

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee
Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002-4239
(202) 962-3358 Fax (202) 962-3203

DRAFT MINUTES OF June 22, 2011 MEETING

Attendance:

Members and Alternates

Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Monica Backmon, Prince William County
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Hon. Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County
Hon. John Britton, City of Rockville
Randy Carroll, Maryland Department of the Environment
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Hon. Jay Fisette, Arlington County
Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
Hon. Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia
Sam Moki, Prince George's County
Hon. Ron Peppe, City of Falls Church
Caroline Petti, ACPAC
Hon. Redella "Del" Pepper, City of Alexandria
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Hon. Linda Smyth, Fairfax County
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation

Staff

Jeannine Altavilla, COG/DEP
Amanda Campbell, COG/DEP
Maia Davis, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Stuart Freudberg, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP
Gerald Miller, COG/OPA
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Joan Rohlfs, COG/DEP

Others

Jeffrey Bond, Prince George's County
Mike Lake, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Bill Skrabak, City of Alexandria
Scott St. Onge, Clean Air Partners
Jennifer Tabor, Department of Defense (on phone)
Harriet West, Clean Air Partners

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

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm.

The minutes from the April 27, 2011 meeting were approved with no changes.

2. Committee Reports

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Tad Aburn, MDE, presented on the June 13 TAC meeting. The committee heard updates on the ozone season, the PM2.5 redesignation request and the Integrated Community Energy Taskforce. Additionally, the committee heard reports on conformity and the regional transportation priorities from COG Transportation staff.

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

Caroline Petti, ACPAC Chair, presented on the June 13 ACPAC meeting. Ron Kirby, Director of Transportation Planning, gave a presentation on the transportation priorities plan. Deron Lovaas, a committee member from the Natural Resources Defense Council, provided an overview of future CAFE standards. The committee also heard about the Clean Air Partners Clean Air Alerts system.

Clean Air Partners (CAP)

Harriet West, CAP Managing Director, presented program updates. CAP is continuing to participate in the Loudoun Green Business Challenge. The new air quality forecast widget has been added to several partner websites. Information on these tools was recently sent to all local public information officers. The 2011 media buy will run paid radio and on-line ads and in-kind transit ads the weeks of July 18 to July 25. Members heard and watched one of the radio ads and video ads. Rebecca Davis, Education Program Manager, and two part-time staff will deliver presentations in schools across the Baltimore and Washington regions.

The 2011 Annual Meeting was held on May 18 at Nationals Park with record attendance. Winners from the poster contest were formally recognized at the Annual meeting, and two winners appeared on WUSA9 on June 3.

Scott St. Enge will be the new Managing Director for Clean Air Partners, bringing a fundraising background to the position and PRR will remain the media partner.

Chair Pepper recognized Harriet West for her six years as Clean Air Partners Managing Director, dedicated to making air quality visible to the public.

3. 2011 Ozone Season and Regional Air Quality Trends

Jen Desimone and Sunil Kumar, COG DEP, presented on forecasting for the upcoming ozone season and trends in ozone and particulate matter in the region. Forecasting began earlier this year than last year, starting on April 15 because levels in April have been rising and staff did not want to miss any episodes. Preliminary data up to June 20 show 2 Code Red Days, 5 Code Orange Days, 15 Code Yellow Days and 44 Code Green Days for ozone. There was an extended episode from June 7 to 10. On June 8, 11 out of 13 total monitors were in exceedance. Several factors, including heat, humidity, clouds and wind led to conditions favorable for high ozone levels. Staff reviewed the wind trajectories that brought Code Red Days on May 31 and June 10, showing

upwind contributions to local ozone levels. There are generally fewer ozone exceedance days now than in 1997 based on the 2008 standard of 75 ppb. Preliminary data up to June 20 show 18 Code Yellow Days and 48 Code Green Days for fine particles.

Mr. Aburn noted that the standard will likely be lowered this summer, which will further expand the ozone season. Maryland is using airplanes to monitor ozone entering the region. Some days have shown ozone levels at 75-80 ppb entering the region which add significantly to local ozone levels. Hopefully the new standard will have upwind requirements to address this.

4. Air Quality Conformity Assessment: VDOT Amendments to the 2010 Constrained Long Range Plan (Action Item)

Jane Posey, COG DTP, presented on the VDOT Amendments to the 2010 Constrained Long Range Plan (CLRP). VDOT submitted several changes to the CLRP that relate to the air quality conformity assessment. HOV lanes will be extended on I-66 between US 29 in Gainesville and Route 15 in Haymarket. HOT and HOV lanes will be removed from some locations along the I-95/I-395 corridor, and a reversible ramp will be added to/from Seminary Road. The models were run again with the rest of the inputs the same as for the original 2010 CLRP, showing a slight decrease for all pollutants due to a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction. All pollutants remain below the budgeted levels. Public comment will end July 15 and TPB will review and be asked to adopt the amendments on July 20.

Mr. Britton asked if the MOVES model will be used for the 2011 CLRP. Staff is waiting for vehicle registration and other region specific data before MOVES can be used. The 2011 CLRP will be run with MOVES and Mobile 6, but Mobile 6 projections will be used to submit the CLRP.

Mr. Britton asked if these projections show that people will change their transportation patterns based on the VDOT amendments. Yes, for up to 2040 the model shows changes in accessibility and a change in the location of jobs based on expansions and constrictions of the system.

Mr. Aburn noted that the new ozone standard is coming and that region will need all of this forecasted decrease in ozone levels. Emissions begin to creep up in 2040 under the model's conditions and need to be considered in both air and transportation planning.

A draft letter commenting on the amendments was considered. Mr. Mendelson asked to include TERMS (Transportation Emission Reduction Measures), which MWAQC usually uses. Ms. Smyth asked that the I-66 project be specified as Prince William County. There was unanimous approval of the letter with these two amendments.

5. Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) Update

Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP, presented an update on OTC's upcoming model rules to meet the new ozone standard due to be announced in July. The OTC is considering attainment modeling for the new standards and will advise EPA on transport issues. An inventory analysis for all sources of mobile categories shows just over a 50% decrease from 2007 to 2020 for NO_x and VOC emissions. The predictions show an increase in nonroad VOC for aircraft and for many segments in nonroad NO_x. Federal regulations will produce higher fuel economy standards for light-duty vehicles, but OTC is asking EPA for national controls in important nonroad categories during

ozone season including NO_x controls for construction, pleasure craft and marine, and VOC controls for pleasure craft, lawn/garden and recreational segments.

A new nonroad Idling Model Rule is being considered based on state rules that could be adopted in November. If OTC approves these model rules, MWAQC will consider them for the region.

OTC has run a scenario to see what would work to reach 75 ppb ozone standard. Significant mobile, point source and nonroad reductions in NO_x would be needed.

EPA is expected to announce a new Transport Rule to replace CAIR June 30, release a new ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) in late July, and address issues with the Renewable Fuels Standard in September.

6. Integrated Community Energy Solutions Project Overview

Jeff King, COG DEP, presented on the Integrated Energy Solutions Task Force contract with FVB. Community Energy includes concepts such as combined heat and power, district energy and microgrids that can help lower energy consumption. There are several examples in the region including FDA White Oak, NIH Bethesda, George Mason University and the University of Maryland. These systems can provide a more efficient use of fuel, free up valuable commercial building space, reduce peak loads, enable the use of multiple energy resources, and improve reliability and power quality. They have been implemented widely in campus systems and areas of high energy use. District cooling has been shown to significantly level electric demand across the year.

Several locations are being considered for district energy in the Washington region, however there are challenges being addressed. COG has completed an inventory of installed systems in the region. An expert task force was formed in the fall of 2010. FVB Energy was hired in the spring of 2011 to identify local policies, conduct a gap analysis, provide recommendations based on international best practice, and conduct a technology overview that will assess the business case for these systems. There was a workshop in January and the COG Board will consider community energy planning as their main topic at the Retreat in July.

Ms. Petti asked what is happening now with thermal heat. Much of it escapes into the water or air now, but capturing it would be a great opportunity towards reaching the regional climate goals.

Ms. Pepper asked if older plants could be retrofitted. This depends on the case, but in general plants can be retrofitted.

Mr. Fisette noted that this topic is coming to the forefront in the region with the goals of increasing economic competitiveness, energy supply security, and environmental well-being. There was unanimous support for Arlington's proposal, which will consider areas like Crystal City and Rosslyn for district energy. The County is working on an integrated energy master plan.

Mr. Freudberg noted that there are air quality implications that will be addressed as part of the contract with FVB. However, these facilities are likely to be minor sources.

7. Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Projects Update

Jeff King, COG DEP, presented updates on the retrofit of heavy duty diesel highway construction equipment through an EPA DERA Grant. COG was awarded funding for 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2010 and has a pending rail project for 2011. Through the offroad construction project COG proposed to address 27 non-road highway machines through a combination of engine upgrades, repowers and diesel particulate filters. At this time, a total of 12 tons per year (tpy) of NOx benefits, and 1.4 tpy PM benefits will be seen from addressing 13 engines. Through the Marine Engine project four engines on two passenger vehicles were replaced, accounting for 13 tpy NOx and approximately one tpy PM benefits.

8. State and Local Air Reports

Ms. Beall reported that there was no new news for the District.

Mr. Ballou reported for Virginia. At the beginning of June recommendations for the new SO₂ standard were sent. All areas in Virginia will be designated unclassifiable and each large source will be assessed under the standard. EPA indicated that there would be an increase in federal air grant for FY 2011 but there is no new money and Virginia will not receive almost \$700,000. There is no way to pay for new monitors, including new ozone and near road SO₂ monitors that will likely be required.

Mr. Carroll reported for Maryland. MDE will be holding a public meeting for the state greenhouse gas reduction plan in September. The state is working on OTC rules for the lower ozone standard expected this summer.

Mr. Skrabak reported for Alexandria. The City tried to close the Mirant/GenOn Potomac River Generating Station but was not successful. There is an agreement from 2008 for \$34 million in work to control fugitive emissions including a street sweeper, upgraded ash loader, and an ash loading fogging system that are all in operation. Phase two of this agreement will decrease PM_{2.5} from the stacks. A study for this task was completed in May 2010. A retrofit will convert coal to bag house technology. The City and GenOn worked to develop specifications for bids, and are in the process of evaluating those. With the remaining \$30 million from the agreement three of the most used units should be retrofitted. Hopefully there will be a contract in September 2011 with retrofits in fall 2012 and the spring and fall of 2013. The plant is operating at 60% reduced capacity and has months of non-operation, which has led to noticeable improvements. District heating has been considered for the long term plan. It is possible that there could be a waste to energy retrofit, but potential users would be needed and it would be easier to negotiate with fewer owners.

Ms. Smyth reported on the formation of a regional tree canopy workgroup. There is a proposal for a workgroup that will develop a Regional Tree Canopy Plan to help local government plans that call for tree canopy levels to be maintained or increased. Ms. Petti proposed inviting the Executive Director of Casey Trees as a stakeholder. Ms. Mach voiced support for this idea. Mr. Freudberg recommended seeking concurrence from the MWAQC and CEEPC Chairs for appointments. There was a positive reaction to move forward with forming this workgroup.

9. Set Date for Next Meeting, Adjourn:

The next meeting date will be September 28, 2011. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.