

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
October 10, 2023, 10 AM to 12:00 PM

Present:

Anna Marshall, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Emma Cross, District Department of Transportation
Felip Ip, City of Alexandria
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment
Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy & Environment
Richard Dooley, Arlington County
Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment
Sophia Cortazzo, Maryland Department of the Environment
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Thatch Gerike, District Department of Energy & Environment
Thomas Foster, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Aissa Boggs, COG/DEP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Kelsey Boatright, COG/DEP
Mark Moran, COG/DTP
Tim Masters, COGDEP
Robert Christopher, COG/DEP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Tom Ballou called the meeting to order at 10 AM. The September 12th meeting summary was approved without changes.

Tom briefed members on Environmental Justice issues and brought to their attention comments sent to the committee by a member of the public (Mr. Tad Aburn) on those issues.

2. Update: 2008 Ozone Maintenance Plan Update

Sunil Kumar provided update on the status of the 2008 Ozone Maintenance Plan Update. MWAQC staff coordinated with state air and transportation agencies and TPB staff to develop draft responses to comments made as part of the public comment and hearing process. Those responses were shared with MWAQC-TAC members through an email and then presented to MWAQC in September. MWAQC reviewed the plan and approved it for submittal to EPA in that meeting.

3. EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program

Jeff King briefed members on EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program. The CPRG program will provide grants to states, regions, and local governments to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. This two-staged grant program provides funding of \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants. Non-competitive allocations provide states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico \$3 million each and MSAs \$1 million each. COG, via DC's allocation, is managing \$1 million for MSA climate planning, which includes communities from VA and WV. CPRG planning grant elements include a Priority Climate Action Plan and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. COG invited participation in Technical and Steering Committees from local and state governments. Effort will also involve community engagement, including low-income disadvantaged communities (LIDAC) and Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) and multi-sector stakeholder engagement.

4. GWRCCC Equity Efforts

Antoine Thompson discussed equity efforts undertaken by the Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC), which is a public-private partnership of the Washington, DC metro Area promoting the use of clean, American transportation fuels for homeland security, improved air quality and environmental justice.

GWRCCC has been pursuing following over the past year:

Education and Training, Programs & Events, Advocacy, Leadership Diversity, Employment Opportunities & Growth, Business Opportunities, Networking, Community Engagement Liaison Community Forums and Listening Sessions, and Fleet Equity Guide

Through funds granted by the EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program, GWRCCC and DC Water have secured funds to purchase an additional 12 trucks equipped with Optimus Technologies' 100% biodiesel (B100) advanced fuel system technology. Using B100 allows DC Water to reduce their Scope 1 CO2 emissions in their heavy-duty fleet vehicles by over 90%. Some of the programs and projects that GWRCCC is involved in include Mid-Atlantic Electrification Project, Mid-Atlantic Electric School Bus Experience Program Fleet training and education, Climate solutions, Workforce Development, Education and Technical assistance, Environment Justice and Racial Equity Events and Initiatives.

5. Update on Exceptional Events Exemption Request

State air agency staff of the District, Maryland, and Virginia briefed members on the status of their requests to EPA to grant exceptional exemption for high ozone and/or PM2.5 days in 2023. Virginia is actively involved in analyzing and looking at developing an exceptional events package. Virginia had some discussions with Maryland folks as well the District to try to coordinate those efforts. There was an EPA webinar recently held on the subject. States were told to have the exceptional events package put together and developed and gone through a public comment by early next year, which is hyper aggressive. There is a legitimacy to the impacts of the fires in Canada to this year's air quality, but to what extent EPA can help us in putting this package together is not very clear.

Roger said that Maryland is actively working on it and the monitoring group and meteorologists are the lead. Maryland is starting with five days that it considers to be highly likely to be approved by EPA and which show definite smoke influence. There are two or three additional days that are pretty good and then there are probably three additional days that are going to be very challenging. If EPA could provide wildfire emissions data, then all three jurisdictions could start at the same starting point. However, it doesn't look like they're going to get that data. Therefore, everyone will have their own set of data, does not seem ideal. If EPA could provide us with that data, it would lessen their time to actually go through each of these demonstrations. As far as the timeline is concerned having a January submission date means that you must be done by December because each one must have a thirty-day comment period. However, it is very

difficult to prepare exemption requests for so many days in the above timeframe. Someone at the State Air Directors call with EPA brought up that why these wildfires are not being treated as international emissions, which would have allowed states or nonattainment areas to not be in violation of the NAAQS. EPA's guidance mentions that if international anthropogenic emissions cause exceedances, then those high monitor values could be excluded. However, EPA treats wildfires differently and asks states to prepare an EE analysis in case of exceedances due to wildfires. Roger asked why it would matter if they were anthropogenic or not if they are coming from another country. Maryland plans to use its exceptional event demonstration that was approved by EPA for the previous standard as a template for this particular request. Maryland can prepare the EE request but filing it in the above timeframe is challenging.

Joseph said that the District is also working on the EE request. DOEE is looking into the tool Westar built. It looks like one can put out a lot of good information very quickly to get the package done much quicker. We would also love to work with MDE and the University of Maryland as both of them have sources that the District lacks. EPA advised that it would make sense for states to essentially copy and paste the conceptual model for the EE analysis so that it will be easy for EPA to review those requests. Therefore, all three jurisdictions should work together. EPA didn't clarify whether this request counts under the mitigation plan with one big, long summer of wildfires or each individual fire was going to be a separate event. The three jurisdictions should not go over the threshold to avoid doing a mitigation plan too. The District definitely can have at least three days and stay under that level or maybe four days (June 1/2/29/May 12). The deadline is hard to meet. Roger asked Joseph if the three fires (Quebec, Alberta, and New Jersey fires) would make a mitigation plan necessary. Joseph said that EPA didn't clarify and gave the impression that they needed to get feedback from headquarters on that question. Ram said that McMillan monitor is an annual site so have to certify data after 2023. Joseph mentioned that EPA said states can certify data partially. Doris mentioned that in one of EPA's training sessions, they said that the state could certify only that data that are relevant to the exceptional event and then certify the rest of the data along the normal timeline. However, that's a difficult task. The minimum amount of data we would need get flagged is at least one day at two monitors so the minimum that we'll be looking at submitting is June 29th for two of our monitoring sites up in Northern Virginia.

6. Accelerating Solar Deployment

Jeff King discussed solar deployment efforts in the region. COG Board asked the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) for recommendations this Fall on Renewable Energy/Solar Initiatives. CEEPC has been considering the following:

- Commit to installing solar systems on government facilities,
- Investigate purchasing 100% renewable energy for government operations, and
- Consider establishing a new regional 2030 Solar Goal

CEEPC Member input includes:

Leadership on innovation, don't limit to rooftops, look to carports, EV charging, support for low-income should continue to be a high priority, 2030 Climate and Energy Plan estimated 250,000 solar rooftops as a benchmark.

A few examples of COG staff Work Activities and products include:

- Support for State Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)
- Solar Rooftop Goal – 20,000 by 2020, exceeded goal!
- Current Solar Rooftops - >70,000
- Joint Procurement Support, Feasibility Studies
- Rooftop Solar Challenge/NVRC Sol Smart/Solar Market Pathways
- Virginia Statewide Solar Strategy
- Support for Solarize/Solar Coops, Solar Mapping
- Database of Local Goals and Programs

Jeff discussed future ideas and sought input from the committee members.

7. Update on the REVI Activities

Robert Christopher discussed the Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Implementation Strategy for the region.

The Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Implementation (REVII) Strategy is being designed to support state and local governments as they prioritize locations for publicly accessible EV infrastructure deployment. The information provided in the strategy will inform states and local jurisdictions as they apply for funding from federal programs such as future funding opportunities from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. The strategy will be developed by the TPB's on-call consultant, ICF, and funded largely through the TPB's Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Technical Assistance Program. The REVD Working Group will be asked to review draft deliverables for the REVII Strategy, which include the following:

Electric vehicle projections for three forecast scenarios, by county and region, for analysis years 2030, 2035, and 2045
GIS mapping for use by local jurisdiction staff
Public-facing GIS mapping linked to COG's EV Clearinghouse
Report with an overview of regional EV deployment implementation strategy, with a snapshot for each county detailing county projections for EVs, areas of interest, challenges and opportunities, and equity considerations

Following strategy will be used in two phases:

Phase 1: Electric Vehicle and Charging Needs Assessment and Forecast

EV projections for 2030, 2035, and 2045 by county and region
Scenario development is informed by vehicle registration data and population data, technology readiness, total cost of ownership, existing and upcoming federal policies, and barriers to EV adoption.

Phase 2: Electric Vehicle Charger Deployment Planning

Use EV projections to estimate number and type of chargers needed, recommendations will identify sites that have a high probability for charging demand, and a GIS map will be created that shows priority charging locations and will be available for download and use by member jurisdictions.

8. State/Local Updates

Virginia- Tom said that Virginia is currently working on CPRG.

Maryland- Roger said that Maryland is working on preparing exceptional events request and SO2 redesignation request.

District- No updates.

9. Other Business

Environmental Justice Workgroup - Jeff King informed members that a new EJ workgroup will be created likely in November or December.

The meeting ended at 12:00 pm.