

# Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 17, 2013

Room 1

5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

**ACPAC members:** Bill Butler, Gretchen Goldman, Ravi Gupta, Raphael Isaac, Sally Kane, Katherine Lizotte, Patrick Matos, Caroline Petti, Glenna Tinney, Kyle Todd

**Staff:** Joan Rohlfs, Leah Boggs, Sunil Kumar, Maia Davis

## 1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

The agenda and minutes from May 20, 2013 were approved with no changes.

## 2. MWAQC and CEEPC Updates (Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP)

At the May 2013 MWAQC meeting the MWAQC work program and budget was approved. The June meeting is cancelled. At the May 2013 CEEPC meeting, the 2013-2016 CEEPC Action Plan was adopted. The July CEEPC meeting will be a joint meeting of CEEPC and the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee to discuss crossover issues such as the CEEPC Action Plan, the Draft Tree Canopy Report, and water utility energy-water initiatives.

## 3. Role of Trees in Mitigating Climate Change and Air Pollution (Dr. Jessica Sanders, Casey Trees)

Casey Trees is a DC Based tree advocacy organization with a mission of restoring, enhancing and protecting the tree canopy of the nation's capital. Dr. Jessica Sanders, Director of Technical Services and Research, explained that urban forests face a number of challenges that trees don't face in the natural forest because, in an urban setting, trees don't automatically receive everything they need to grow and prosper. She emphasized that trees are a place-based asset that needs to be managed as a whole, not just property to property or jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

Trees should be planted to improve the quality of urban. Every day exposure to green spaces reduces stress and promotes wellbeing. Central parks are important, but it's also clear that we must find ways to design cities so that there is nature at every door step. Studies have shown that people in hospitals with views of nature/trees have shorter recovery times and that people at work with views of nature/trees have higher reported productivity, higher job satisfaction, lower levels of stress at the work place and less reported sick days. Some of the ecosystem benefits of trees include improving air quality, improving water quality, preventing erosion, and urban heat island mitigation.

Dr. Sanders suggested that the District of Columbia needs better advocating for underground wiring, better encourage private property tree planting, and have a more friendly relationship with the public.

#### **4. Member Time (Gretchen Goldman, Union of Concerned Scientists)**

Gretchen first provided a general overview of her doctoral research which looked into air pollution and health effects questions such as:

- What's the air like where people are breathing?
- How much air pollution is the person actually breathing?
- Once in a person's body how bad is it? - and -
- What is the outward facing physical response?

Gretchen then discussed her professional career with The Union of Concerned Scientists. The Union of Concerned Scientists puts rigorous, independent science to work to solve our planet's most pressing problems. Joining with citizens across the country, we combine technical analysis and effective advocacy to create innovative, practical solutions for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future. The main divisions within the organization are Food and Agriculture, Nuclear Power and Global Security, Global Warming and Clean Energy, Clean Vehicles, and the Center for Science and Democracy. Gretchen works in the Center for Science and Democracy, which addresses topics such as:

- How science informs policy
- Working with scientists to help them share their work
- Giving citizens more access to research
- Connecting scientists with organizations looking for specific information

#### **5. ACPAC Activities and Ideas Discussion**

During a discussion of future activities and ideas for meeting topics, an Air Quality, Health Communication and Risk Subcommittee concept was discussed. Sally Kane will follow up with those interested to further discuss. As far as meeting topics, it was suggested that the group be more experimental and scope for bigger ideas down the road. Another idea was to bring in regional bloggers to speak, such as Greater Greater Washington, Streets Blog DC, or Patches. Specific agenda topic ideas included congestion pricing, bus rapid transit, air toxics, new technology topics like carbon sequestration, and carbon output of planes.

<b>Next meeting: July 15, 2013 – 5:30pm – 7:30pm</b>
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