Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary January 15, 2014

Members and Alternates:
Joan Kelsch, Arlington County (Co-Chair)
Emil King, DDOE (Co-Chair)
Bill Eger, City of Alexandria
Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria
Edward Yim, DDOE
Stella Tarnay, DDOE
Garett Augustus, Fairfax County
Noel Kaplan, Fairfax County
Lisa Orr, Frederick County
Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt
Najib Salehi, Loudoun County
Mike Barancewitz, Loudoun County Public Schools
Michelle Vigen, Montgomery County
Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
Jeffrey Bond, Prince George's County
Said Said, Prince William County
Erica Shingara, City of Rockville
Steve Schaff, Chesapeake Sustainable Business Council
Rachel Healy, WMATA

COG Staff in Attendance:
Steve Walz, COG DEP Director
Jeff King, COG DEP
Leah Boggs, COG DEP
Isabel Ricker, COG DEP

1. Welcome and Call to Order, *Co-chairs*

The co-chairs called the meeting to order. The meeting summary from December was approved with no changes.

2. BEEAC Bylaws and Committee Leadership, *Leah Boggs, COG DEP*

COG staff gave background on COG's effort to formalize BEEAC's role as a technical advisory committee to CEEPC, as discussed at the December meeting. Staff then walked the committee through the revised bylaws and changes made since December, and opened the floor for discussion.

Committee members suggested that language, specifically "and green and high performance buildings" be added throughout the document to ensure that these topics are included along with energy. Regarding Article 5, "Members and Alternates": COG staff proposed that each jurisdiction have one vote. Recognizing that jurisdictions may not be able to send the same staff person each time, and that multiple attendees from the same jurisdiction may want to join the meeting, jurisdiction votes are not tied to the primary BEEAC member per-se. However, all jurisdictions are requested to select a "lead" and an "alternate" for BEEAC, and to let COG staff know via email by January 23. Committee action (voting) requires a quorum of 50% +1. COG staff will make some minor clarifying changes to the paragraph about COG member jurisdiction membership.

Regarding Article 6, "Officers": There will be three officers, a Chair and two Vice Chairs, who will preside in the absence of the Chair. The three positions will include one representative from each state. Officers will be selected at the February meeting. Minimum qualifications for Chair and Vice Chair are: serving as a green building or energy staff for a COG member jurisdiction, and willingness to serve as a BEEAC Officer for at least one year. Nominations and self-nominations are due January 30 by email to COG staff.

Regarding meeting time and frequency: after consideration of moving to longer, bi-monthly meetings, it was decided that the committee would stick with the current two hour monthly meeting schedule, but with the option to cancel, shorten, lengthen or do a tour or field trip instead, as appropriate.

3. CEEPC Action Plan Update and Priorities, *Jeff King, COG DEP*

At the beginning of the year, COG staff like to assess members' priorities for the upcoming year, and will work to focus on those or provide support for members relating to those issues. Based on the BEEAC survey results, the main issues members are working on or plan to work on in 2015 are: solar, building efficiency, electric vehicles.

Other areas of interest that we have heard from BEEAC and CEEPC members include: smart cities, Living Buildings Challenge, Virginia Solar Authority, V2G projects, Multi-Sector Greenhouse Gas Working Group, joint meetings with other COG committees, Climate and Energy Awards Program and Climate Action Champions (CAC). The CAC team is made up of both BEEAC and CEEPC members, so this may be a good area for collaboration between committees. COG staff asked whether these are the right priorities, and whether there are any particular items that we should be recommended to CEEPC to prioritize for 2015.

Discussion:
Members suggested that EV policy, as related to private sector development and provision of EV charging or EV-ready design was an upcoming priority for 2015. Other suggestions included "stretch codes," such as being considered for the Bethesda sector plan, and advanced green building policy generally. Additional suggestions can be made by email and are due January 26.

4. Smart Cities

COG is just starting to look into smart cities, and it is a huge varied topic with tremendous interest from across sectors. Our main questions are: how can smart cities improve operations and efficiency, save money, encourage economic development, improve livability, etc.?

To start this conversation, we are planning a panel at CEEPC on January 28. Bill Eger will be on the panel, as he is the project manager for a new smart cities initiative in Alexandria. Other panelists will be representing the Brookings Institute, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Smart Cities Council, and an Embassy representative to talk about the international scene.

Smart cities generally seek to integrate smart communications systems into infrastructure and processes to improve operations, efficiency and enhance the ability to make good policy, planning and operational decisions. Current projects in the region include:

- Team working in Alexandria to teach high school students about smart city technology.
- Montgomery County has low-income elderly care program to help residents improve energy system at home, with additional emergency and health sponsors.
- DC and NCPC are partnering on a pilot on Pennsylvania Avenue with Cisco to use real time information in street sensors.
- Commuter connections looking into real-time ride share app.
- NVRC is hosting a workshop in the spring to delve into the international perspective on smart cities innovations happening in Europe.
- NIST is hosting a smart cities festival to demonstrate successes from the challenge.
- Smart Cities Council is hosting the first smart cities conference in the US in Washington, DC the week of September 14.
  - COG is participating in the SCC planning meeting next week which will bring together technology firms, advisors, planning and policy experts. The group is hoping to connect COG member governments with technology firms to do a few smart city pilots this year.

Bill Eger gave a brief update on the Alexandria smart cities program. They are hoping to create a replicable model that can be used by other jurisdictions in the COG region. The project priorities are resilience, mitigation and emissions reduction, economic development.

Discussion:
It was suggested that a broader definition of "smart" to include natural systems and ecological intelligence within cities, not just IT and data collection, would be beneficial. COG staff noted that this is happening and the challenge is to determine how to use data and communications technology to make better decisions that make cities more livable and sustainable.

COG staff asked if anyone is interested in learning more about the smart cities opportunities, or if there are already projects that could benefit from smart cities technology. DDOE members noted that many of

the District's ongoing activities would fall into this category and would follow up with COG staff after considering what projects could benefit from this work. Members interested in doing pilot smart cities programs should email Maia Davis at mdavis@mwcog.org.

5. Announcements

Multi-Sector GHG Workgroup & Report
- Invitations went out to Agency heads in December; the first meeting is January 30. If anyone has any questions please let COG staff know.
- The workgroup will be soliciting input from BEEAC in the near future to determine the energy and building performance measures that the consultant will be asked to evaluate the climate change impacts, costs, benefits, cobenefits, and implementation requirements of.

Fleet Electrification Opportunity for COG Members
- To help support electric vehicle deployment in the region, COG is collaborating with Vision Fleet to offer a zero cost and zero obligation fleet electrification assessment to one or more of our member governments' fleets. This pilot assessment will establish a total-cost-of-ownership baseline for the existing fleet, provide recommendations on vehicles suitable for EV replacement, and assess the cost-effectiveness of a large-scale EV replacement program. Vision Fleet offers low or zero upfront cost, fixed-rate long term financing for EVs, maintenance and fueling infrastructure, as well as fleet analytics to improve performance. The results of the pilot assessment will be presented to interested committees and workgroups. Contact lboggs@mwcog.org to learn more.

6. Upcoming Meeting Dates and Adjournment, *Co-chairs*

- Energy Emergency Workshop – Jan 20
- Washington Auto Show – Jan 23 – Feb 1
- CEEPC meeting – Jan 28
- Green Purchasing Fair – Jan 29
- BEEAC planning call – Feb 5
- BEEAC meeting – Feb 19