

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Mitigation Working Group

March 16, 2017 – 10:00AM - 12:00PM – MDE

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Ben Grumbles, Brian Hug, Michael Powell, Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, Jim Strong, Colleen Turner, Chris Rice, Christine Conn, Susan Payne, Dan Engelberg (for Gerrit Knaap), Elliott Campbell (DNR), Tom Walz (DHCD), Cliff Mitchell (DHMH), Duane Johnson (MDE/CEJSC), Nicole Carlozo (DNR), Phillip Stafford (DNR), Stephanie Slowly (DHMH, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities), David Costello (IEER), Rebecca Rehr (CEJSC), Todd Metcalfe (Towson University), Michael Siers (Towson University), Allison Rich (MdeHN), Steve Pattison (EcoLogix Group), Megan Goold (EPA Region III), Pat Harcourt (UMCES/MADE CLEAR), Kris Hoellen (National Aquarium), Luke Wisniewski (MDE), Jess Herpel (MDE), Chris Beck (MDE), Liz Entwisle (MDE), Chris Hoagland (MDE), Lisa Nissley (MDE), Scott Zacharko (MDE)

Phone: Jana Davis, Donna Balado, Dorothy Morrison (MDOT), Laura Rogers (MDOT), Hampden Macbeth (Georgetown Climate Center), Jim Doyle (attorney), Grant Samms (Washington College), Len Zuza

10:00am Meeting Began

Agenda Item #1: Introductions

- Brian called the meeting to order and introductions were given around the room and over the phone
- Opening Comments
 - Brian: reminder that discussion should focus on recommendations and answering specific questions (per MWG S.C.)
 - Mike Powell: Important to have a nexus between suggestions and climate change, since that is the group’s charge and there will be plenty to focus on with just that

Agenda Item #2: Update on State’s Social Equity Efforts

- MDE ARMA conducted two meetings in Fall 2016, and has two planned for the spring – discussing some climate change, and some air quality issues

Agenda Item #3: EJ and Underserved Communities Speakers

- presentations given by Nicole Carlozo and Cliff Mitchell can be found under meeting materials
- Questions/comments for Nicole:
 - MWG and ARWG share some strategies, and by protecting and enhancing natural features both adaptation and mitigation goals could be met
 - May be an opportunity for some interagency coordination (MDE/DNR)
 - Nicole noted that she would be happy to work with MWG to develop a personal query within the tool which would emphasize characteristics pertinent to the group’s goals
- Questions/comments for Cliff:
 - Mitigation benefits at the local level could include green space, or urban tree canopies
 - Must not forget, rural communities at risk as well
 - Importance of community-set agendas for engaging and getting the support of the community in these efforts; are you offering community benefits as well as global benefits
 - Tension between this and the fact that we’ll clearly be enforcing mitigation on others (e.g., business community)

- Rebecca Rehr drew attention to the CEJSC recommendations for the MWG provided in April 2016 (available under meeting materials)
- Allison proposed a collaborative working group with MWG, ECO, CEJSC etc to continue working on outreach

Agenda Item #4: EJ and Underserved Communities Discussion

- Brian provided an overview of the MWG 2016 recommendations regarding social equity (available under meeting materials)
 - Currently working with Towson University to build a tool; on the path to contracting that
- Regarding MDE outreach meetings... not only continue to work with groups but hone in on process to be more citizen-friendly; and create a calendar to take advantage of existing opportunities.
 - 2 scheduled short-term, no set number for the year at this time
 - Proposed at least 2 meetings with each stakeholder group; one to obtain input and one to report out on progress. More sustained engagement is required to build trust. Recommend quality versus quantity of stakeholder groups
 - The Climate Ambassadors Program is a good idea but can't realistically count on it for this summer. We need to empower the Commission more to be doing this kind of thing (a capacity issue)
 - Recommend a collaborative calendar of events to avoid duplication of efforts and improve logistics/capacity.
 - Regarding meeting style, PowerPoints are discourage. Presentation by Kristen Baja at last ECO meeting emphasized town-hall style engagement which was activity centered; an ongoing discussion, interactive, and fast-paced where the community also has the opportunity for their voices to be heard.
 - In relation to the Climate Ambassadors Program, it may be especially helpful to approach these as listening sessions, so that there is no concern for keeping on message
 - We need to listen to the community and figure out how to deliver on their needs and get their support
- Potential recommendations from CEJSC based on today's conversation:
 - building MACO/MML relationship with MWG to identify communities
 - look into performing an HIA on the GHG reduction plan
 - put a webinar on the calendar for upcoming EJ items (tools, results, etc.) a few months out
 - provide a final determination of indicators for EJ communities
- Reminder – first task of the MWG is making recommendations for the 40 by 30 plan. We need to make sure that outreach efforts move towards this goal because at the end of the day we need a deliverable product.

12:00PM Meeting Adjourned