

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

June 19, 2018, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm – MDE

Minutes

Ben Grumbles, Stuart Clarke, Jane Kirschling, Charles, Deegan, Jim Strong, Dana Stein, Paul Pinsky, Mike Bibb, Catherine McCall, Russell Dickerson, Dave Nemazie, Peter Goodwin, Mary Beth Tuny, Rob McCord, Colleen Turner, Matt Fleming, Alisha Mulkey, Donna Balado, Nancy Kopp, Anne Lindner, Tad Aburn, Pat Harcourt, Jim Frazier, Emily Enderle, Jette Findser, Jason Dubow, John Fiastro, Ian Ullman, Margie Brassil, Steve Pattison, Susanne Brogan, David Smedick, Lee Currey, Chris Rice, Ellen Wary, Ed Stuebing, Chris Hoagland, Luke Wisniewski, Jarry Liebesman, Donald Goldberg, David Costello, Brian Hug, Lisa Nissley, Jess Herpel, Megan Ulrich, Hannah Brubach, Joe Lutz, Hope Hurley, By Phone: Dick D'Amato, Mark Belton, Mike Tidwell, Tamara Toles O'Laughlin

Welcome from Secretary Grumbles & Introductions

Update & Discussion: Working Group Activities

- Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group – Hannah Brubach, MDE
- Scientific and Technical Working Group – Dave Nemazie, UMCES
 - Two workshops upcoming this year: (1) Sea-level rise and impacts expected in Sept/Oct; and (2) updating the impact of climate change on agriculture.
 - Additionally, there will be a review of GHG emission estimates, and a more comprehensive review in a year or two which includes a review of both sources and sinks. This will not be completed in time to affect the upcoming GHG emissions inventory due in December.
 - Tad noted that it would be helpful if data were provided between now and when the plan is due. The concept of sinks is already in the plan and DNR has done some excellent work so it may be helpful to work with them on this. Perhaps we can include in the draft a qualitative description of what we expect to know.
- Adaptation and Response Working Group – Catherine McCall, DNR
 - Climate Leadership Academy is looking to get first classes started in the fall.
 - ARWG is also working on a critical review of the 2013 Plan that was adopted, and this is ongoing - trying to assess what has happened and is happening, and create a guide for 2019 on.
 - The July 30th meeting is a joint meeting with the Coast Smart Council and will focus on HB1006; saltwater intrusion and coastal flooding.
 - Treasurer Kopp requested more information, or perhaps background information in advance of the meeting. It was noted that we are trying to do summaries of discussion at working group meetings provided in this way, which was done this time for the MWG - we are still working out the bugs of this concept. In additional full meeting materials, including minutes, are posted on the website.

- Stuart asked whether the Climate Leadership Academy efforts were being coordinated with the ECO working group. They are and will continue to be.
- Stuart suggested that the Commission should try to achieve synergies between mitigation and adaptation efforts. This was well received and it was agreed that the Steering Committee will continue to be a good vehicle for such coordination.
- GHG Mitigation Working Group – Tad Aburn, MDE
 - In response to the Commission’s request for more discussion and less presentations, the MWG piloted a new panel Q&A format at the May 31st meeting which went well, and we will continue with this format moving forward.
 - Stuart - To provide context regarding our process, the MWG started with about 7 topics to discuss this year and have moved through 5, with two left to go. Then in August we have two meetings to work on recommendations. There are some areas of consensus and some with significant differences still. All minutes and recommendations which have been discussed thus far are available under the MWG materials on the website.

Discussion: Achieving Long-term GGRA Goals

- Senator Pinsky - Regarding process, in the work that has been done thus far, there are certain growth assumptions (e.g., ZEV use, wind generation), will we reassess this at some point? Regarding strategies, electric generation and transportation are the most important - will there be recommendations in both of those areas? If there is not consensus on a strategy, will it still be in the Report? Will they be modeled? How will we address this process-wise? The Commission should be able to look at all strategies even if there is not MWG consensus.
 - Brian Hug - Regarding the model assumptions, we will have a business as usual run, as well as a high end and low end run. In addition, we have a whole year after this to revisit in 2019. As far as strategies, we’ve been transparent about the suite of programs we are looking at. One thing we offered the MWG is an additional model run, which is a good compromise between how much funding is available currently for modeling and the needs of the MWG.
 - Senator Pinsky - For example, if there is not consensus on a VMT strategy then it will not be modeled? If so I am not satisfied with that.
 - Secretary Grumbles - It’s not consensus at any cost, that would just be preferable because it sends a stronger message. Additionally, if we can find other ways to do additional models, for example another entity can provide model information or funding for additional model runs.
 - Tad - I think we’re trying to address the issues you have with the regular check-ins, and also update the assumptions and strategies.
 - Colleen - MDOT also has a new tool that offers scenario analyses, which is the first step. All these things will be working and moving together.
- Delegate Stein- Will we be assuming status quo for federal standards? Also concerned regarding if there is interest but no consensus in a strategy at the MWG level.
 - Brian - this will depend on the scenarios - for BAU, if it’s not on the books we will not include it, but other assumptions change for the high and low scenarios.
- Mike Tidwell - Have you modeled the plan to spend \$100k to jump-start fracked gas? Is there more of this coming that we don’t know about?
 - Brian - This was discussed at MWG while you were co-chair. There will be a second inventory that includes out-of-state fracking, and all will be included in the analysis.



- Secretary Grumbles - from an MDE perspective we are committed to the GHG reduction plan and proud of our efforts thus far. MDE has done a robust review of required permitting, methane emissions inventories, and working to reduce emissions from natural gas infrastructure. It's an important policy and discussion, and we will continue progress.
- Stuart - when do you need to make modeling decisions?
 - Brian - We should be done end of August. Next time this year we will be doing the same thing and there will be an opportunity for additional modeling sets.
- Senator Pinsky - Can we know how much GHG emission reduction is due to natural gas prices and change in coal use vs. the GGRA programs?
 - Brian - we actually know that now, it's about 50/50. We published this in the 2015 update to the 2012 Plan.

Public Comment

- John Mosheim (GHG Engineering) - regarding Federal effort, what kind of effort do you see being helpful in Maryland regarding the renewable fuel standard?
 - Tad - this is clearly part of the plan
- Treasurer Kopp - Do we have numbers for electric vehicles?
 - Colleen - we still have a way to go - the goal is 13 thousand. There are 5 million vehicles in the fleet.
 - Secretary Grumbles - Soon we will provide a draft spending plan for the VW settlement. Consistent with MCCC recommendations, we intend to maximize the EV infrastructure allocation.
- David Costello - There are 52 programs in the plan, but 10 account for 85% of reductions. The most growth in emissions is in the transportation sector; we need substantive programs to turn those numbers around. Additionally, disagree with the 50/50 estimate for NG prices vs. GGRA programs. At some point we will get no additional reductions from natural gas.
- Delegate Stein - for electric vehicles, there seems to be a problem with sales related to lack of advertising and marketing. Consumers do not know about the options and we should consider ramping up these efforts.
 - Tad - Related to the ZEV MOU we are working with the sector to get them to engage in additional marketing. Colleen agrees there are efforts underway for this.
- David Smedick - Sierra Club has done some listening sessions, and hoping that there will also be focus on public transportation instead of growing roads.

