

BEEAC Meeting Summary

February 19, 2015

Attendees:

Joan Kelsch, Arlington County (Co-Chair)
Beth Groth, Charles County
Emil King, District Department of Environment (Co-Chair)
Sosina Tadesse, District Department of Environment
Noel Kaplan, Fairfax County
Tim Stevens, City of Falls Church
Lisa Orr, Frederick County
Dyan Backe, City of Gaithersburg
Richard Fink, City of Greenbelt
Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt
Najib Salehi, Loudoun County
Jessica Wessell, Loudoun County
Michelle Vigen, Montgomery County
Jeffrey Bond, Prince George's County
Said Said, Prince William County
Abby Johnson, Abacus Property Solutions
Colin Coyle, Capitalize Energy
Dave Good, SCL Energy
Rachel Healy, WMATA

COG Staff in Attendance:

Leah Boggs, COG DEP
Amanda Campbell, COG DEP
Maia Davis, COG DEP
Jeff King, COG DEP
Isabel Ricker, COG DEP
Steve Walz, COG DEP Director

1. Call to Order, Co-Chairs

2. Approval of January 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from January were approved with no changes.

3. Final Review of Bylaws, New Committee Members and Officer Elections,

A quorum was established. A motion to approve the revised BEEAC bylaws was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

The committee had one nominee each for the Chair and the two Vice Chair positions: Michelle Vigen (for Chair), Bill Eger and Emil King (for Vice Chairs). Each nominee gave brief remarks on their current work in high performance buildings, sustainability and renewable energy, and their interest in BEEAC leadership. (Leah Boggs gave remarks on behalf of Bill Eger who was unable to attend.)

Leah thanked Joan Kelsch for her many years of chairing BEEAC and its preceding committees. Joan gave brief remarks on her involvement in COG's green building groups and regional discussions on green building. This group was instrumental in starting a conversation on building performance with government officials, developers, and other stakeholders in the region, and much progress has been accomplished in the last decade. Other members thanked Joan for her leadership, mentorship and service to the region.

No additional nominations for officers were made from the floor. A motion to approve the slate of nominees was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

4. Overview of MSWG Subgroup on Energy & Environment, Steve Walz, COG DEP Director

COG is convening a multi-sector working group to study reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the region at the request of CEEPC and MWAQC. The group will produce a "What we can do" report that will identify and evaluate viable strategies for the region to achieve its climate change goals. The assessment will look at strategies in four sectors: energy, built environment, transportation, and land use.

The first full MSWG meeting was held January 30. Over 40 representatives from local governments around the region participated. COG recently released an RFP for a consultant to do the cost-benefit and implementation analysis for the report, which closes on March 6. We will be establishing and convening three subgroups (land use, transportation, and energy and environment) to identify strategies for evaluation by the consultant.

In an effort to reduce meetings, the energy and environment subgroup will be linked with BEEAC meetings this spring (except for the February meeting). Likely, BEEAC meetings will be somewhat shortened, and the MSWG subgroup will meet for the remainder of the time and over lunch. There will likely be two meetings to identify strategies, and potentially one or two more after the consultant's evaluation is complete.

The first energy & environment subgroup meeting is February 27. Following meetings are March 19, and possibly April 16, May 21 and/or June 18. COG will provide a list of potential strategies to be considered by the subgroup, and more information about meeting dates and subgroup members in the near future.

5. Discussion on Priorities Selected for Climate Action Champions Projects, Maia Davis, COG DEP

Maia gave background on the region's decision to apply for the Climate Action Champions program as a consortium of governments through COG. The CAC project manager at DOE attended CEEPC in January and provided some more information about the process, goals and opportunities available under the

program. The award lasts three years, during which time the region will regularly get updates on federal funding opportunities, access to targeted resources and technical support, and will get preference for grants. DOE is also interested in helping to facilitate connections with private foundations and funders to close gaps in finance options. To help determine which opportunities to give Champions preference on, DOE asked awardees to provide their top three priority areas for support.

After gathering input from members, COG submitted the following priorities to DOE:

1. Low emission vehicles – Support for EV and AFV programs, procurement, and infrastructure. Technical assistance in policy development to encourage low emission vehicle deployment.
2. Achieving Financing at Scale – Support for development of new financing options and mechanisms, including connecting the region with private capital and philanthropic entities.
3. Climate Action Plans – Support and technical assistance for greenhouse gas inventories, identification and evaluation of measures, and development of action plans.

A suggestion was made to consider including public transit in these conversations, and potentially helping to connect transit agencies with additional funding opportunities to help deploy cleaner vehicles and more sustainable facilities.

COG encourages BEEAC members to share the grant information, and webinars or events with other departments, agencies and jurisdictions that could benefit from these opportunities. Maia will share the list of CAC lead contacts for all of the jurisdictions with BEEAC to facilitate communication.

6. Jurisdiction Exchange, Announcements and Updates

Electric Vehicle Updates, *Leah Boggs, COG DEP*

- COG-Vision Fleet Pilot Assessment Selection – Through an agreement between COG and Vision Fleet, four jurisdictions in the region will get a no cost, no obligation assessment of conversion of their entire light duty fleet to electric vehicles. The assessments should be complete at the end of March, and will be shared at an electric vehicle working group meeting. The jurisdictions that have been selected are: District of Columbia, Prince George’s County, City of Alexandria, and City of Frederick.
- COG is also working with Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (EVIC) to put on a workshop on EV incentives, barriers and opportunities this spring or summer. We are also working with Commuter Connections to expand EV in the workplace programs and outreach.

Green Purchasing Fair, *Leah Boggs, COG DEP*

- COG hosted a green purchasing fair January 29 in cooperation with Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce and Green Business Forum. It was quite a successful event, with over 30 vendors and over 80 local government representatives attended. Based on this success, COG has decided to host an expanded green vendor fair annually.

COG Solarize Awards & Projects, *Isabel Ricker, COG DEP*

- In January, COG awarded a contract to consultant team led by Community Power Network to support education & outreach activities for solarize projects around the region. We are doing outreach to the participating jurisdictions and are planning solar co-op outreach activities in nine communities around the region.

CEEPC Legislative Committee

- The subcommittee had its first official call of 2015 last week. due to the super short legislative session in Virginia, the call focused primarily on legislation there. The developments of most interest to BEEAC and CEEPC include:
 - HB 2237 looks likely to pass, and would enable rate recovery for utilities to build or purchase up to 500MW of utility-scale solar projects. It also now prioritizes use of Virginia contractors and allows utilities to enter into PPAs for the solar power.
 - HB 1446 and SB 801 clarify issues in State code that will enable localities to implement commercial PACE programs. Both bills have passed both chambers and await the Governor's approval.
 - HB 1950 raises the commercial net metering cap to 1MW from 500kW. It passed the House and looks likely to pass in the Senate.
 - HB 1297 establishes a separate class for renewable energy under the manufacturing and tools tax, which can be taxed at a lower level. This also looks likely to pass.
 - SB 1099 creates the Solar Energy Development Authority and has passed both chambers.

Roundtable Discussion

Members asked about the next steps for PACE in Virginia, assuming that the law is approved. The state will convene a stakeholder group to encourage consistency in local PACE programs across the state and provide resources for jurisdictions on implementation. These recommendations should be completed by December. This process was a result of conversations with several stakeholders, including developers and the commercial bankers association.

Greenbelt was recently awarded another Smart Energy Communities grant and will be using the funding to retrofit several public facilities with LEDs. Frederick County recently purchased five plug in hybrids and three charging stations with a Smart Energy Communities grant. Additionally, the County should have their first electric bus in May or June, and expect to grow that number to six or seven.

COG staff noted that the March CEEPC meeting will include a discussion on the Living Buildings Challenge, which was an area of interest on the 2015 BEEAC member survey. If anyone has suggestions for buildings, architects or others in the region working on Living Buildings Challenge, let Maia know.

WMATA gave several updates on energy and sustainability projects. New LED lighting being installed in parking garages and the Authority is hoping to expand the contract to outdoor stations, tunnels and other lighting uses. A system-wide solar capacity study will be released this spring, which will inform

plans to reach their 30% renewable power by 2025 goal. Although WMATA did not receive the federal electric bus pilot project funding, they are still pursuing the project and looking for partners or potential funding sources. As the metro system moves to eight car trains, they are also looking into regenerative braking to conserve and optimize energy use system-wide.

DDOE and DDOT are working together to develop policy that would enable private residents or businesses to install EV or AFV charging infrastructure in public spaces. The Community Solar regulations are moving along, and the District's emphasis now is to use commercial scale community solar installations (potentially with PACE financing) to scale up solar deployment. There will be a few projects announced in next month or two.

7. Upcoming Meeting Dates, Adjournment

- MSWG Energy & Environment Subgroup meeting – February 27
- BEEAC planning call – March 5
- BEEAC-MSWG Energy & Environment Subgroup joint meeting – March 19
- CEEPC meeting – March 25