AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 15, 2019

5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

draft meeting summary

ACPAC Members (\*via Phone)

Gretchen Goldman, Hilary Lewis, Robin Lewis\*, Jacqueline Norris, Guillermo Ortiz\*, Natalie Pien, Hyon Rah, Glenna Tinney, Gabriel Thoumi\*, Tamara Toles O’Laughlin

COG Staff: Amanda Campbell, Stephen Walz, Tim Masters

1. CALL TO ORDER, Agenda, meeting summary approval, Member announcements

Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, ACPAC Chair

The agenda was approved. The meeting summary was approved as written.

Mr. Thoumi is now working at Planet Tracker. Ms. Pien shared a report that found that the data centers in Loudoun County consume an outsized amount of electricity from the grid.

1. Electric Vehicles – state of the market and environmental benefits

*Josh Goldman, Union of Concerned Scientists*

Switching to electric vehicles (EVs) is the single biggest solution to transportation greenhouse gas emissions. According to Union of Concerned Scientists’ analysis, 90% of Americans drive less than 120 miles per day, and at least 45 million people could easily switch their combustion engine vehicles to EVs today and be able to fulfill most of their personal transportation needs. Mr. Goldman recommended that COG focus not only on regional electric vehicle infrastructure planning, but put resources towards outreach and education on the benefits of electric vehicles and the wide variety of models now available. Car dealerships do not make as much profit from EVs, so they invest less effort in marketing them. In addition, extending the federal tax credits will be crucial to supporting the market for EVs. See slides for more information.

In response to questions, Mr. Goldman said that mining is an important issue to investigate in relation to EV batteries. There are efforts to increase the recyclability of the batteries. Battery technology is quickly evolving. Members also raised the need to find ways to support low and moderate income ownership of EVs and reduce barriers for these communities.

1. mwaqc work program and budget

Steve Walz, COG Department of Environmental Programs

The FY2020 MWAQC Work Program and Budget contains some changes to respond to feedback received from the Strategic Assessment. The changes include reducing ACPAC meetings from about 10 per year to 8, while working to strengthen the value of ACPAC participation and improving communication and feedback between ACPAC and its parent committees. ACPAC priorities for FY2020 include:

* ACPAC-driven projects such as EJ and the Climate and Energy Awards.
* Input to MWAQC and CEEPC based on items to be taken up by the parent committees. This year, we see ACPAC providing advice on
  + The 2020 Climate and Energy Action Plan,
  + Review and input on comment letters,
  + The emission inventory needed for the 2015 Ozone NAACS marginal non-attainment designation, and any future ozone SIP,
  + Grant ideas, and
  + Communication feedback.

Committee members provided feedback on these proposed changes, noting the strengths and synergies that the voluntary ACPAC network brings to climate, energy, and air issues in the region.

Several ideas were proposed including the following:

ACPAC is interested in the following:

* Meeting with either chair of CEEPC or MWAQC to talk about other ideas for ACPAC involvement and projects, or asking for their ideas and direction
* Jointly meeting with CEEPC and or MWAQC at the beginning of the year to discuss joint priorities
* Substituting tours joint or a climate, energy, or air workshop for meetings
* Holding some meetings as conference calls, webinars, or video calls, or in subgroups.
* Hold a joint meeting with AWCAC or CAC
* One idea was to look for additional funding sources for ACPAC, such as TCI.

1. member time

*Gretchen Goldman, Union of Concerned Scientists*

Ms. Goldman shared her work on air quality and public health. She has authored reports and articles about the impact of the changes in the federal scientific review process for air quality standards. Translating some of the more technical aspects of air quality regulations into a form that journalists and the public are able to understand has been a keystone of her work. See slides on the meeting event site for more information.

1. air quality, climate and energy project updates

* Odyssey III Re-powered: COG partnered on a grant that helped the Odyssey Potomac River cruise-boat re-power its engine to a much cleaner model.
* Coastal Study Now 2/3 Funded: The Virginia General Assembly passed a measure approving the use of state resilience funds to cover the gap in local cost-share match for the first two segments of the Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Study. Fairfax County and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority are also contributing to the 50% federal/local cost-shared study. The study will examine hurricane and nuisance flooding risks and solutions along the west bank of the tidal Potomac river.
* Comment Letter Submitted: MWAQC submitted a comment letter (posted) on the proposed cost-benefit calculations in the Mercury and Air Toxics rule, which would no longer account for particulate matter co-benefits. The concern is that this new procedure could set a precedent for future NAAQS criteria pollutant evaluations.
* MWAQC-TAC received answers from EPA to emissions inventory baseline year questions and is awaiting answers to other questions. 2017 will likely be the region’s baseline year.
* Ozone season forecasting calls start on April 15. Download the [Clean Air Partners Air Quality app](https://www.cleanairpartners.net/air-quality-resources) and stay informed.
* Please PROMOTE PROMOTE PROMOTE the Climate & Energy Leadership Awards! Open for applications April 22-June 29.

1. aDJOURN. The next ACPAC meeting is may 20.