

**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 June 28, 2012 MEETING**

**Attendance:**

**Members and Alternates**

Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)  
Hon. Phil Mendelson, DC Council  
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt  
Caroline Petti, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee  
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Ram Tangirala, District of Columbia Department of the Environment  
Hon. Jay Fisette, Arlington County  
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)  
Hon. Redella Pepper, City of Alexandria  
Hon. Karen Young, City of Frederick  
Hon. Hans Riemer, Montgomery County  
Cecily Beall, District of Columbia Department of Environment

**Staff**

Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP  
Joan Rohlf, COG/DEP  
Jeffrey King, COG/DEP  
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Maia Davis, COG/DEP  
Jane Posey, COG/DTP  
Elena Constantine, COG/DTP  
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP  
Bill Bacon, COG/DTP  
Erik Fagerstrom, COG/DEP

**Others**

Mike Lake, Fairfax County  
Gwen Kennedy, Loudoun County  
Scott St. Onge, Clean Air Partners  
William Handsfield, DC Office of Planning  
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation (DDOT)  
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)  
Dennis Alexander, American Lung Association  
Janice Nolen, American Lung Association

## **1. Public Comment Period, Approval of Minutes, Chair's Remarks**

Chair Mendelson begin the meeting at 12:10 pm and welcomed members of MWAQC and other attendees. The minutes from the April 25, 2012 meeting were approved with no changes. The agenda was approved with no changes.

## **2. Committee Reports**

### ***Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)***

Thomas Ballou reported a TAC meeting was held on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The TAC agenda included a discussion about MDE long range transportation planning initiative and the mobile emissions budgets in the PM2.5 Maintenance Plan.

### ***Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)***

Caroline Petti reported ACPAC met on June 18<sup>th</sup>. ACPAC discussed the National Weather Service Sterling office's desire to stop issuing code orange alerts. ACPAC plans to comment to urge NWS to continue issuing the alerts. ACPAC was briefed about sea level rise and adaptive responses by the Georgetown Climate Center.

### ***Clean Air Partners (CAP)***

Scott St. Onge announced the start of the Clean Air Partners' media campaign which includes radio ads, Facebook ads, and events. Clean Air Partners held its annual meeting on May 8 at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Teachers were recognized for promoting CAP curriculum. Winners of a CAP poster contest were announced. The 2012 Board Members were announced and recognized at the CAP annual meeting.

## **3. Air Quality Forecasting, Ozone Season Update and Proposed PM2.5 Standard**

Sunil Kumar presented a 2012 ozone season update. There have been six exceedance days in 2012 thus far. A code red exceedance day was reported at Alexandria and Franconia on June 21st. Ozone exceedance days have declined over the period 1997 to 2012. No PM2.5 exceedances have occurred in 2012 thus far.

The EPA proposed a new PM2.5 annual standard on June 15. The standard would lower the standard concentrations from 15.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  to 12.0-13.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The EPA is also requesting comments on a lower standard of 11.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . There are no proposals to change the daily standard. The Metropolitan Washington region's annual PM2.5 design values have decreased from the years 1999-2009. EPA is also proposing a secondary standard for improving visibility in urban areas. In addition, EPA is proposing a PM2.5 near-road monitoring by Jan 1, 2015. A final proposal to update the AQI for the new standard was discussed.

Lastly, the District Circuit Court ruled on June 26 to uphold EPA's endangerment finding for greenhouse gases.

## **4. American Lung Association, *State of the Air Report 2012***

Janice Nolen, American Lung Association, presented the State of the Air Report 2012. She said the purpose of the State of the Air Report is to put air quality information into a common language that the average person can understand. The State of the Air report gives A-F grades or Pass/Fail

on air quality monitored locations. In 2008-2010 four out of ten people in the US lived in a county with an F grade. ALA recognizes efforts to improve air quality, even though an area may receive a failing grade. Twenty-two F graded cities improved their concentrations from the previous year. The Clean Air Act tools that are responsible for air quality improvement are new emissions control equipment on coal-fired power plants, cleaner fleets of buses and trucks, and a cleaner gasoline fleet. Ms. Nolen emphasized the importance of the Clean Air Act and keeping it intact.

William Handsfield asked about alternative fuels to reduce emissions. Ms. Nolen emphasized that the vehicle's engine efficiency has a much greater impact on the emissions than the fuel type.

Karen Young asked about air pollution's effect on the economy. Ms. Nolen said air pollution causes emergency room visits and the cost is in lost wages from and missed days of school for students, along with the benefits from saving people's lives. Good air quality is good for the economy.

### **5. Proposed MDE Long-Range Planning Rule for Transportation Conformity**

Tad Aburn discussed a proposed transportation conformity regulation that would require Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) to establish long-range planning targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from mobile sources. The long-range planning goals will contribute to meeting goals to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. The proposed regulation has no penalties for failure to meet long-term goals, but the MPO is required to report measures being taken to meet the reduction goals. Mr. Aburn said the process is linked to transportation conformity so it is considered at the same time that the transportation plan is being developed and new projects are being considered.

Kanti Srikanth said TPB and CEEPC are ahead of the curve because COG's Department of Transportation Planning looked at this when it did the What Would It Take (WWIT) scenario planning several years ago. It could be repeated annually. Mr. Srikanth asked why the regulation is tied to the transportation conformity process when it is more like a planning rule. Ron Kirby said the term "budgets" used in the proposed regulation should be "targets" instead. Ms. Beall agreed that transportation emissions need to be addressed because 75% of the District emissions come from mobile sources, however, she asked if Maryland has considered the sovereignty issues of applying a Maryland regulation to the District and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Mendelson said the aspirational goal is like a Gold Book measures.

### **6. TPB: Briefing on the Draft Air Quality Conformity Assessment of the 2012 CLRP and FY 2013-2018 TIP**

On June 14 the conformity assessment of the 2012 CLRP and FY 2013-2018 TIP were released for public comment at the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. For the ozone precursors VOC and NOx, mobile source emissions are below the 2008 Reasonable Further Progress Budgets. For PM2.5 there are no mobile budgets. The test for PM2.5 and the PM2.5 NOx precursor is if the emissions are no greater than those in 2002. For both PM2.5 and NOx, the emissions are lower than the 2002 emissions baseline. The conformity assessment public comment period will close on July 14.

## **7. Mobile Budget Task Force Report**

Leta Mach reported that the Task Force has held four conference calls. Five options are currently being considered. On the last call the state air representatives asked for documentation to support a request for 20% and 30% Margin of Safety in future years 2017 and 2025. COG's Transportation Planning staff performed sensitivity tests on motor vehicle registration data as further documentation to support the request for a margin of safety. The results assessed the potential impact of changes in the mix and age of the vehicle fleet and were presented to the TPB Technical Committee on June 1. The results are posted on the COG website.

Related to the mobile budgets, in early June Ron Kirby sent a letter to Mr. Mendelson. In his letter Mr. Kirby said the results of the sensitivity test are part of the rationale for recommending safety margins of 20 percent and 30 percent. TPB is also concerned about the effect on future transportation emissions from revised models (MOVES) as well as the composition and age of the region's fleet.

The Task Force plans to hold another call on July 2, and hopes to have a resolution soon. When an option is decided upon, the air agencies will need to consult with the EPA to ensure that the solutions are workable. EPA will need some time to review the proposal. The Task Force hopes to have a response from EPA before the September MWAQC meeting.

## **8. State and Local Air Reports**

### *District of Columbia:*

Cecily Beall said the Pepco Benning Road plant which was supposed to close is still open, but will close down at the end of the year. PJM requested the plan stay open during the summer for use as a peaking plant.

### *Virginia:*

Thomas Ballou said VDEQ has revised its Title V fee system with higher permitting and maintenance fees. There will be a stakeholder meeting about the I&M program in Northern Virginia to discuss the expanding new technology and consolidating the I&M program under one contract provider. Virginia's Infrastructure SIP is out for public comment. Virginia signed up three areas for the newly created EPA Ozone Advance Program, Fredericksburg, Richmond, and Hampton Roads.

Cecily Beall added that the Takoma School monitor is no longer operating due to a fire and will be relocated at the Parks and Recreation Center near the Takoma School. The River Terrace School is closing down and DDOE needs to relocate that monitor.

### *Maryland:*

Tad Aburn mentioned two upcoming meetings with Sierra Club and CAA (July 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>) on public state laws on greenhouse gases. A completed draft on the state's GHG Reduction plan is due to the legislature in December.

The OTC Transport Work Group is studying transport into MD and the Northeast states. Legal actions may be in order against upwind states. A petition is currently being drafted to help this process.

Phil Mendelson commented on the number of school buses and ambulances that run on diesel fuel. Janice Nolen said the Health Effects Institute did a study of diesel trucks after they were cleaned up and the study found they are comparable to gas emissions.

**9. Set Date for Next Meeting, Adjourn:**

The next meeting date will be July 25, 2012. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.