

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
May 12, 2015
10:00 AM to 11:45 AM

Present:

Cecily Beall, District Department of the Environment
Ram Tangirala, District Department of the Environment
Jessica Daniels, District Department of the Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Mike Kiss, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Tad Aburn, Maryland Department of the Environment
Diane Franks, Maryland Department of the Environment
Molly Berger, Maryland Department of the Environment
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Lyn Ericson, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County
Walter Seedlock, MWAA

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, COG/DEP
Ron Milone, COG/DTP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Eulalie Lucas, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Tad Aburn called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The April 15 meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Status of Air Quality in Washington Region

2a. Ozone Season Update

Sunil presented an overview of the 2015 ozone season data till date. Tad suggested Sunil to contact Joel and Molly (MDE) to add a few new analyses to the slide 5 showing historical relationship between 90 degree temperature and ozone exceedances. He further said weather being cyclical in nature, MDE has pursues an advances study to demonstrate why ozone levels were low in 2014. Tom said the MDE study slides need to be reviewed by VDEQ before being presented to MWAQC. Mike Kiss also requested that slides to be sent to him for his review. Tad pointed to a finding from the modeling studies that the mid-Atlantic region has reached a tipping point where NO_x has a very high influence on ozone.

2b. Proposed Ozone NAAQS & Ozone Levels in Counties/Cities in Washington Region

Sunil presented a number of scenarios showing the number of counties and cities in the Washington region and the number of people living in those jurisdictions that will be affected if different proposed ozone standard levels are exceeded. He also presented data on the number of exceedance days under each of the above scenarios. All jurisdictions in the region exceeded the 65 ppb level and below and therefore everybody there would be affected if the standard is set at this level or below.

3. Draft MWAQC Resolution for Regional Action Plan

Steve discussed the changes made to the draft MWAQC resolution for the Regional Action Plan based on the comments received during a conference call to discuss this issue. He especially referred to the changes in the language made in the fourth clause. Tad asked if the state and local measure lists would be added to the resolution for MWACQ's approval. Steve said they will be attached to the resolution and presented to MWAQC on May 20th for adoption.

4. MWAQC FY16 Work Program & Budget

Jen Desimone discussed details of the draft MWAQC FY16 Work Program & Budget. She presented a revised allocation of budget for the District, Maryland, and Virginia based on COG cooperative forecast, which is also used for other COG fund allocations.

There were questions raised regarding the new language related to "emissions benchmarks" that were proposed by MDE to add to the work program. Tom, Doris, and Howard did not like "emissions benchmarks" added there. Doris said we cannot have these benchmarks until we know the new ozone standard, its attainment date, and the amount of emissions reductions needed to meet the new standard using the modeling study. Jim Ponticello asked why CO2 is being included in the work program. He suggested it should be dealt with in the MSWG process. Tina supported Jim on this. Howard asked what MSWG is expecting to get out of the process. Steve said MSWG would discuss if there is a need for goals or targets for different sectors. Steve suggested making changes to the work program based on the above comments from members. He said these changes will be made before the work program and budget is presented to MWAQC on May 20th.

5. Multi-Sector Greenhouse Gas Work Group Update

Steve provided a quick and very brief update on the activities of the Multi-Sector Greenhouse Gas Work Group as the group had already discussed this in details as part of the item 4 above.

6. Extension of the Attainment Date (2008 Ozone NAAQS)

Steve said all three jurisdictions are working on it. Ram said DDOE needs to have an internal discussion on it and would be sending the letter in the next few days. Doris and Sunil said EPA in its May 7th letter had confirmed that the information included in the template letter prepared for the three jurisdictions are sufficient. EPA also advised that these letters be sent by May 18th.

7. State and Local Updates

Virginia did not have any updates. Tad said MDE is working on a new law for climate change. The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% in 2025. MDE is also moving to finalize the power plant NOx regulation. Jessica mentioned about the NOX SIP Call caps.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.