

Maryland Commission on Climate Change
September 20, 2017, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm – MDE
Minutes

Attendance: Ben Grumbles, Stuart Clarke, Nancy Kopp, Donna Belado, Hans Schmidt, Catherine McCall, Dorothy Morrison, Jason Dubow, Chris Rice, John Fiastro, Don Boesch, Kirby Ferguson, Debra Prout, Lori Argulles, Jim Strong, Mike Powell, Delegate Stein, Senator Pinsky, Mike Tidwell, Larry Kasecamp, Commissioner Michael Bibb, Russ Dickerson, David Costello, Peter Goodwin, Dave Nemazie, Tom Walz, Randolph Wilson, Margie Brassil, Edward Stuebing, Steve pattison, Bob Hoyt, Larry Liebesman, Donald Goldberg, Jim Doyle, Jess Herpel, Les Knapp, Blake Wrigley, Stephanie Scubey, Lisa Nissley, Joe Lutz, Erick Thunell, Hope Hurley, Megan Ulrich

Phone: Anne Lindner, Charles Deegan

1. Welcome from Secretary Grumbles & Introductions

- The meeting was called to order, and introductions were made around the room and on the phone
- Secretary Grumbles introduced the following discussion

2. Discussion: GGRA - Big Picture and Big Ideas

- Stuart began by framing the conversation, noting that a number of Commissioners requested a reflection on the performance, progress, and adherence to the mission, including:
 - How well are we meeting the responsibilities in the legislation
 - What impact are we having
 - Given the evolving context, what opportunities exist for education and engagement; and how well are we positioned to use these opportunities (in a timely manner)
- Senator Pinsky noted that he felt the presentation provided at an earlier Commission meeting this year was too optimistic, focused too much on the 40 by 30 goal specifically, and provided insufficient context. He expressed a desire to get 'ahead of the curve', and found that the recommendations from the working groups lacked practical goals and reflected a loss of momentum. He applauds the efforts to achieve consensus on the recommendations, but would like to see more concrete steps towards measurable progress which reflect the urgency of the situation.
- Don Boesch agreed with some of these points, noting that there is urgency, increasing scientific certainty, and that 2030 needs to be looked at as a waypoint. He was also concerned about a lack of specificity in the recommendations.
- Mike Tidwell expressed concern that the MWG (which he co-chairs) self-edits and is not moving forward
 - Mike Powell (MWG co-chair) noted that any ideas that were brought before the MWG were heard, but this has not been brought up previously

- Jim Strong stated that, as a representative of organized labor, he must represent the union members and their concerns.
- Secretary Grumbles agreed that we should continue to strive for consensus and meet the deadlines of the Report, but should ask the Steering Committee to discuss these big ideas, any modifications, etc. moving forward. He also noted that the success of the Commission thus far has come from finding common ground.
 - Nancy Kopp believes that it will be good to have some discussions within the Commission context; that it should be the role of the Commission to steer discussion to avoid losing the center
 - Tad wants to make sure things are clearly charged to the working groups, and noted that there is a section in the GGRA that discusses the future beyond 2020/2030 goals.
- Several requests were made of the recommendations:
 - Delegate Stein requested more direction be applied
 - Stuart suggested that recommendations be targeted towards an actor that can carry it out, and a response be requested from this actor
 - Don Boesch suggested that we modify and combine recommendations to elevate those items which would apply as recommendations from the Commission

3. Lisa provided a brief update on the timeline for the Annual Report and the Table of Contents

4. Update: Working Group 2017 Annual Report Recommendations

- Catherine McCall provided an overview of the ARWG's recommendations (see full document online)
 - Allison suggested there may be collaboration on ARWG outreach and ECO's outreach.
 - Allison Rich provided an overview of the ECO Working Group's recommendations (see full document online) - no comments
 - Tad Aburn provided an overview of the MWG's recommendations (see full document online)
 - Don Boesch provided an overview of the STWG's recommendations
 - It was clarified that while the STWG is still looking at carbon capture and storage in sinks as well as from the stack, this should be seen as a way to narrow the gap at the end; the biggest impact will come from reducing the emissions generated. Additionally there are some technical issues with where to put the stored carbon which still need to be resolved.
- Ultimately it was suggested by Secretary Grumbles that the Steering Committee consider all comments and the earlier conversation and make efforts to edit recommendations accordingly,

5. Public Comment

- Larry Liebesman on carbon pricing and dividends

- Climate exchange group wants to work with MD
 - We fall short even if we hit our current tactics according to their research
- Donald Goldberg on carbon pricing
 - Supports carbon pricing
 - Wants money not given back, but rather to use to solve our air problems

6. Wrap Up

- Secretary Grumbles noted that the Steering Committee has more discussion to do on big ideas, and revisions to the recommendations. These may go back to the working groups or may be revised internally, but will be presented two weeks prior to the October Commission meeting.
 - None were opposed to this.