

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
April 13, 2021, 10:00 AM to 11:45 AM

Present:

Kelly Crawford, District Department of Energy & Environment
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Courtney Grimes, District Department of Energy & Environment
Dan Goldberg, George Washington University
Demetra McBride, Arlington County
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment
Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Maria Sinner, Virginia Department of Transportation
Mathew Gaskin, District Department of Transportation
Norman Whitaker, Virginia Department of Transportation
Ram Tangirala District Department of Energy & Environment
Scot Fincham, Loudoun County
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Thomas Foster, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
Virginia Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Kanti Srikanth, COG/DTP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP
Maia Davis, COG/DEP
Mark Moran, COG/DTP
Tim Masters, COGDEP
Wanda Owens, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Kelly Crawford called the meeting to order at 10 am. The March 9th and March 23rd meeting summaries were approved without any changes.

2. 2022 Update to Visualize 2045 - Inputs and Scope of Work

Jane Posey briefed members on inputs and the scope of work for the 2022 update to the Visualize 2045 plan. She also discussed the schedule and methodology for the air quality conformity analysis. She provided a brief description of all major projects planned in different jurisdictions.

3. 2021 Air Quality Forecast Protocol

Sunil Kumar briefed members on the 2021 air quality forecast protocol. He discussed the development and distribution of air quality forecasts and real-time alerts. He also talked about different organizations responsible for developing forecast for different jurisdictions. Tad mentioned the Peakday Partnership, which is an effort to reduce NOx emissions from peaking units at EGUs on high electricity demand days (HEDD). He said that MDE is working with 10-15 units located in Maryland for this effort, which will be crucial for attainment of the 2015 ozone NAAQS for the Washington region in 2021. Kelly suggested adding this as an agenda item to the May MWAQC-TAC meeting.

4. 2015 Ozone NAAQS Planning

Sunil briefed members on the 2015 ozone NAAQS planning agreement, which was developed by the three state air agencies. He also discussed edits provided by VDOT on that document. All three state air agencies expressed their concurrence with those edits. Jim Ponticello informed members that the VDOT secretary is currently evaluating the document and considering options for both 1-year extension of the attainment deadline for the 2015 ozone NAAQS and voluntary bump-up.

Kelly informed members that DOEE sent a request to EPA to designate the air quality data for 2020 as Exceptional Events data as it meets the criteria for such a designation.

Kari Snyder said that the MDOT secretary is currently evaluating the document and considering options for both 1-year extension of the attainment deadline for the 2015 ozone NAAQS and voluntary bump-up. She said that the abnormal air quality data observed in 2020 is expected to continue for another year or two. She also added that the SIP process should continue but once the 2021 data becomes available by October 2021, we should evaluate that before moving forward on the attainment plan.

Tom said that VDEQ's position has not changed on ozone planning. Kelly said that DDOT supports the planning agreement. Kari asked if the 1-hour ozone NAAQS maintenance plan is independent of the 2015 ozone attainment plan. Tom said that it is independent of the attainment plan.

Kelly said that DOEE's request for designating the 2020 data as exceptional is inconsistent with the 1-year extension request. Jim asked Kelly if she received any feedback from EPA on the exceptional events data request. Kelly said she did not receive any feedback, but DOEE is planning to submit that request soon.

Kanti said that the schedule for the attainment SIP development is important to allow a timely submittal of the plan. He asked state air agencies what communication is planned for May 1st to EPA. Kelly said that state air agencies plan to send voluntary bump-up request to EPA in May 2021. EPA would wait until October 2021 to evaluate the 2021 data before acting on the request. Tad added that EPA would not wait for taking action if the request is not received by May 1st. Ram said that EPA would only take action after August 3, 2021 after the 2020 data is certified by May 1st. Kanti said that MWAQC would take up two action items in its May meeting – MWAQC WP&B (FY2021-22) and voluntary bump-up. He said if TAC takes a final decision on extension and voluntary bump-up, then staff can inform the MWAQC-Executive Committee about it on the April 14th call of the committee. Jim asked what would

be discussed in the MWAQC-Executive Committee meeting. Kanti said that budget, agreement on the ozone planning, and the May MWAQC agenda will be discussed on that call. Kanti said that staff can change language in the budget document to reflect the fact that the attainment plan would proceed regardless of the 2015 ozone planning option chosen. Kari said that the decision to hold a press conference to announce the decision for voluntary bump-up is a bit confusing. The budget allows for the development of the attainment SIP regardless the decision on the 1-year extension and voluntary bump-up. She reiterated the MDOT's position to prefer the option of the extension over bump-up.

Kelly said that unless the region submits the bump-up request by May 1st, it will lose the opportunity to do so after that date.

Kanti asked Kari if MDOT concurs with the decision to move forward with the attainment plan development as long as the bump-up is not announced through press release. Kari said that is correct. Tom said the VDEQ supports the planning agreement and members should decide one way or other.

5. MWAQC FY2021-2022 Work Program & Budget

Jen Desimone discussed the draft MWAQC FY2021-2022 work program & budget for the Washington region. Kanti mentioned that an edit was added to the document to reflect the fact that the increase in MWAQC funds for FY2020-2021 would come from the MWAQC reserved fund. Tad said he is fine with the budget as long as MDOT is fine with it. He further added that Maryland is currently expecting 25% cut to the MWAQC's FY2022-2023 budget. Kanti said that the particular Maryland funding issue would be discussed at the time the concerned budget would be taken up for discussion.

6. State & Local Updates

Tad said that the issue of anti-tampering for small and large vehicles would be taken by the Advisory Council in June. VW funds will be used for EV infrastructure and Transport Climate Initiatives. Also, there would not be any coal-fired EGUs in Maryland by 2025 through 2030. Tom said Virginia does not have any updates. Kelly said the District does not have any updates as well.

Joseph suggested a joint effort to develop railroad emissions for the region for the NEI 2020 effort. Tom and Tad were fine with the suggestion and asked Joseph to get in touch with their respective emission inventory staff in that regard.

The conference call ended at 11:45 am.