

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

April 24, 2018

Meeting Minutes

(note: all presentations and work plans are available on the Commission website under meeting materials)

1:12 Secretary Grumbles called the meeting to order. Introductions were made by members on the phone and around the room.

Julie Cerqueira, Executive Director of the U.S. Climate Alliance Q&A:

- The States' GHG inventories are being reviewed, including natural gas, methane leakage, ways to mitigate emissions and BACT.
- Some standardization is being encouraged, and goals of the Alliance include collective action.
- The Commission may be of assistance by continuing to work with the State to identify ambitious actions and move forward actively.

Nicole Carlozo, Dept. of Natural Resources; and Lee Currey, Dept. of the Environment Q&A:

- Stream restoration and other projects are designed to be resilient once they are fully established, but until that time they are vulnerable to storms, etc.

Working Group Updates and Work Plans

- Catherine McCall provided an overview of the ARWG plan.
- Hannah Brubach provided an overview of the ECO plan.
- Tad Aburn provided an overview of the MWG plan.
 - Mike Tidwell expressed concern that the MCCC was not explicitly notified regarding the terms of the AltaGas Ltd. and WGL Holdings, Inc. merger settlement (conditionally approved by the PSC in early April) which creates a \$30 million fund to expand the natural gas distribution system in Maryland. He expressed concern that there may be relevant issues that are not being shared with the Commission.
 - Secretary Grumbles stated that transparency has and will remain part of the success of the Commission. There are a variety of things being dealt with in other forums which we will continue to share as appropriate. There has been and will continue to be a conversation on methane emissions. Stuart Clarke added that MWG will be discussing natural gas on May 3rd and all are welcome to join.
 - Secretary Tung noted that the PSC meetings in which these decisions were discussed are always open; however this topic seems to have gotten minimal exposure/participation. This was a public discussion and a transparent process, but separate from the Commission.
- Peter Goodwin provided an overview of the STWG plan.
 - The meeting dates are preliminary.
 - It was generally agreed that the STWG should be sure to look holistically at agriculture, including both impacts of climate change and mitigation efforts.

Adoption of Work Plans

Secretary Grumbles moved that the Commission adopt the four work plans, recognizing that there is good work ahead and additional specificity needed.

- Colby seconded
- Senator Pinsky requested that approval of the MWG work plan be held until a further discussion could be had. He believes that several solutions that data points to (in electricity and transportation sectors) are left out of the plan, and what is currently being discussed will not achieve a 40% reduction by 2030.
 - Secretary Grumbles noted that the MWG has had very specific discussions regarding basic assumptions of the 40 by 30 Plan, a range of scenarios, etc.
 - Stuart Clarke proposed a discussion regarding the structure of MCCC agendas, including having more information brought in from the MWG and allowing more time for discussion. There was some agreement from other Commission members.
- The Commission voted to adopt the four work plans, all in favor. Secretary Grumbles added emphasis on including more contrastive conversation at MWG meetings and at the Commission level.