

Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

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

The Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 21, 2008

Room 3

5:00 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

Members Present:

Jill Engel-Cox, Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology
Brian Holmes, Maryland Highway Contractors Association
Rodney Livingston, District Interracial Coalition for Environmental Equity
Julie Crenshaw Van Fleet, Episcopal Stewardship of Creation – Virginia
Bill Butler, Mirant
Larry Zaragoza, Northern Virginia
Jessica Daniels, District of Columbia
Sally Kane, Palisades Community Association (via phone)
Peter Owen, Virginia Urban

COG Staff:

Joan Rohlfs

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm.

No corrections to the March minutes were sent via email, so the minutes were approved.

2. Staff report on MWAQC, TAC, and CCSC

MWAQC: EPA has a request for proposals (RFP) for projects to reduce emissions for on-road and off-road diesel vehicles (see <http://www.epa.gov/reg3artd/diesel/news.htm>).

EPA lowered the 8-hour ozone standard to 0.075 ppm to minimize public health impacts based on recent data. The Ozone Transportation Commission states may send a letter in protest. The new standard will cause an increase in the number of Code Red and Code Orange states this summer; 3 to 4 Code Red days are anticipated. Groups like COG and Clean Air Partners will outreach to the public with information on ozone forecasts, as usual. COG will explain the new standard on its website and through press releases. No additional response is planned. Additional measures to meet the new standards will be part of the next ozone SIP (2010/2011).

As promised at last month's meeting, Cecily Beall (DDOE) provided the name of a DOH contact who is likely the person to talk to about the health of residents near the power plant at River Terrace: Judith Johnson (202-442-9335). Ms. Beall and Joan both tried to reach Ms. Johnson to no avail.

All 3 states submitted the PM2.5 SIP before the deadline.

TAC: There was a conference call on April 8. Staff asked for VIN #s for vehicles registered in states to model emissions for transportation conformity.

CCSC: The deadline for the committee's recommendations has been extended. They should have a draft by May. A report will be sent to COG's Board in June. Many of the recommendations are related to transportation and land use.

3. Recent changes in COG bylaws – implications for AQPAC membership (Lee Ruck)

There are three regional planning boards: the COG Board, the Transportation Planning Board (TPB), and MWAQC. COG is a group of 265 to 270 elected officials and members of 21 local jurisdictions, with management and policy directive carried out by a Board of Directors. TPB fulfills a statute; MWAQC operates by agreement. Each policy board is separate and legally independent, but they work collaboratively. MWAQC and TPB act as policy advisors to the COG Board. The relationship amongst the three policy organizations is collegial and historic.

The COG Board and COG membership have modified their bylaws and procedures. If MWAQC and TPB do not choose different procedures, they follow COG procedures to maintain consistency and commonality in political functions. Therefore, since AQPAC directly advises MWAQC, changes to COG procedures are to cover *all* derivative organizations, including AQPAC.

MWAQC has decided to convene a work group of MWAQC and AQPAC members to evaluate AQPAC membership and possibly amend AQPAC bylaws for consistency with changes to COG bylaws and procedures. (*See handout titled, "DRAFT MWAQC Committee Review."*) They are hoping to have decisions about membership by November.

At the last MWAQC Executive Committee meeting, MWAQC considered limiting AQPAC membership to 3-year to 5-year terms with a new designee per year. "Members" are defined as organizations that designate individuals to represent them. At the end of a term, MWAQC would consider the continued relevance of that organization and use its authority to potentially appoint a new member.

The current committee generally agreed that the work group would be useful. Several members offered to volunteer. Rodney asked if there was a budget for this; since the committee is composed of volunteers, a budget is not necessary. According to Mr. Ruck, this initiative is a matter of good structural governance. Julie suggested that someone who knows the history of AQPAC should be involved. Brian said this would be a good opportunity to involve the Board of Trade again. Sally expressed an interest in involving young people energized to become involved in change. Larry suggested that people interested in being involved in this work group submit a paragraph to Jill or Joan by April 30. Participant recommendations will be submitted to MWAQC at the next meeting.

4. New Business

Jessica passed around information from the City Paper about an upcoming climate change conference on May 1-3 at GWU: <http://www.climateactionconference.org/>

Julie attended a meeting of the Air Pollution Control Board, a citizens' board in Virginia. They decided not to rule on what to do about Mirant's permit to pollute. They took over permitting for the proposed Wise County plant. The Board also decided to add 2 people, so now has 7 members. The Board asked VDEQ staff to do more research on NOx emissions and CAIR for the Alexandria plant.

In May, there will be a presentation about mountain-top removal at the Episcopal Church at Quaker Lane and Seminary Road in Alexandria. Julie received notification that Mirant is being sued for leaching pollutants into a river in Charles County, MD.

Rodney asked how much it costs to have conference calls (i.e. to phone people in to meetings) and shared the cost of business line (\$99) versus Verizon unlimited calls. He brought up that Schwarzenegger is threatening to sue EPA over diesel. He said that newscasters from NBC and CBS did two pieces on cap and trade, which can be watched online. He also wants to know what we are doing in 2008/2009.

Jill, AQPAC's fearless leader, is moving out of the DC area! She has accepted an opportunity to create a new renewable energy lab in Malaysia, and therefore must resign effective May 1. CONGRATULATIONS, Jill!!! A motion was made to commend Jill for her service. ☺

The Nominations Committee will be consulted and will recommend a candidate for either chair or vice chair. Members were asked to volunteer for the MWAQC/AQPAC Review committee. Jill Engel Cox asked members to write a brief paragraph expressing their interest in serving on the committee. AQPAC was asked to email nominations to Deron or Joan.

5. Next meeting – May 19
Attendance at MWAQC, TAC, and CCSC