

## Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

### JOINT MEETING SUMMARY: JANUARY 27, 2016

#### **MWAQC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County \*†
- Willy Bailey, City of Alexandria \*
- Tom Ballou, VA Department of Environmental Quality\*
- Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy and Environment
- Molly Berger, MD Department of the Environment \*
- Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County \*
- Robert Day, City of College Park \*
- Lynn Erickson, MD Department of Transportation \*†
- Lisa Feldt, Montgomery County
- Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt †
- Brianne Nadeau, Washington DC. (Chair)
- Del Pepper, City of Alexandria \*†
- Jim Ponticello, VA Department of Transportation
- Hans Reimer, Montgomery County \*
- Fred Schulz, City of Takoma Park †
- David Snyder, City of Falls Church (Departing MWAQC Chair)
- Dan Sze, City of Falls Church \*
- Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy and Environment
- Glenna Tinney, ACPAC Chair
- Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation †

#### **CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Melissa Adams, Washington Gas \*
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County \*
- Nick Bonard, National Capitol Planning Commission \*
- Dave Feldman, Livability Project \*
- Penny Gross, Fairfax County (Chair) \*
- Maureen Holman, DC Water
- Kate Marks, US Department of Energy
- George Nichols, DC Sustainable Energy Utility
- Stephen Shaff, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council \*
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
- Robin Snyder, US General Services Administration, NCR \*
- Tim Stevens, Virginia Sierra Club
- Ted Trabue, DC Sustainable Energy Utility

- Michelle Vigen, Montgomery County
- Luke Wisniewski, MD Department of the Environment \*

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:**

- Sonia Desai, Washington DC
- Bill Eger, City of Alexandria \*
- Brian Hamilton, EPA Region 3
- Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park \*
- Laura Rogers, MD Department of Transportation
- Chris Somers, Arlington County
- Norman Whitaker, VA Department of Transportation
- Edward Yim, Washington DC Department of Energy and Environment

**COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs
- Sophie Earll, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
- Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs
- Erin Morrow, COG Transportation Programs
- Jane Posey, COG Transportation Programs
- Isabel Ricker, COG Environmental Programs
- Daivamani Sivasailam, COG Transportation Programs
- Madison Wagner, COG Environmental Programs
- Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director
- Aaron Waters, COG Environmental Programs

(\*) Indicates participation by phone

(†) Indicates member serving on both MWAQC and CEEPC

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, APPROVE MINUTES, CHAIR’S REMARKS**

Departing MWAQC Chair Dave Snyder opened the meeting and welcomed incoming MWAQC Chair Brianne Nadeau and incoming CEEPC Chair Penny Gross. There were no public comments. The MWAQC and CEEPC meeting summaries were unanimously approved.

**2. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee** (*Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs*)

- The Washington region is developing a Maintenance Plan on fine particulate matter (PM2.5) for submittal to the EPA. This will include revised motor vehicle emissions budgets, using the MOVES2014 model. MWAQC-TAC reviewed a draft Maintenance Plan in January and the final will be brought to MWAQC in February for approval.

- The Washington region is considering whether to submit a re-designation request and Maintenance Plan for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS. The latest draft data indicates the region is in compliance with the 75 ppb standard.
  - TAC reviewed and approved comment letters on the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) and proposed heavy duty vehicle emissions rule. TAC has also discussed how to include air quality measures in the annual local government survey.
- B. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC) (Michelle Vigen, Chair)**
- In January, BEEAC held an Energy Finance Training and a PACE Workgroup meeting. The PACE Workgroup discussed various implementation strategies of local jurisdictions in the region. The group will be creating a toolkit for localities, including template ordinances, RFPs, and strategies for engaging a program administrator.
  - Upcoming BEEAC meetings will include discussions on local government LED lighting projects, emission reduction planning, grid modernization, and solar development. Upcoming workshops will cover sustainability in comprehensive plans and microgrid procurement.
- C. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) (Glenna Tinney, Chair)**
- ACPAC appointed three new members in January. COG staff will send thank you letters to committee members that have rotated off.
- D. CEEPC Legislative Committee (LC) (Isabel Ricker, COG Environmental Programs)**
- The Legislative Committee is a sub-group of CEEPC that advises CEEPC on legislative issues and whether to take positions on bills proposed at the state and federal levels. Both Maryland and Virginia General Assembly sessions began on January 13, 2016.
  - In Virginia, there is an initiative to join RGGI, and to use the carbon trading revenues mainly for local resilience efforts (SB 571, HB 351). The LC voted to support the bill, has joined a sign-on letter with other Virginia localities, and will write a letter of support to state legislators. Another bill to follow is the Jobs and Energy Security Act (SB 148 and HB 1286), which clarifies legal grey areas of power purchase agreements (PPAs) in Virginia, and removes other barriers to distributed renewable energy, including raising the statewide net metering limit.
  - In Maryland, the main initiative to watch would increase the RPS to 25% by 2020. The MD Climate Coalition estimates that this will have significant benefits for air quality and public health, preventing 25-50 premature deaths per year, and will reduce CO2 emissions by 2.7 million metric tons per year. Additionally, there is a proposal to allocate \$40M from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund (SEIF) for clean energy workforce development, especially for minority and women-owned businesses. The LC has also voted to support a bill to remove the 100 kW cap for renewable energy systems funded by a PACE loan (SB 173 and HB 105).
- E. Clean Air Partners (CAP) (Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs)**
- CAP is planning a community outreach initiative in the Baltimore/Washington region April-June.
  - The 5<sup>th</sup> annual slogan contest has wrapped up. This asked students to submit a creative slogan that highlights air pollution or climate change and inspires people to take action. The winners and their teachers received awards, more info can be found at [www.cleanairpartners.net](http://www.cleanairpartners.net).
  - CAP will also be working with ten local area science fairs this year. Projects related to air quality will be evaluated and awarded at the Annual CAP Celebration.
  - The 2016 CAP Awards will be held at the Maryland Zoo, located in Baltimore, MD. CAP is seeking nominations for: 1) Clean Air Partners Champion (for an individual) and 2) Most Valuable Partner (for an organization). The deadline is January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

## **F. Member Updates**

- Dave Snyder announced that the most recent data show the DC region meets current Clean Air Act standards. In 2015, there were only five days exceeding healthy ozone levels and no code red days for the third straight summer. COG staff have also found that the region has cleaner air than many European cities. This achievement is a strong indication that intergovernmental cooperation can be successful. MWAQC anticipates being able to meet forthcoming tougher standards and hopes to work more closely with transportation and the built environment sectors to do so.

## **3. MWAQC ELECTION OF OFFICERS** (*David Snyder, MWAQC Chairman*)

The nominating committee consisted of Councilmembers Leta Mach from Greenbelt, Phil Mendelson from the District of Columbia, and Del Pepper from Alexandria. The following nominations were unanimously approved:

- MWAQC Chair: City Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, District of Columbia
- Maryland Vice Chair: County Councilmember Hans Reimer, Montgomery County
- Virginia Vice Chair: City Councilmember Michael DeMarco, City of Fairfax

MWAQC Chair Brianne Nadeau thanked Dave Snyder for his leadership of MWAQC and agreed that the committee's first order of business should be: 1) deciding on the PM2.5 Maintenance Plan, 2) officially obtaining Attainment status for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS (75 ppb); 3) moving forward on ozone and CO<sub>2</sub> compliance based on results of the 2016 ozone season.

## **4. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE** (*Glenna Tinney, ACPAC Chair*)

CEEPAC Chair Penny Gross gave a brief overview of ACPAC's role as an advisory committee and forum for public input to both MWAQC and CEEPC on air quality, climate change, and energy. ACPAC has identified Environmental Justice (EJ) as it relates to climate change, air quality, and health as an ACPAC priority for 2016. Recent meetings have focused on EJ work being done in the region and how policy makers can better integrate EJ concerns into decision-making processes.

ACPAC Chair Glenna Tinney discussed the committee's draft proposal to create an EJ toolkit for the region, which would include principles, metrics, data sources, best practices, resources, and tools. The toolkit would also aim to identify EJ priorities and practices at COG and around the region. Once the proposal is approved, ACPAC will work with the various committees and COG staff to develop an outline for the toolkit.

### **Discussion**

- The proposal is closely related to work being done with EPA and faith communities around the region. Members suggested that ACPAC create case studies as part of the toolkit and consider the role of citizen science in EJ activities.
- Glenna clarified that ACPAC is considering EJ as related to climate change, human health, and air quality.
- TPB has an EJ component in its work underway and that work will be shared with ACPAC.
- A motion to approve the proposal passed unanimously.

## **5. MWAQC COMMENT LETTERS – CSAPR AND HDD VEHICLE RULE** (*Sunil Kumar and Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs*)

### **Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR)**

MWAQC-TAC developed a comment letter supporting the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to update CSAPR, which would help to reduce summertime NO<sub>x</sub> emissions significantly in 23 states in the Eastern

US. The letter requests EPA to consider the rule's effect on 2016 summertime NOx emissions, as 2016 is particularly important for setting 2015 ozone NAAQS designations. The letter encourages EPA to examine all source sectors for least-cost alternatives to the problem of interstate transport.

#### Discussion

- COG staff clarified that the CSAPR will support compliance with current and future ozone standards, and that the letter supports action to reduce pollution that is imported to the region.
- CSAPR directly addresses NOx and fine particle pollution while the Clean Power Plan focuses on Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs).
- A motion to approve the letter passed unanimously.

#### **Heavy Duty Diesel (HDD) Vehicle Rule**

MWAQC-TAC has drafted a comment letter on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and EPA's medium and heavy duty vehicle emissions rule. The rule represents an important regulatory effort for air quality and climate change because this sector represents approximately 40 percent of on-road NOx emissions and 20 percent of on-road GHG emissions, but the region does not have authority to set vehicle emission standards. The Multi-Sector Working Group (MSWG) work shows that several of the most significant on-the-books reductions through 2050 are a direct result of federal vehicle efficiency standards.

The comment letter urges EPA to move quickly to finalize rule, recommends additional action to address both sector NOx emissions, and to ensure there isn't backsliding from increased use of auxiliary power units. TAC and BEEAC approved the letter and for recommendation to MWAQC and CEEPC approve it. A motion to approve the letter passed unanimously.

### **6. CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND AIR QUALITY SURVEY** (*Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs*)

COG staff sends a survey to member governments each year to gauge progress on the Climate and Energy Action Plan, which has over 50 individual actions. The 2016 survey will be very important to setting the baseline for the 2017-2020 Action Plan. In the past, COG asked for information on air quality programs as well, and will include some additional air quality questions vetted by MWAQC-TAC in the 2016 survey.

#### Discussion

- Most local governments respond during or shortly after the three week response window, though it can take a few reminders. The survey is sent to one or more local government staff to help ensure it reaches the appropriate staff member.
- Thus far, data collection and analysis has been done at COG rather than through a partnership with the academic community, but COG is glad to provide information as requested, and would appreciate working with educational faculty.
- Members suggested testing out an environmental justice question with survey respondents.

### **7. GREENHOUSE GAS MULTI-SECTOR WORKING GROUP** (*Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director*)

The Multi-Sector Working Group (MSWG) has been working for more than a year to identify viable strategies to reduce GHG emissions in the region. The final MSWG report includes benefits, costs, and implementation timeframes for the 22 strategies investigated. The COG board recommended a policy board of elected officials develop a list of consensus strategies for regional, local, and potential future implementation.

COG Staff will develop a brief survey for jurisdiction staff to gauge which strategies can be implemented regionally, recognizing that there will be some viability in implementation across localities. If possible, these questions will be combined with the Climate, Energy and Air Quality Survey to reduce the burden on jurisdictions.

### Discussion

- Members are pleased with the report but interested in having jurisdictional staff weigh in, to ensure that the strategies are feasible. It may also be useful to solicit input from academic institutions and to look at national and state-level actions.
- Members hope that the transportation and built environment sectors will set stronger targets to help the region achieve its climate and air quality goals.
- Public outreach and education are critical components to making all the strategies included in report effective. Information on cost effectiveness is also essential and will be included, though assigning monetary value to costs and benefits is difficult for some strategies.
- Members suggested changing “renewable energy” to “clean distributed energy resources” to encompass technologies like storage, demand response and fuel cells. Members also suggested adding a column to indicate the specific government entity with authority on each strategy and changing the title from “consensus” strategies until all COG members have agreed they are feasible.
- COG is working to develop a common protocol for GHG reporting and inventories for the region. GHG calculations will be updated periodically, especially regarding the 2020 goal.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

- Chair Nadeau concluded the joint meeting.

The next MWAQC meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2016.

The next CEEPC meeting is scheduled for March 23, 2016.