

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 18, 2013

Room 4/5

5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC members: Bill Butler, Blaine Collison (via phone), Andrew Kambour, Sally Kane, Katherine Lizotte, Brian McFarland, Caroline Petti, John Reed, Glenna Tinney (via phone)

Staff: Joan Rohlf, Maia Davis, Amanda Campbell

Speakers: Cherie Schultz, Interstate Commission on Potomac River Basin (ICPRB); Luke Wisniewski, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE); Blair Beasley, Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC)

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

The agenda and minutes from October 21, 2013 were approved without revision. Chair Petti appointed a nominating committee consisting of 3 members including Andrew Kambour, DC; Brian McFarland, MD; and Glenna Tinney, VA.

2. Climate Change Impacts and Action Panel (Amanda Campbell, COG DEP; Cherie Schultz, ICPRB; Luke Wisniewski, MDE)

Amanda Campbell kicked off the panel discussing the 5 key points from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2013 Report on climate science. The five points include (1) warming is unequivocal; (2) many observed changes are unprecedented; (3) climate change is creating more frequent and more intense weather events; (4) 2°C of warming is the necessary maximum to prevent the most dangerous impacts; and (5) to avoid more than 2°C of warming, global emissions must fall to 50% below 1990 levels by 2050. Cities are responsible for 2/3 of worldwide greenhouse gases and can combat climate change with transit oriented development, housing diversity, and mixed use urban design; transportation choices; efficient buildings; renewable energy; and more.

Cherie Schultz discussed the ICPRB forecasts of water demands and resource availability for the metropolitan Washington region. This study used projections from 6 global models and for each of the 6 climate models, the USGS projections considered 3 possible greenhouse gas emissions scenarios. Climate change will impact Potomac basin stream flows - in a moderate drought year in 2040 (assuming that no changes were made to the present water supply system) modeling shows the possibility of the Potomac River flows dropping to zero in the month of August.

Luke Wisniewski discussed Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan, which sets the goal of achieving a 25% Reduction by 2020. Energy and transportation sectors account for the majority of greenhouse gas emissions in the state and the state has set 10 measures that account for 85% of the reductions needed to meet the goal state's 2020 goal. The ten measures are renewable portfolio standard, EmPOWER Maryland, zero waste, Maryland Clean Cars, Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, building codes, public transportation initiatives, CAFÉ standards, managing forests to capture carbon, and planting forests in Maryland.

3. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Power Plants (Blair Beasley, Bipartisan Policy Center)

The Obama National Climate Action Plan (June 2013) established a Presidential Memorandum that directs EPA to work expeditiously to complete GHG standards for new and existing power plants under Clean Air Act authority. It calls for EPA to work with states, industry, and stakeholders to develop carbon pollution standards that build on state leadership, provide flexibility, take advantage of a wide range of energy sources and technologies, and sets timetable for EPA rulemakings and state implementation plans.

Clean Air Act Section 111(d) sets existing source standards. It establishes procedure for states to submit plans to EPA on existing source performance standards. States develop, implement, and enforce existing source standards and if states fail to do so, EPA steps in. 111(d) hasn't been often used, especially to this extent so there are many questions that need to be answered about performance standards.

4. Celebrating 20 Years of ACPAC!

Larry Zaragoza, an original member and member for 19 years, made a special trip out to us to help us celebrate and reflect back on 20 years of ACPAC. Joan Rohlf and Bill Butler also helped us reflect back. COG DEP's admin, Wyetha Lipford, did a special order of party food, Italian sodas and ordered us a fantastic cake to celebrate!!



5. Adjourn

Next meeting: December 9, 2013 – 5:30pm – 7:30pm