

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)

MEETING SUMMARY: FEBRUARY 24, 2016

MWAQC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Tom Ballou, VA Department of Environmental Quality
- Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County *
- Michael DeMarco, City of Fairfax (Vice Chair) *
- Lyn Erickson, MD Department of Transportation
- Lisa Feldt, Montgomery County
- Jessica Daniels, District Department of Energy and the Environment
- James Davenport, Prince Williams County *
- Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince Georges County *
- Konrad Herling, City of Greenbelt
- Ron Meyer, Loudoun County
- Garret Moore, VA Department of Transportation *
- Brianne Nadeau, Washington DC. (Chair)
- Del Pepper, City of Alexandria
- David Snyder, City of Falls Church
- Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy and Environment
- Glenna Tinney, ACPAC Chair
- Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation
- Linda Smyth, Fairfax County *
- Kathy Smith, Fairfax County *

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director
- Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs
- Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Aaron Waters, COG Environmental Programs

(*) Indicates participation by phone

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, APPROVE MINUTES, CHAIR'S REMARKS

Chairman Nadeau opens the meeting and begins with approval of the meeting summary from the January 2016 MWAQC/CEEP meeting; no comments, accepted meeting summary. Discussed items of note about MWAQC's work: Article in Washington Post study about poor air quality to showcase importance of work being done; examples from Beijing red alerts days, while DC has low threshold and lower risk; and finally mentioned that TPB

received air quality determination for the 2015 CLRP made jointly by the FTA and the FHA and the EPA which supports the conformity finding for the regional CLRP.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (*Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs*)

MWAQC-TAC met on February 9th to discuss several items. First is the PM_{2.5} draft document which was recently finalized. Committee discussed and document awaits approval from MWAQC. Second is the possibility of submitting a proposed Ozone NAAQS maintenance plan which is currently in preliminary stages. Third, the members discussed local government survey about climate planning. Fourth, environmental justice issues were discussed in meeting. Fifth, TPB staff presented draft Scope of Work for the currently air quality conformity exercise 2016 CLRP. Sixth, they discussed they received an update on MSWG activities. Finally, the MWAQC-TAC Stakeholders were announced.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) (*Glenna Tinney, Chair*)

Welcomed new members at previous meeting, and gave them orientation to ACPAC and how it fits in with other committees at the COG. Then focused discussion concerning EJ toolkit based on the proposal approved in the joint MWAQC/CEEPC meeting January 2016. Subcommittee is compiling research docket on currently available resources to be presented at next ACPAC meeting. ACPAC will use this information to define toolkit, and then bring it back for approval.

C. Clean Air Partners (CAP) (*Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs*)

CAP is participating in multiple events this spring and summer. Largest is the USA Science and Engineering festival at the Convention Center. Will be developing a new photo booth for display to propagate selfies to be used in social media hashtag campaign. Recently launched 8th annual poster submission contest on theme of air and climate. Deadline is March 18th and winner recognized May 11th at the Maryland Zoo during the annual awards ceremony, along with other award recipients. Finally, marketing push around ozone season including national ozone day, bike month, seniors outreach.

3. PM 2.5 MAINTENANCE PLAN (*Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director & Sunil Kumar, COG Principal Environmental Engineer*)

Chairman Nadeau introduces agenda item as an approval of a revision of the PM 2.5 Maintenance plan. Upon approval, plan will be open for a 30 day public comment period. Plan will be submitted after the MVEBs are updated using MOVES2014. Will ask for approval with the EPA after the comment period. Thanks the TAC and subcommittee for work on report. Discussed EPA's standards from 1997 to 2012, and the ratcheting down to lower levels of acceptable concentration. Current levels do not necessitate a new plan for the 2012 standards, but do require an update to the maintenance plan for the 1997 standards. Original plan outlined on slide 3 of the presentation. This includes emissions inventory, MVEBs, and contingency plans. Appendix D contains State Compromise for calculating the MVEBs. Revised plan has 4 main parts. Appendices A & B contain highly technical data for EPA. Appendix C is updated to reflect MOVES2014 and new MVEB standards. Outlines process 20% buffer as a Tier 2 budget. There are no update to DC and VA emissions; no updates for MD but includes description of power plant NO_x regulations; no changes to point, area, and non-road mobile sources; on-road mobile corresponds to MOVES2014. Changes are related to tightening of standards in PM 2.5 and NO_x; SO₂ is viewed as more significant; NH₃ also monitored. Design value for PM 2.5 had decreased dramatically from 1999/2000 until now. MVEBs revised according to the MOVES2014 model using a two-tiered approach. Differences from previous plans include a Tier 3 addition. The presentation

contains all specific information to find new developments for the Maintenance plan. Final approval will be May 25th, June: States will send to EPA, and Tier 1 budgets will begin upon approval.

DISCUSSION:

- Staff clarified response to constituents in terms of, “What’s the problem; What’s the solution; What are our specific actions? Emphasize the role airborne fine particulate matter plays concerning health ramifications with long lasting cardiopulmonary consequences. This plan locks lower levels in place to keep levels down and protect public health.
- Concerning NOx emissions in MD; staff clarifies that legislation has been adopted to control NOx emission from power plants, particularly in ozone season. Legislation completed in 2 phases both in 2015.
- No estimated fiscal impact to the localities. Most changes are in tier 3 at federal level. As long as levels stay within range, no actions need to be taken by the states. If levels aren’t meet, there are contingency measures at state level, but shouldn’t directly affect local municipalities, but deeper analysis would have to be done. VA has also enacted additional policies which have value to keep levels low, such as energy efficiency and renewable development.
- No further questions, motion to accept PM 2.5 Maintenance Plan is adopted.

4. OZONE NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS (*Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs*)

Introduces new standard and states that region is currently a non-attainment status, while most recent data shows the region is now meeting the standard. Maintenance plan will seek attainment status. Plan will be brought back to committee before sending out to EPA. EPA’s ozone NAAQS standards for 2008 are set at 75 ppb and for 2015 are now set at 70 ppb. Revised standards based on new scientific evidence related to public health benefits towards the young, infirmed, and elderly. Benefits of new standards are valued at \$2.9 billion annually, while costs valued at \$1.4 billion annually. Ozone monitoring season will also be extended by one month each year. Multi-pollutant sites will also be required to monitor year-round. There is a new implementation schedule, culminating in EPA review in 2017, with final designations set for October, based on data for 2014-2016. Data shows reduction in number of ozone non-attainment days since 2008, but small uptick in 2015, however, chances for non-attainment area are very low. Slide 13 shows control measures to assist in attainment of standards. Washington region is deciding on submitting a re-designation request to reach attainment status. Advantages of re-designation including legal fulfillment, also well as utilizing new MVEBs. If 2015 Ozone NAAQS is delayed, there will be a new set of MVEBs based on MOVES2014 model. Timeline for implementation: draft development will happen between July 2016 and February 2017, MWAQC-TAC will approve in April 2017, MWAQC approve with public comments in May 2017, public comment period with be June-July of 2017, and MWAQC will give final approval in September of 2017 for EPA submission.

Discussion

- New monitoring methods will be based on an extension of monitoring times to a 7 month window rather any specific change in monitoring methodology. While this doesn’t directly relate to more accurate or precise measurements, monitoring technology is always improving, and standards increase directly with accuracy of instrumentation.
- New ozone measurement window will include the month of March.

- Monitoring is also related to CO and PM2.5. Methodology is highly varied, but EPA is working to differentiate methodology. Citizen science is being evaluated as well and is included in measurements which is a broad viewpoint

5. FY 2017 WORK PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT *(Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director)*

Nadeau introduces the FY17 Work program and budget set for final approval at the May meeting; this will be a presentation of proposed programs to be included. COG seeks external guidance on the focus, objectives, and core work areas for the MWAQC work plan. COG will be working with the budget committee and TAC to develop specifics, to be presented for approval in May. FY17 plan will have same basic structure as previous plan. Part 1 will show work to be done, including re-designation plan. Will include updates to regional action plan as well as input from MSWG input. Plan will also address geographic changes of coverage to be updated according to need. It will review the roles of MWAQC as the Certified Regional Air Planning agency as per Title 1 of the Clean Air Act amendments. It will also update and develop Maintenance plans, and other air quality standard policy COG is within 20 year compliance period, and it is no longer needed to plan accordingly, therefore, measurement will not need to be addressed in future plans. SO₂ is state concern mostly, so planning is not a concern. COG region is within compliance with NO_x and Lead. Largest impact for the region is Ozone and PM 2.5. Objectives of part 2 include submission of PM 2.5 maintenance plan and re-designation request. There is a possibility of a needed amendment appendix C based on future details from EPA. Final objective focuses on working on communication with regional partners. Part 3 focuses on the 7 core work areas to be addressed which match up with objectives outlined in the plan. 1) Emission inventory development; 2) SIP/Multi-sector strategy development for ozone and PM 2.5; 3) Support members on local measures; 4) Transportation conformity; 5) Public participation; 6) MWAQC Support; 7) Program Management. Primary focus this year on Ozone NAAQS and PM 2.5 Maintenance plan along with MSWG data. Seeking input from group in terms of what works and what's needed.

Discussion

- Interstate transport of extra-regional air will affect ozone measurements, but it has been declined. Contributors to high ozone days include interstate transport from Ohio River valley. Other air patterns which raise ozone levels include low air flow and re-circulation of air due to sustained weather patterns, which concentrate levels. However, there has been a significant improvement from point sources. Additionally, EPA has proposed interstate transport rule which will add upstate interstate transport. New standards dictate the evaluation of regional impact on neighbor region. However, there is cooperative effort from neighboring planning jurisdictions.
- Clarifying appendix C, third bullet; efforts in DC and MD effect VA, but benefits haven't been calculated into the proposed emission reductions based on all three areas.
- Planning will occur to be reviewed at May meeting for action.

6. STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS *(Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy and the Environment; Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment; Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality)*

- DC: First, 5-year progress report on regional haze, based on EPA improvement plan. No public comments. Second, emergency regulation finalized dealing with auto painting good through June 2016; the District is working on making the regulation permanent.
- MD: No update
- VA: No update

7. ADJOURNMENT

- Chair Nadeau concluded the meeting.

The next MWAQC meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2016.