

Air & Climate Public Advisory Committee

May 17, 2010, 5:35 PM-7:15 PM

Meeting Summary

Present:

Deron Lovaas, Chair; Larry Zaragoza, Richard Reiss, Sally Kane, Linda Murphy, Caroline Petti, Josh Silverman, Julie van Fleet, Beverly Fourier, Jen Peterson, William "Bill" Butler

Staff: Joan Rohlf, Sunil Kumar

Item 1: call to order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes (April 2010 Meeting)

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Deron Lovaas, Chair. Bill Butler clarified his statement he made in the April 20, 2010 meeting. Minutes for the April 20, 2010 meeting were adopted with the changes suggested by Bill.

Item 2: Measuring Background Ozone Concentrations

Sunil Kumar gave a presentation on the topic titled "Measuring background ozone concentrations". Linda asked how our region can achieve the ozone standard if emissions come outside of the region. She asked how local governments will be able to control ozone levels since they cannot control ozone transport from mid-west and abroad and also ozone coming out from natural sources. Joan replied that there are a number of regional coordination forums such as, Ozone Transport Committee (OTC) and Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (LADCO), which work on the long distance transport issues and related control measures. Julie wanted to know if any measures were suggested for controlling background ozone levels. Larry said that MWAQC should take up the issue of ozone transport and formulate some suggestions about it. Joan talked the new "Transport" rule, which will replace the "CAIR" rule. EPA is expected to publish the new replacement rule soon. Larry suggested using renewable energy sources as these will help reduce emission of ozone, fine particles, and greenhouse gases. He further said that ACPAC should suggest some new control measures. Rick suggested waiting till EPA comes up with the new ozone standard. Larry agreed with Rick's suggestion. Caroline asked if MWAQC gave up on the local control measures. Joan said MWAQC has not given up on these measures and, in fact, is preparing a report on how local governments have done with respect to implementing those measures.

Montgomery county carbon tax proposal

Joan talked about the carbon tax (\$5/ton CO₂) proposal put forth by the Montgomery County Council Member Roger Berliner. She said that based on the criteria only MIRANT Mid-Atlantic power plant will be subject to the tax.

Fairfax County Air Quality Monitor Issue: Joan said that Rick Reiss prepared a statistical analysis for comparing ozone data at Mount Vernon and Franconia monitors. Rick explained the analysis and said that the two ozone monitors are pretty close to each other in terms of ozone data. Joan asked Sunil to provide this analysis to the group.

Item 3: Updates on MWAQC TAC and Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Joan presented her updates on the activities of MWAQC TAC and CEEPC committees. Julie asked if there was any representation of ACPAC on MWAQC. Joan said Deron and Caroline are its members.

Item 4: Outreach and Education (Regional Outreach Concept: Earth Aid)

Joan Rohlfs reported that in May CEEPC endorsed an idea of a regional energy outreach campaign using a social marketing/competition approach. Earth Aid, a web based outreach program for promoting energy use reduction and energy efficiency efforts among residents, is being considered for the program. Earth Aid uses competition and rewards to motivate residents to reduce their energy use in the Washington region. She said this will help the Washington region reach its energy and climate goals and would not compete with any existing program.

Larry suggested working with the Community Associations Institute (CAI). CAI provides education, tools and resources to people who govern and manage homeowners associations, condominiums and other planned communities. He said since there are many people in ACPAC who belong to homeowners associations and therefore can get help from this institute.

The group discussed the use of electronic blackboards in schools. Also inclusion of energy efficiency and reduction issues in the curriculum was suggested. The "Home Energy makeover Contest" organized by WJLA was also briefly discussed.

Item 5: New Business

Deron asked why new monitors were being purchased when Virginia DEQ was proposing to shut down a number of monitors. Joan said that the monitor siting criteria changed and the new technologies for monitoring were being introduced. Larry said that the public announcement from Virginia DEQ regarding the shutting down of some Northern Virginia monitors was not very informative. Therefore, he plans to meet Virginia DEQ regarding this issue.

Linda asked about the timeline plot that Joan provided to the group. Joan explained various timelines associated with the Earth Aid program provided in the plot.

Item 6: Next Meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2010. The meeting ended at 7:15 PM.