



Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)

MEETING SUMMARY: MAY 25, 2016

**MWAQC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Tad Aburn, MDE \*

Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County

Tom Ballou, VA Department of Environmental Quality

Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy and the Environment

Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County \*

Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation \*

Stan Edwards, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection \*

James Davenport, Prince Williams County \*

Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County \*

Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt

Brianne Nadeau, Washington DC. (Chair)

Del Pepper, City of Alexandria

Jim Ponticello, VDOT \*

Hans Reimer, Montgomery County \* (Vice Chair)

Glenna Tinney, ACPAC Chair

Brandon Todd, District of Columbia

Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation

John Vihstadt, Arlington County

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lyn Erickson, MD Department of Transportation \*

Phillip Tran, Fairfax County

Jessica Daniels, District Department of Energy and the Environment\*

Norm Whitaker, VDOT\*

**COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs

Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs

Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs

Jane Posey, COG Department of Transportation Planning

Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director

Aaron Waters, COG Environmental Programs

(\*) Indicates participation by phone

**1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, APPROVE MINUTES, CHAIR'S REMARKS**

Chair Nadeau opened the meeting. The meeting summary from the February 2016 MWAQC/CEEP meeting was accepted with no changes.

## 2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (*Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs*)

MWAQC-TAC met on May 10 and heard an update on the ozone season thus far. The region experienced a few ozone exceedances in April, but none since. TAC discussed the 1997 PM2.5 Maintenance Plan update and ongoing public hearings in the District of Columbia and Virginia. The group also heard an update on the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan, and an update on the Multi-Sector Working Group. The Group was presented the Environmental Justice Toolkit outline and the FY2017 MWAQC Work Program and Budget.

### B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) (*Glenna Tinney, Chair*)

ACPAC heard about Clean Air Partners work and the results of an air quality messaging survey. The committee reviewed their Environmental Justice Toolkit Outline and heard a presentation on the Climate Action Plan update that described recent survey findings. The Climate & Energy Leadership Awards are open for applications through June 22.

### C. Clean Air Partners (CAP) (*Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs*)

CAP participated in multiple events in Baltimore and Washington this spring, including the USA Science and Engineering festival at the Convention Center. In May CAP held three events in Dupont Circle, Rosslyn, and Baltimore to celebrate Air Quality Awareness Week, promoting the mobile application and distributing air quality materials. CAP ran a Facebook video campaign. Sponsors of CAP's work include Breathe DC and Maryland Department of the Environment. CAP sponsored 18 science fair awards across the region. Winners from this years' poster contest were recognized at CAP's Annual Celebration on May 11.

## 3. PM 2.5 MAINTENANCE PLAN (*Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director & Sunil Kumar, COG Principal Environmental Engineer*)

Colleen Turner requested to postpone discussion and approval of the PM2.5 Maintenance Plan until July in order to give time for Maryland Department of the Environment and Maryland Department of Transportation to work through policy issues related to motor vehicle emissions budgets.

Steve Walz said that staff recommended that MWAQC agree to postpone plan approval until the issues are resolved. There is no hard deadline associated with the plan approval, although it would be preferable to resolve it soon in order to move forward with ozone planning. The region had been in non-attainment and submitted a request to redesignate to attainment. At issue is the update to the plan. If the plan update moves forward as-is, MWAQC could approve it in July. If changes result from the Maryland discussions, then public comment periods would be needed, and the plan may be able to be approved before the end of the calendar year.

The committee agreed to postpone the plan approval.

## 4. FY 2017 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET (*Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director*)

The Draft Work Program and Budget did not receive any revisions at the MWAQC-TAC meeting, and is ready for MWAQC approval today. Mr. Walz reviewed the Work Program and Budget. For details, see the document here: <http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/committee-documents/aVxdXlhX20160518101635.pdf>

### Discussion

- Mr. Walz clarified in response to questions that SO2 and NO2 are addressed at the state level since they tend to come from larger industrial point sources regulated at the state level.

- Mr. Reimer stated that the focus of MWAQC's work is on compliance and we are in compliance, but the committee should talk about an agenda that goes beyond compliance and work to continue to drive down pollutants. Mr. Walz noted the work involving multiple benefits to air quality and greenhouse gases that COG has pursued, as well as support of state and local measures. Mr. Walz said that staff could look at some additional areas to pursue and bring those ideas to MWAQC. Chair Nadeau agreed.
- The Work program and Budget was unanimously approved.

## 5. MULTI-SECTOR WORKGROUP SURVEY (Steve Walz, Director, COG Department of Environmental Programs)

The Multi-Sector Working Group is one of COG's efforts to look at what can be done for greenhouse gas emissions that also has multiple benefits for air quality. The work identified the next steps that we can put in place in our region and at the national level to move towards COG's 2020 and 2050 greenhouse gas goals. COG recently formally published the 2012 greenhouse gas report and plans to conduct a 2015 inventory.

COG brought the 22 multi-sector strategies to a smaller group of elected officials who directed staff to survey COG's member jurisdictions. The survey asked three basic questions: are the strategies consistent with local policies, do jurisdictions have plans to implement those strategies, and are proposed reduction targets reasonable?

Most of the Energy & Built Environment strategies were deemed feasible and reasonable, with the exception of natural gas pipeline leak mitigation which is largely controlled at the state level. Also, members noted that the Clean Power Plan actions were only partially under local authority. The feedback will help inform recommendations for local and state actions that MWAQC will have an opportunity to review in a future meeting.

Preliminary results from the Climate & Energy Action Plan Survey show that many areas saw strong improvements in implementation, including community greenhouse gas inventories, energy audits, tree canopy goals, and government employee education. Areas with lower implementation rates include energy assurance planning and encouraging private sector benchmarking.

Recent regional greenhouse gas analysis showed that the region met its 2012 goal despite a growing population and economy. A study showed that the region will also successfully meet its goal of producing 10% of energy from renewable sources by 2016. Businesses are making substantial direct purchases of green power which contributed towards the goal. The hope is that more of these purchases support renewable power production in the region with the resulting local benefits. Production from distributed generation is a small proportion of the total, but is expected to continue to grow with community solar programs and efforts to reduce permitting hurdles. There is some room for growth in utility sector contributions too.

The renewable energy study found that it is possible to reach 25% renewable energy by 2022 with as much energy produced if 1 in 10 single family homes installed solar panels. Community solar and commercial solar could contribute also. Some of the region's solar capacity is impinged by tree cover.

### Discussion

- Mr. Agazi said that the detailed responses to the survey should be utilized since each jurisdiction is very different in terms of the size and state regulations that may limit actions. COG should have a secondary goal for renewable energy that is located in our region. Also, the region should consider the opportunity for energy savings from smart water controls and water reuse.

- Mr. Walz noted that staff is working on analyzing the survey results and refining regional goals. Many of the percentages in the climate action plan are action oriented and we are hoping to craft outcome oriented goals. A dashboard could show the status of goals based on available data.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TOOLKIT *(Glenna Tinney, ACPAC Chair)*

Ms. Tinney presented the detailed outline of the Environmental Justice Toolkit that ACPAC and COG staff developed. The kit contains links to existing resources to build upon the work that has already been done in the field of environmental justice. The toolkit will have an executive summary, and a section describing principles and key concepts, the history of the development of the toolkit, and the benefits of incorporating environmental justice considerations. The toolkit contains case studies and resources in every category. Categories include identifying underserved communities, meaningful engagement, data and resources, leadership, workforce development, and detailed appendices with links to resources.

ACPAC presented the toolkit to MWAQC-TAC, the Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee and the Climate, Energy & Environment Policy Committee. ACPAC is seeking feedback on any part of the toolkit, including resources and case studies that should be included. ACPAC hopes to have a draft out for review in the fall and a final version ready for approval in December. A workshop is planned for next winter.

Ms. Hawkins-Nixon shared that Prince George's County is working with the University of Maryland on a case study involving neighborhood problems with public health and air quality issues. Ms. Tinney said to pass along the information for inclusion in the toolkit.

Ms. Tinney clarified that the intended audience is COG members. Mr. Walz said that the toolkit is intended to be a capacity building tool for staff in COG member local governments, focused on air quality and climate change activities.

## 7. STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS *(Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy and the Environment; Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality)*

- DC: The final emergency regulation on automotive paint went into effect a few months ago which incorporated Ozone Transport Commission model rules. DC held the final public comment hearing for the regulation so that the temporary rule will become permanent in the next couple of weeks.
- MD: No update
- VA: The first update is that last month Virginia Department of Environmental Quality submitted a request to EPA regarding the 1979 ozone standard. The purpose was to maintain stationary thresholds, similar to a formal standard redesignation of the maintenance standard. There was not a State Implementation Plan involved so Virginia submitted the request to EPA directly. It is essentially addressing permitting processes in Northern Virginia. EPA will conduct a public comment period. The second update is that the next Air Pollution Control Board meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup> will include a discussion of a Dominion Virginia Power facility in Greensville. It will be the first time the Board looks closely at carbon dioxide limits.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

- Chair Nadeau concluded the meeting at 1:30pm.
- The next MWAQC meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2016.