

**Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee**  
**Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**  
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**DRAFT MINUTES OF March 15, 2007 MEETING**

**Attendance:**

**Members and Alternates**

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County  
Rick Canizales, Prince William County  
Del. Alan Ebbin, Virginia General Assembly  
Jill Engel-Cox, JCET/AQPAC  
Hon. Paul Ferguson, Arlington County  
Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County, MWAQC Chair  
Pat Haddon, Calvert County  
Maurice Keys, District Department of Transportation  
Hon. Leta Mach, Greenbelt City Council  
Hon. Redella Pepper, City of Alexandria  
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County  
Hon. Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church  
JoAnne Sorenson, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Stanley Tracey, District of Columbia Department of Environment

**Others Present:**

Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Debra Jacobson, George Washington University Law School  
Rodney Livingston, DICEE  
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Bob Owalabi, Fairfax County Department of Transportation  
Pam Parker, Montgomery County Department of the Environment  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Ram Tangirala, District Department of the Environment  
Alfred Titus-Glover, Prince George's County  
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Harriet West, Clean Air Partners

**Staff:**

Leah Boggs, COG/DEP  
Mike Clifford, COG/DTP  
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP  
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP

Naomi Friedman, COG Asst. Executive Director  
Jeff King, COG/DEP  
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP  
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP  
George Nichols, COG/DEP  
Dave Robertson, COG Executive Director  
Joan Rohlf's, COG/DEP

### **1. Call to Order, Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Announcements**

Chair Floreen called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. During the public comment period, Rodney Livingston said that based on his analysis of the cost for materials to construct a house, home prices are significantly higher than the actual costs for materials. Because so much money is tied up in the home cost, citizens don't have extra money to spend to help clean the air. Ms. Floreen thanked Mr. Livingston for his long-standing interest in air issues in the Washington region.

Ms. Floreen called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of the February 28, 2007 meeting. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Ms. Floreen made several announcements. The MWAQC meeting date today was rescheduled from the normal date in order to give adequate notice in the media for public hearings to be held on the SIP in April. Also, at the February meeting, the committee agreed to send a letter to EPA requesting official notice that the Washington region attained the 1-hour ozone standard. The letter was sent to EPA on February 28.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **A. Report of the Technical Advisory Committee**

Mr. Tracey reported on the activities of the TAC. He referred members to the one page summary of relevant policy issues. He said that the TAC approved recommending release of the draft SIP for public comment.

#### **B. Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee**

Ms. Engel-Cox, Chair of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC), reported on a recent meeting. She said that AQPAC is continuing to prepare a letter recommending regional greenhouse gas initiatives.

AQPAC is reviewing the draft SIP and will prepare a written comment. In general, members are concerned that the SIP does not show all the monitors in the region in attainment of the 8-hour ozone standard in 2009. This means that the SIP does not do enough to address all of the health concerns associated with ozone pollution in the region.

Ms. Engel-Cox said that members were concerned that the Virginia public hearings were not being scheduled at a location within walking distance of Metro. AQPAC passed a resolution urging Virginia to locate a public hearing on the 8-hour ozone SIP near Metro. After confirming support from other Virginia representatives, Mr. Snyder formally requested that the public hearing be held in the evening and moved to a location that is accessible by Metro. Mr. Ballou said that

Virginia is willing to hold an additional meeting at another location depending on availability of a suitable facility such as the Falls Church High School.

### **C. Report of the Clean Air Partners**

Harriet West, managing Director of Clean Air Partners, reported. Piloting of the air quality curriculum continues and will be completed in May 2007. Montgomery County will be conducting a survey of roughly 150 auto repair facilities in the Anacostia watershed in March 2007. Input from the survey will be used to help design and implement the auto parts washer rebate program. Clean Air Partners will be meeting with representatives from Fairfax County, the District of Columbia, and the Baltimore region later this month to discuss interest in implementation in these areas. The Annual Meeting will be held on May 10, 2007 (12:00-2:00 pm) at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) to approve the FY 2008 Work Program and Budget. Planning is underway for the 10-Year Anniversary signature event on June 5, 2007 (3:00-5:00 pm) to reaffirm the commitment between COG and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council.

Ms. Floreen suggested that Clean Air Partners develop a backlog of materials that can be shared with the press on slow news days to enhance community education.

### **D. Report of the Interstate Air Quality Council (IAQC)**

Mr. Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, reported on the IAQC. The IAQC Staff Coordinating Committee met on Monday March 13. One of the main items of business was to develop the agenda for the next IAQC meeting in May to review and take formal action on the SIP after the public hearings.

### **3. Overview: 8-hour Ozone SIP**

Ms. Rohlf provided an overview of the 8-hour ozone SIP, covering the main points of the SIP included in the Executive Summary. The main components of the SIP are emissions reductions between 2002-2009, various control measures, an assessment of Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACM), the attainment demonstration and weight of evidence, and a contingency plan. Mobile budgets are also established for 2008, 2009, and 2010. The base year 2002 inventory must be submitted as part of the SIP and therefore will be part of the public comment process.

Ms. Rohlf provided additional details on the list of control measures, the criteria used for the RACM determination, and the specific mobile source emission levels being used to set the new mobile budgets. Local initiatives incorporated into the SIP control strategy include LED traffic signal retrofits, wind energy purchases, Green Building initiatives, and urban tree canopy programs.

The results of the attainment modeling indicate that all of the monitors in the region except two will have 2009 predicted Design Values below the 85 ppb health standard. The two monitors with predicted DVs greater than the standard (Mt. Vernon and Arlington) are still within EPA's weight of evidence range (82-87 ppb). The conclusion of the attainment demonstration is that "photochemical modeling combined with supporting Weight of Evidence analysis provide strong evidence the region will attain the 8-hour ozone standard by 2009."

Contingency plans are included to address potential failures to meet RFP or to attain in 2009. The contingency measures included in the SIP provide sufficient reductions to meet the reduction requirement (3 percent of the Adjusted Base Year Inventory). Contingency reductions results from the OTC Portable Fuel Container rule, mobile source reductions resulting from federal motor vehicle emission standards, nonroad sector reductions resulting from various federal rules, and reductions from state NOx RACT and regional transport requirements.

In response to a question from Ms. Floreen about the reliability of the attainment modeling results, Mr. Aburn and Mr. Ballou said that there are reasons to believe that the attainment model is underpredicting the amount of ozone reductions resulting from controls expected in 2009. Based on extensive analysis by the University of Maryland it is believed that the model is not giving the full benefit of power plant controls. Mr. Ballou said that the 2002 base case conditions are also based on worst-case meteorological conditions, therefore the model tends to overpredict future design values.

In response to a question from Ms. Engel-Cox, Mr. King said that he could provide a list of the measures evaluated in the RACM analysis, with an assessment of the measures which could be effective by May 2008 and the associated level of potential emission reductions.

The SIP is posted on the web at <http://sharepoint.mwcog.org/airquality/default.aspx>.

#### **4. Control Measures and Voluntary Bundle Components**

Mr. King provided an overview of the control measures and voluntary bundle components. Control measures include federal and state regulations, local voluntary initiatives, and episodic programs. In addition to all of the federal and state regulations that were included in the 1-hour ozone SIP, there are several new state and federal programs. New federal rules include the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), on-road motor vehicle emission standards, and off-road equipment emission standards. New state regulations are based on the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) model rules for portable fuel containers, industrial adhesives and sealants, and consumer products. Local initiatives placed in the voluntary bundle include wind energy purchases, LED traffic signal retrofits, renewable portfolio standards, building efficiency and Green Building programs, and an urban heat island mitigation/tree canopy initiative. Several voluntary initiatives were placed in the weight of evidence analysis, including episodic programs, high electricity demand day initiatives, and code orange telecommute programs. Low emission vehicle purchases and diesel retrofits were can be used in either the SIP or conformity, but not both.

Ms. Floreen asked if the urban tree canopy initiative in the voluntary bundle included specific programs being carried out at the local level. Mr. King said that the measure does contain a detailed list of the local programs aimed at improving urban tree canopies across the region. Ms. Engel-Cox asked for information on the remote sensing program. Mr. Ballou said that Virginia started a pilot program several years ago that has since become fully implemented in the northern Virginia area. The remote sensing program involves placing technology along roadways that can detect unacceptably high emission levels coming out of individual motor vehicles. The identified vehicle owners are then sent a notice of violation that requires that the vehicle be repaired. The program is really intended to supplement the regular Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance program. Mr. Aburn said that the remote sensing program is not being implemented in Maryland.

Jill Engel-Cox asked if the code orange telecommuting program is already being implemented. Mr. Hug said that Maryland is working with Clean Air Partners to develop this new program.

Ms. Pepper asked for more information on the rationale for not including the mobile-sector measures in the voluntary bundle. Mr. King said that mobile measures were included in the voluntary bundle in the one-hour ozone SIP, but for no credit. During development of the 8-hour ozone SIP, TPB sent a letter to MWAQC requesting coordination on handling of mobile-sector measures being advanced by local governments. A decision was made that local agencies responsible for particular programs such as low-emission vehicle purchases or diesel retrofits should make the decision on whether to include the program in the SIP or for transportation conformity. Based on feedback received through the Local Government Subcommittee process, all of the jurisdictions responding requested that the mobile measures be included either as weight of evidence or as TERMS for conformity, but not be included in the voluntary bundle. In response to a question from Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Rohlfs said that for the local voluntary programs to be included in the SIP, the jurisdiction must provide a commitment letter to the state and must agree to recordkeeping and reporting requirements. Commitment letters are included in Appendix H.

### **5. SIP Approval Process**

Ms. Rohlfs described the SIP approval process. The TAC approved the draft SIP on March 6, with several additional changes approved at a special meeting of the TAC on March 15. Once MWAQC approves the SIP for public comment, the states will publish public hearing notices. The public hearings will be held during the week of April 23. On May 8, the TAC will review and approve responses to public comments. On May 23, MWAQC will have the opportunity to approve the comment responses as well as the final SIP. Upon MWAQC approval, the SIP and associated documentation will be provided to the states for submittal to EPA by the June 15 deadline.

Mr. Aburn said that EPA recently lost a lawsuit which affects the EPA 8-hour ozone implementation guidance. The June 15 deadline could be impacted by this development, however, EPA has advised the states to continue to work toward SIP submittal by that date.

Mr. Snyder recommended that the SIP document be placed in context, in the sense that it does not attempt to address all air-related issues, such as climate change. It is a plan focused on a core issue and addresses one particular air pollutant. Ms. Rohlfs said that she can discuss with the state representatives handling the formal public hearing process.

Mr. Mendelson said that air quality improvement needs to begin in 2007 because the attainment in 2009 will be based on monitored ozone levels from 2007-2009.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft SIP for public comment. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Freudberg and Ms. Floreen expressed appreciation for staff and all of the members of the Technical Advisory Committee involved with completing this work.

Ms. Rohlfs said that COG will send out a press release highlighting this action today.

## **6. Status Report on COG Climate Change Initiative**

Mr. Robertson provided a status report on the COG Climate Change Initiative. With support from several local jurisdictions, COG recently held a climate change roundtable to discuss climate change and begin to develop a program to address greenhouse gas issues in the region. In the next month under the direction of the CAO committee, COG will further develop recommendations to the COG Board for establishing a COG climate change program, including recommendations for a structure, governance, funding, and tasks. Given the tremendous capacity of existing committees such as MWAQC, TPB, Clean Air Partners, etc, it is possible the initial structure will be a coordinating or steering committee. Areas of focus could include inventory development, setting regional reduction targets, cataloging best practices, consideration of carbon offset funds. The effort is part of the COG work program and recommendations will be brought to the COG Board in the next month.

## **7. State Air Agency Reports**

Mr. Aburn reported for Maryland. The Maryland Clean Cars Act is being considered in the Maryland General Assembly. If adopted, the legislation will reduce air toxics, greenhouse gases, VOC and NOx from automobiles sold in Maryland.

Mr. Ballou reported for Virginia. The final state CAIR rule package has been sent to EPA. Under the rule, emissions from the northern Virginia facilities will be capped. Virginia has published NOIRA for three OTC VOC model rules.

Mr. Tracey reported for the District. The CAIR and OTC VOC regulations are being finalized.

## **8. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn**

The next meeting will take place on May 23. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.