spoke during the public comment period. He urged MWAQC to request the Virginia legislature to pass the Clean Smokestacks Bill.

**2. Approval of Minutes, Announcements, Chairman's Report**

Mr. Kauffman called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the October 27, 2004 meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

Mr. Dernoga delivered the following Chair report: MDE secretary Ken Philbrick will chair the Interstate Air Quality Committee and Tad Aburn will chair the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for 2005. The new MWAQC bylaws allow for up to four stakeholders to be named members of the TAC. TAC will consider volunteers and nominations for these seats over the next two months and bring the nominations to MWAQC for its consent. Mr. Dernoga welcomed new MWAQC member Fariba Kassiri of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Lastly, Mr. Dernoga reported that EPA Administrator Michael Leavitt was named to head the Health and Human Services Department.

Mr. Dernoga asked about a letter just received from Environmental Defense that was addressed to the MWAQC and TPB chairs. Ms. Rohlfs said that MWAQC and/or TPB should respond. The letter addresses the travel demand process that deals with population and employment projections. Mr. Dernoga suggested TPB should take the lead in responding to the letter since it addresses details of the modeling process. Ms. Floreen said the letter also raises issues about regional forecasting including the Baltimore region and suggested it may be an overall COG issue that the COG Board should address. She stated that this issue merits some airing and it would be useful to have a briefing on forecast issues at an appropriate forum. Mr. Kirby stated the letter was received the prior day and his staff is developing a response for the TPB meeting later in the day. He stated that the letter suggests that an independent process should be set up to examine the forecasting processes in the Baltimore and Washington regions and ensure that there is consistency. Mr. Kirby said that staff will meet with the planning directors in this region and in the Baltimore region and then prepare a response to address whether the coordination process should be improved. Mr. Kirby added that the planning directors are developing a new round of forecasts now that will be ready in spring 2005.

**3. Committee Reports**

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

Mr. Aburn reported on the activities of the TAC. TAC met in October and reviewed the Mid-Course Review document. He stated that the region is close to attaining the one-hour standard.

TAC also discussed a process to identify control measures that will be needed to meet rate of progress under the 8-hour standard. He reminded MWAQC that the first SIP is due in the spring of 2007. It should include fully adopted state rules for control measures, so there is a lot of work to do now to develop that SIP. Lastly, he reported that EPA presented on the Smart Way program, which focuses on mobile source strategies.

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

Ms. Crenshaw, Chair of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC), reported. AQPAC sent a letter to Maryland Department of the Environment about the Section 185 fee penalty provision and received a reply. At the October AQPAC meeting, the group had a lot of comments on the Mid-Course Review document. Ms. Crenshaw asked that AQPAC be allowed to comment on public documents before they are released if time allows. AQPAC elected officers; Ms. Crenshaw will continue as Chair. AQPAC has revised their bylaws and they are being reviewed now; they will be available for MWAQC review at the next meeting. Lastly, Ms. Crenshaw urged MWAQC to pursue EPA's Smart Way program because it has significant promise to improve air quality.

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

Ms. Adams reported for Clean Air Partners (CAP). RFQ's have been issued for Clean Air Partners marketing and managing director contracts. The CAP board will select the new contractors. Ms. Adams thanked MWAQC and CAP for the opportunity to work with the program.

**4. Mid-Course Review: Review and Approve**

Sunil Kumar provided an overview of the draft Mid-Course review document. The Mid-Course review provides an assessment of progress towards attainment of the 1-hour ozone standard in 2005. Mr. Kumar presented historical emission levels, monitored data, and design values in the region, as contained in the draft report. The report shows that significant emission reductions have occurred since 1990 and significant progress towards attaining the 1-hour ozone standard has been made. The number of ozone exceedances per high temperature day has decreased due to reduced emission levels. However, transport has continued to significantly limit progress towards attainment of the standard. Attainment of the 1-hour standard is anticipated in 2005. The TAC reviewed the draft report and recommends that MWAQC approve it. The states are required to submit it to EPA by December 31, 2004.

Ms. Bulova said the report needs to show the important meteorological factors in play. Ms. Floreen said the report should reflect the underlying data and plants for the emissions in the Ohio River Valley as stated in the exhibits. Ms. Crenshaw stated that AQPAC asked why data from 1995 was being used and suggested that current data be used. Ms. Rohlf's stated that the 1995 data was used because it is representative of the episodes that were largely dominated by transported pollution. Mr. Snyder stated that the press release should emphasize the problems caused by transport. He also stated that the good news shouldn't be downplayed, but at the same time we should emphasize the challenges before us with the 8-hour standard.

Mr. Kauffman moved that MWAQC approve the Mid-Course report, with the addition of point sources identified to the extent possible. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Mr. Kauffman also suggested a language change in the news release to indicate that the region is

making steady progress towards meeting the air quality standards, rather than saying it is likely to meet the standards. He asked unanimous consent on the news release. That was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **5. Multipollutant Strategies: Panel**

Ms. Rohlfs introduced Donna Reynolds, Director of Community Relations for the American Lung Association of Virginia, and Mr. Aburn. This panel presented an overview and comparison of multipollutant bills. Ms. Rohlfs summarized the national initiatives, which include the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), the Clear Skies Initiative (CSI), and the Jeffords Bill (S. 366), and regional initiatives, which include the Ozone Transport Commission approach and various state approaches. The approaches differ by the pollutants addressed, geographic areas covered, and the timeframe for reductions.

Ms. Reynolds discussed multipollutant legislation proposed in the Virginia legislature. It is similar to legislation passed in North Carolina in 2002. The bill would establish caps for several pollutants and require the 15 largest under-controlled coal fired power plants in Virginia to meet a systems-wide emissions rate for NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> as well as a plant-specific rate. It also would require Virginia DEQ to implement a mercury reduction strategy, study the creation of a CO<sub>2</sub> reduction program, and perform a down wash study.

Mr. Aburn described the OTC position on a multipollutant bill. He said there is no other air quality issue that is more important to the Washington region over the next year than a multipollutant program.

Ms. Floreen stated that legislation has also been introduced in Maryland. Mr. Ferguson moved that MWAQC endorse the Virginia legislation. The motion was seconded. Mr. Snyder said he has not seen the legislation and therefore would not want to endorse the specific bill. He suggested a generic approach that supports the goals of the legislation. Mr. Ferguson accepted that as a friendly amendment. Ms. Bulova said that Fairfax County did endorse the proposed legislation and urged their delegation in the legislature to support it. Mr. Dernoga suggested if the motion carries that staff draft a letter that supports the goals and send it to Executive Committee for review. The motion passed unanimously.

## **6. 8-Hour SIP Planning: Status Report**

Ms. Rohlfs discussed the schedule for developing the new 8-hour ozone SIP. Staff added transportation milestones to the schedule, as requested. She reviewed a proposed meeting schedule for 2005, which reflects the fact that there will be fewer items that MWAQC needs to take action on. The proposed schedule includes MWAQC work sessions that would be held during other months. Mr. Mendelson asked if work sessions would preclude MWAQC taking action on issues. Mr. Freudberg said that is the case as this is proposed. Mr. Mendelson said that could be problematic. Mr. Freudberg said the key point is to get these dates on everyone's calendars, and the details on how they are used are open to discussion.

## **7. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of MWAQC Officers for 2005**

Ms. Del Pepper reported that the MWAQC Nominating Committee met to nominate officers for 2005. They developed a slate of officers that was sent to the MWAQC membership 10 days before the time of the vote, in accordance with the MWAQC bylaws. The slate put forward is:

T. Dana Kauffman, Chair; Phil Mendelson, Vice Chair; Nancy Floreen, Vice Chair; and David Snyder, Vice Chair. The slate was moved and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. State Air Agency Reports**

Mr. Wambsgans reported that the District made minor corrections to its OTC rules and sent those to EPA. The regulations are fully adopted.

There was no report for Virginia.

Mr. Aburn reported that the PM2.5 designations are expected to be finalized Friday. He said the Interstate Air Quality Council met for the first time in November.

**9. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn**

The next meeting of MWAQC is scheduled for February 23rd. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.