

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Meeting Notes

February 27, 2015, 1:00-3:00 pm

Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Annapolis, MD

In Attendance: Stuart Clarke - Town Creek Foundation; Lynn Heller - Abell Foundation; Renee Orenstein – DNR; Brian Ambretta - Eastern Shore Land Conservancy; Frank Dawson- DNR; Peter Zadoretzky - The Bozzuto Group; Nancy Kopp -State Treasurer; Susan Payne – MDA; Jason Dubow – MDP; David Costello – MDE; Ben Grumbles – MDE; Don Boesch – UMCES; Dick D’Amato; Kelly Russell - City of Frederick; Kevin Lucas – MEA; Mike Tidwell – CCAN; John Quinn – BGE; Sue Briggum - Waste Management; Heather Murphy – MDOT; Brad Karbowsky – UANet; Tad Aburn – MDE; Howard Simons – MDOT; Mellissa Sager - UMD Law; Margie Brassl - Office of Del. Stein; Kristen Ahearn – MEA; Garrit Lancecp – UMD; Greg Farley - Chesapeake College; Zoe Johnson – DNR; Lisa Nissley – MDE; Adrienne Diaczok – MDE; Max Tucker – MDE; Caroline Varney Alvarado – DHCD; Brian Hug – MDE; Scott Zacharko – MDE; Luke Wisniewski - MDE

I. Welcome & Introduction

Acting MDE Secretary and Commission Chair, Ben Grumbles opened the meeting, invited each person in the room to identify themselves and the organization they were representing.

II. Discussion of Senate Bill 258 & House Bill 514 – Bills to establish in statute Maryland’s Commission on Climate Change

Updates on SB 258/HB 516 from Lisa Nissley, MDE:

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee passed the bill with sponsor amendments and a few other minor adjustments. Lisa described the bill as amended (attached). The bill codifies the Executive Order with changes to include some appointments being made by the Senate President and Speaker. Also, local government representatives would be chosen by MACo and MML. The bill would allow for additional appointments to be made by July 2016.

Regardless of the status of the bill, the current Commission structure will remain in place for a year from the time the Executive Order was signed (Nov. 15, 2014). Commission appointments expire in October 2016.

Bill can be viewed here:

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?pid=billpage&stab=02&id=sb0258&tab=subject3&ys=2015RS>

III. Development of the Commission’s Work Plan – In order to establish sufficient momentum, the Commission tasked the Commission’s Steering Committee: a. With combining and refining working group work plans to establish a Commission work plan for the coming year; and b. With developing a proposal for the format, content and production schedule for the November report.

- **COMMENT:** Who is responsible for writing what? Should steering committee draft a proposal of how to get this accomplished? Steering members ok with this task. Establish a process or a committee body to go through the EO and find out what needs to be included in the report?
 - **DISCUSSION:** Two products due to the Governor and General Assembly include:

- MDE - GGRA status report
 - Commission report due November 15, 2015
 - The Commission should also be working on developing the Commission Climate Action Plan beyond 2020, this is an ongoing piece of work.
- **COMMENT:** Who will do the report? Should we draft report now?
 - **DISCUSSION:** MDE will lead the drafting of the reports with help from other agency staff. Work will come out of working groups. Staff expertise needed in economic analysis the University has experts in this - can they assist? Commission looking for other things - writers, experts, needed. Steering committee will oversee Commission report and action plans.
 - **COMMENT:** Do we need more than four meetings per year to meet important deadlines?
 - **DISCUSSION:** Topic on hold until meetings discussed.
 - **OUTCOME:** **Chairman Grumbles invited the motion to approve steering committee membership; Brad Karbowsky approved the motion; Lori Arguelles seconded; all in favor.**

IV. Meetings

Chairman Grumbles invited the motion to approve last meeting minutes from January 20, 2015; John Quinn approved the motion; Lynn Heller seconded; all in favor.

a. The Steering Committee will meet monthly by conference call to discuss and drive Commission work, including report development and work plan implementation. Stuart and John will work with Adrienne to schedule a standing meeting.

b. Commission Meetings

The Commission will meet in Western Maryland in April, on the Eastern Shore in July, and in Baltimore City in September to obtain and comment on working group and November report development updates, and to receive briefings on regional climate and energy work. Additionally, the Commission will meet at MDE in October to approve the Commission's November (annual) report.

The Commission discussed the need for additional meetings (in order to get work done) from the four originally agreed upon.

- **COMMENT:** Is it necessary to have meetings in Western MD and Eastern Shore as discussed in prior meeting? Driving will increase carbon footprint; farther distances will make for longer days and more time commitments from all. What is the purpose of traveling? If we travel longer distances for the purpose of engaging the public throughout the state does it take away from work progress on the report and other Commission deliverables?
- **DISCUSSION:** The point of visiting different regions is to engage the public and give the public the opportunity to have their ideas heard and possibly incorporated in the plan. It is important to get the public involved in the beginning and make them a part of the process. Public input will make for a stronger plan. ECO working group should prepare outreach/education materials ahead of Commission and public meetings, so public and Commission get the most out of meetings. ECO working group should also identify stakeholders in the region and reach out prior to meeting and/or obtain public feedback in advance of the Commission meetings outside of the Baltimore/Annapolis region.

- **COMMENT:** Should meeting time be extended to three hours to accommodate time for public comment/input?
- **DISCUSSION:** At this point, we don't know what a typical meeting will look like. Maybe the answer is to send smaller group to meet with public for input or create a traveling working group?
- **OUTCOME:** The Commission needs some experience with meetings before we can make this decision. For now we will meet in Baltimore in April; July and Oct - location TBD. **Chairman Grumbles asked for a motion. Stuart motioned; Jason seconded; all in favor.**

V. Commission Working Group Programs and Initiatives Updates

Each working group gave updates; see attached documents. It was suggested to working groups to keep updates brief, saying that all the information is important, but with the limited amount of time for the group, working groups should come prepared to discuss the top key areas in which the Commission can assist them in furthering their work. The Commission needs a sense of what priorities should be and guidance from State agencies - the day-to-day experts. What are the challenges day to day?

a. GHG Emissions Mitigation – MDE - see attached update by Brian Hug

b. Adaptation & Response – DNR - see attached update by Zoe Johnson

c. Scientific & Technical – UMCES - see attached update by Don Boesch

d. Education & Outreach – MDE - update from Adrienne Diaczok. The ECO workgroup didn't meet last month due to scheduling issues and weather. Still looking for volunteers with communications experience to sit on the working group, specifically looking for members of State Government communications shops and for-profit business.

VI. Other Items /Follow ups

- Need names of all members from each working group – please send to Adrienne
- MDE will create a webpage for the Commission on their website that will house meeting information, agendas, etc.
- MDE will create a matrix/org chart to include all requirements of the Commission and working groups.

VII. Public Comments

Chairman Grumbles opened the floor to public comment - none received.

VIII. Adjourn