

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
March 13, 2018, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Present:

Cecily Beall, District Department of Energy & Environment
Ram Tangirala, District Department of Energy & Environment
Alexandra Catena, District Department of Energy & Environment
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment
Alex Brun, Maryland Department of the Environment
Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation
John Kinsman, Edison Electric Institute
Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Steve Walz, COG/DEP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Jeff King, COG/DEP
Jane Posey, COG/DTP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
JC Park, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP

1. Call to Order and Review of Meeting Summary

Ram Tangirala (Acting Chair) called the meeting to order at 10 am. The February 13th meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. Air Quality Forecast Protocol

Sunil discussed the 2018 air quality forecast protocol. There is no change in the forecasting procedure from the previous year. The ozone forecasts will be made available starting April 9th. The fine particle forecasts are available year round. Ram asked why the air quality forecasting is starting from April 9th as the ozone season for the 2016 ozone NAAQS starts from March 1st. Sunil said that the observed ozone data as of now does not indicate high levels, which are usually seen starting April. However, if this trend changes anytime in March, then the forecasters may start forecasting earlier than planned.

3. “What Can We Do” Measures

Sunil discussed the details of a number of NO_x emission control measures, which are being developed as part of the “What Can We Do” analysis. This analysis is being undertaken to help the Washington region achieve no code orange or worse days. He discussed the cost and emission benefit of each measure. Cecily asked if these measures are voluntary or regulatory. Sunil said it is a mix of both. Steve added that the idea is to have both since both provide NO_x

emission benefits. The group suggested separating the regulatory and voluntary measures. Ram enquired about the role of COG staff in this effort. Steve said besides developing the list of measures, COG staff could also help in their implementation by providing technical analysis. Jim expressed his concerns about the high benefits estimated for the transit bus replacement. Sunil said that COG staff would work together with TPB staff to revise these estimates. Ram suggested including measures from the VW mitigation plans for Virginia and Maryland. Roger said that he does not think that currently there is any RACT benefit available in Maryland. Ram agreed with Roger on this. Cecily suggested adding an introductory note in the beginning of the document. Sunil discussed the planned schedule for the effort. He requested members to provide their feedback to COG staff by March 6th though they could keep doing so even after that date. Then this document will be presented to ACPAC after incorporating these feedbacks. Sunil said he can also organize any conference calls, if needed.

4. Performance-Based Planning & Programming: CMAQ Emissions Target Setting

Jane Posey discussed the emission target setting process for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) as part of the Performance-Based Planning & Programming requirements. She said that the targets will reflect the anticipated cumulative two and four-year emissions reductions and will be reported in the CMAQ Public Access System. State DOTs are required to provide the future year data by the following March 1. After review by the FHWA, data is released to the public (MPOs have access) September 30. In addition to the MPO coordinating and establishing 2-and 4-year targets, the MPO is required to complete a CMAQ Performance Plan. This is a requirement for MPOs that contain nonattainment or maintenance areas with a population over 1 million. The CMAQ Performance Plan includes mobile source emissions, mode share (Non-SOV), and peak hour excessive delay (PHED). The Performance Plan will provide information on projects associated with the reduction of emissions/congestion. Additional guidance is expected on the CMAQ performance plan from FHWA. TPB staff will continue working on developing a forecasting methodology that could be used for target setting. TPB staff will coordinate with DOTs and other parties on data, measures, forecasting methodology, and targets and brief TPB and TPB-Tech committee on measures and draft targets at May meeting. TPB will adopt targets at June meeting and complete the CMAQ performance plan and submit to State DOTs by September. Steve asked Jane if she could brief MWAQC-TAC again in June. Jane agreed to this. Ram asked if the projects will be available to the public through PAS. Jane said the projects will be public available through PAS in September.

5. State & Local Updates

There were no updates.

6. Adjourn

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.