

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 25, 2009 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Monica Backmon, Prince William County
Cecily Beall, District of Columbia Department of Environment
Hon. John Britton, City of Rockville
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Del. Adam Ebbin, Virginia General Assembly
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia
Pam Parker, Montgomery County Department of Environment
Hon. Redella Pepper, City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple, Virginia General Assembly

Others Present:

Vicki Arroyo, Executive Director, Georgetown State-Federal Climate Resource Center
Daniel Barry, District of Columbia Department of Environment
Jessica Daniels, District of Columbia Department of Environment
Rebecca Davis, Education Project Manager for Clean Air Partners
Bhesh Dhamala, Fairfax County Department of Health
Tracye Funn, Washington Gas, former Chair of Clean Air Partners
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Harriet West, Clean Air Partners

Staff:

Mike Clifford, COG/DTP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Ron Kirby, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP
Amy Sanders, COG/DEP Intern
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG/DTP

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

Chair Mendelson called the meeting to order at 12:12. The meeting minutes of March 25, 2009 were approved with no changes.

2. Committee Reports

Report of the Technical Advisory Committee

Tom Ballou reported on the recent meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee. Members heard a report on EPA's proposed endangerment finding for greenhouse gases. A recent meeting of the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) and Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (LADCO) was held that focused on developing recommendations to EPA regarding the restructuring of the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) and the need for broader controls on power plants, including controls in the midwest. Members also discussed EPA's new Motor Vehicle Emission Simulation (MOVES) model use of which will be required once it is finalized.

Report of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee

Joan Rohlf's reported on the recent meeting of the Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC). AQPAC members discussed the new Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and were interested in plans for stakeholder involvement. Members also expressed interest in learning more about the Transportation Planning Board's "What Would It Take" Scenario study.

Report of the Clean Air Partners

Harriet West reported on recent activities of Clean Air Partners. The Clean Air Pledge, launched on May 5th, encourages residents to take simple, voluntary actions that make a difference in improving air quality and protecting the environment. The goal is to reduce 13 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions by Earth Day 2010. The 2009 public awareness campaign will include a combination of radio and transit ads. Two new radio ads were produced in April/May. The radio promotion will run over a five-week period (late-June through late-July) on nine top stations in the Baltimore and Washington regions. The curriculum and outreach materials have been presented to more than 1,400 students including 335 in the District of Columbia, 625 in Maryland, and 480 in Virginia. One new application for the aqueous parts washer rebate program was received from Frederick County Fleet Services. Clean Air Partners has approved eight rebates since October 2007 (four auto maintenance facilities, three printer shops, and one bike shop). Due to the limited response, this program will be phased out in FY 2010. The Clean Air Partners' Annual Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 12th at the Koshland Science Museum in Washington, DC. The Board approved the FY 2010 Work Program and Budget and the nomination of two new Board members – Jim Larsen, Executive Director of the Dulles Area Transportation Association and Lon Anderson, AAA Mid-Atlantic. Founding member Gary Allen, with the Center for Chesapeake Communities, was confirmed as the Chair for FY2010. The Board meeting was followed by an awards presentation to recognize the winners of the air quality poster contest and On the Air teacher allies.

Tracye Funn discussed the annual meeting which was designed to showcase the good work the organization has done, especially in the area of education. The theme was "ABCs" -- the air, the Bay, and Climate Change. She highlighted the success of the education curriculum outreach program managed by Rebecca Davis, noting that more than 1,500 children in the region have been

impacted by the program. The annual poster competition was also a success. She acknowledged the winners of the poster competition as well as the teachers involved. To help make the event carbon neutral, two wind energy Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) were purchased from Clean Currents to offset the electricity consumed at the facility. 3,000 pounds of carbon offsets were also purchased from TerraPass to offset transportation emissions. To limit paper consumption, the event used electronic communications and distributed materials via flash drives. She also premiered two new radio ads that were developed for this year's campaign.

Rebecca Davis said that the Clean Air Partners Board of Directors recently approved two new part-time, paid intern positions to assist the Education Program Manager with the summer outreach program. One intern will cover the Baltimore region and one will support the Washington region. There has been significant interest in the training program for the summer. She listed a number of educational events that have been scheduled throughout the region, including summer camps and recreational centers.

3. Climate Change Legislation: Cap and Trade

Vicki Arroyo discussed recent activities regarding federal climate change legislation. After providing background on the importance of addressing climate change, and reviewing state energy and climate initiatives, she provided an overview of recent actions of a Governor's Energy and Climate Coalition and the proposed Waxman-Markey legislation. The Governor's Coalition released a statement of principles on May 21, 2009. 31 states/territories were represented, including a bipartisan group of governors. The coalition pledged to work with Congress to pass climate change legislation and advanced two principles -- supporting comprehensive federal policy and advocating an active state-federal partnership.

The House climate and energy bill (Waxman-Markey) passed out of committee on May 21, 2009. The house leadership expects action soon in other committees (including Agriculture, Ways and Means). The bill would create a Cap and Trade program for covered sectors, which would cover approximately 80% of total US emissions. The proposed caps are 3 percent reduction by 2012 under 2005 levels, 17 percent by 2020, 42 percent by 2030, and 83 percent by 2050. This would involve a cut of 1.2 billion MTCO_{2e} by 2020. The bill also would establish a combined efficiency and renewable electricity standard (6 percent of each retailer's electric supply by 2012 and 20 percent by 2020).

The bill also develops a strategy for promoting carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), places performance standards on new coal-fired power plants, supports state and local adoption of advanced building codes, supports state building retrofit programs, instructs states to submit transportation-related GHG emissions reductions plans, and establishes a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

The existing state cap-and-trade programs would be preempted for the years 2012-2017. States will receive ~10 percent of allowances for investments in efficiency and renewables at the outset. Additional revenue for adaptation and building efficiency would be made available to states that take required actions. State/regional allowance holders may exchange allowances for federal allowances.

In response to a question from Mr. Fisette, Ms. Arroyo said that the transportation planning requirements in the bill are similar to California SB375. Funds will be provided to areas that are able to develop transportation plans that reduce emissions. In terms of energy efficiency and renewable energy, the bill would increase funding to state energy offices, establish a new national renewable portfolio requirement, and would strengthen building codes.

4. EPA Endangerment Finding *ACTION ITEM*

Ms. Rohlfs discussed EPA's recent proposed endangerment finding for greenhouse gases and presented a draft MWAQC comment letter. As a result of a Supreme Court decision, EPA was under obligation to determine whether greenhouse gases endanger public health and the environment and are therefore subject to regulation under the Clean Air Act. EPA recently proposed that greenhouse gases do endanger public health and the environment under the Clean Air Act. The EPA is not proposing any regulatory initiatives under the Clean Air Act at this time, but with a positive endangerment finding, EPA would be authorized to begin to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act.

Ms. Rohlfs presented a draft MWAQC comment letter. She said that the Technical Advisory Committee expressed a preference for not sending the letter, but said that if a letter is to be sent, the language in the proposed draft would be acceptable. Ms. Mach suggested that the draft letter be revised to state the new Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee is being formed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft comment letter. The letter was approved unanimously.

5. Report on Stimulus Funding Projects, DERA

Mr. King provided a brief summary of a recent COG proposal for funding under the stimulus program. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) is partnering with 12 equipment owner operators to reduce emissions from heavy duty diesel fleets in the Washington metropolitan region. The owner/operators that have agreed to participate in this project include: Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); Washington Area Sewer and Water Authority (DCWASA); Montgomery County, Maryland; Fairfax County, Virginia; Prince William County, Virginia; and private fleet owner/operators Pleasants Construction, CJ Miller, LaFarge, Beuchert, GDS Rentals, Chaney Construction, and Facchina Construction. Emission reductions will be achieved through the application of one of following solutions: Diesel Particulate Filters, Emissions Repowers, Vehicle Replacement, and Vehicle Idling Reduction. The emissions reduction is estimated at 572 tons per year of NOx and 40 tons per year of fine particles. Grant awards will be made in June. The retrofit technologies must be installed by Sept. 30, 2010.

6. State of the Air Report: American Lung Association

Ms. Desimone said that on April 29 the American Lung Association (ALA) released its annual State of the Air Report. In the report, the ALA assigns letter grades to Combined Metropolitan Areas and to counties for ozone and fine particle pollution. This year ALA recognizes some progress made in the Washington Region, although the region is on the list of the regions "most at risk" for ozone pollution. She provided a summary of historical air quality data, including recent declining trends in monitored air pollution. In the ALA report, the DC region dropped from 9th to 14th worst in terms of ozone pollution, 10th to 14th in terms of 24-hour fine particles, and 22nd to not listed in terms of annual fine particle pollution.

7. State and Local Air Reports

Mr. Carroll reported for Maryland. He said staff are currently evaluating the draft EPA motor vehicle emission simulator model. The next auction of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) will be held on June 17.

Mr. Ballou reported for Virginia. The opacity petition again was tabled at the most recent State Air Pollution Control Board meeting held on April 24 due to a tie vote.

Ms. Beall reported for the District. Regulatory initiatives include the transportation conformity regulation, Control Technique Guidelines (CTG) regulations, and the Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) VOC regulations. The District has hired ICLEI to prepare a greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan and has hired a new program staff, Daniel Barry, to lead efforts on the climate change program. The District also released its new Sustainability Plan on Earth Day.

In response to a question from Mr. Fisette, Mr. Ballou said that the Virginia Climate Commission did not recommend that the Commonwealth join RGGI, but push for strong national federal actions instead. Ms. Beall said that the District decided not to join RGGI because there were so few allowances that were to be allocated to DC.

8. New Business

Mr. King said that two new federal climate change programs were announced recently. EPA has proposed a Renewable Fuel Standard that will increase the amount of biofuels that must be produced over time. The White House announced that there will be a joint EPA/DOT rulemaking to impose more stringent corporate average fuel economy (CAFE) standards as well as establish new tailpipe emission standards for greenhouse gases. He will present more information on the proposals at the next meeting.

Ms. Rohlfs said that in April the COG Board established the new Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC), and approved its work program and budget. In May, the COG Board adopted the committee's bylaws. Jay Fisette was appointed as Chair. Jurisdictions have been requested to make appointments. Staff are working on determining how to involve stakeholders. The first meeting will be held in July 22.

Ms. Bulova said that the adopted Fairfax County budget did not remove all funding for the air quality monitoring program in Fairfax. Staff have been reduced from four to two. The county will continue to monitor what is required. The monitors will be transitioned to the state effective June 30, 2010.

9. Date for Next Meeting and Adjourn: The next meeting will be held on June 24, from 12:00 - 2:00pm. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.