

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**April 15, 2015**  
**10:00 AM to 11:35 AM**

**Present:**

Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment  
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Mike Kiss, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Molly Berger, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation  
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Gwen Kennedy, Loudoun County  
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute  
Mike Lake, Fairfax County  
Asrah Khadr, EPA R3  
Don Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County

**Staff:**

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Jennifer Desimone, COG/DEP  
Steve Walz, COG/DEP  
Isabel Ricker, COG/DEP  
Elena Constantine, COG/DTP  
Ron Milone, COG/DTP  
Jane Posey, COG/DTP  
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP  
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP

**1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary**

Tad Aburn called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The March 10 meeting summary was approved without any changes.

**2. 2015 Air Quality Forecast Protocol**

Sunil presented an overview of the 2015 air quality forecast protocol. Tad asked Sunil to outline the forecasting process. He also asked if MWAQC or EPA funds any part of the forecasting effort. Sunil outlined the forecasting process and said it is not funded either by MWAQC or EPA. Instead, it is funded by COG local government dues.

**3. MWAQC FY16 Work Program & Budget**

Jen Desimone discussed details of the draft MWAQC FY16 Work Program & Budget. Tad said additional modifications need to be made to the Work Program & Budget. Tom said changes should be shared with the whole group. Diane asked about the source of population data used for developing the budget allocation. State said it is based on COG cooperative forecast, which is also used for other COG fund allocations.

#### **4. MWAQC MOVES2014 Comment Letter**

Sunil discussed the draft MWAQC comment letter supporting TPB's move to transition to the MOVES2014 model. Tad asked if the letter implied developing CO2 emissions as part of the annual CLRP analysis. Steve said TPB develops CO2 emissions as part of the annual CLRP analysis and presents it in the CLRP performance analysis report every year and this will continue with MOVES2014.

#### **5. Draft MWAQC Resolution for Regional Action Plan**

Steve discussed the background and highlights of the Regional Action Plan. Jim Ponticello asked about the relationship between the Gold Book and the Regional Action Plan. Steve said the measures for the Regional Action Plan were taken from the Gold Book to help ozone and gives flexibility to states and locals to implement them on a voluntary or regulatory basis. Tad said the main difference is in the implementation of measures. The Gold Book is a compilation of measures and the Regional Action Plan is about implementing few measures from the Gold Book.

Tad said a separate call is needed to address MDE's comments on the resolution, which were submitted after the resolution was forwarded to the committee members.

#### **6. Multi-Sector Greenhouse Gas Work Group Update**

Steve provided a quick update on the activities of the Multi-Sector Greenhouse Gas Work Group. He informed the group regarding providing comments on the list of strategies through COG web-site, which will be shared with the group after the call. Tad suggested having a separate call for the conformity sub-committee to discuss greenhouse gas reduction strategies. Steve said that the above committee is not suitable for the transportation sector greenhouse gas discussion. Tad suggested a separate call with a small group to discuss greenhouse gas standalone document similar to the Baltimore MPO greenhouse gas document. Howard said that the FHWA asked Baltimore MPO to separate out the greenhouse gas part from the CLRP report as greenhouse gas is not part of the transportation conformity process.

#### **7. Extension of the Attainment Date (2008 Ozone NAAQS)**

Sunil briefly discussed the issue of the extension letter for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. Steve pointed out the January 2013 federal register notice from EPA regarding completion of the infrastructure SIP requirements for Maryland and Virginia. Subsequent to this notice, the District had also completed all requirements. Cecily said the District has not submitted the NOx RACT.

#### **8. 1997 Ozone SIP & 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS Updates**

Sunil provided updates on the 1997 ozone SIP, which was approved by EPA recently along with the mobile budgets in it. He also informed the group about the proposed revocation of the 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS. Tad asked COG staff to prepare graphics showing ozone monitors in the region with design values above 60, 65, 70, and 70 ppb. He also asked the number of ozone exceedance days be added to this analysis when ozone levels are above 60, 65, 70, and 70 ppb. Steve said this analysis will be presented to the committee in the next meeting.

#### **9. State and Local Updates**

The District and Virginia did not have any updates. Tad said MDE is working on a new law for climate change. The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in 2025. MDE is also moving to finalize the power plant NOx regulation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

