

Maryland Commission on Climate Change Meeting - Notes

April 18, 2016 from 12:30 am – 2:30 pm
Maryland Department of the Environment

Commissioners in Attendance:

Ben Grumbles - Chair of Commission and Secretary of Environment;
Stuart Clarke - Town Creek Foundation;
Mike Powell – Private Sector Representative;
John Quinn - Director of State Affairs, BGE;
Tad Aburn – Maryland Department of the Environment;
Leigh Williams - Maryland Energy Administration;
Donald Boesch - University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES);
Lori Arguelles - Alice Ferguson Foundation;
Mike Tidwell - Chesapeake Climate Action Network;
Lynn Heller - Abell Foundation;
Sue Briggum - Vice President, Waste Management, Inc;
Susan Payne - Department of Agriculture;
Peter Zadoretzky - Sustainability Manager, The Bozzuto Group;
Jason Dubow - Department of Planning;
Dana Stein – Maryland General Assembly;
Matt Fleming - Department of Natural Resources;
Colby Ferguson - Farm Bureau;
Ian Ullman for Senator Pinsky - Maryland General Assembly;
Mark Belton - Department of Natural Resources;
R. Earl Lewis - Department Transportation;
Chuck Fry - Maryland Farm Bureau;

On Phone:

Nancy K. Kopp - Maryland State Treasurer;
C. Richard D'Amato - Attorney;
Paul Pinsky - Maryland General Assembly;
Gail Bennett;
Tom Walls - Department Housing Community Development;
Samantha Kappelman - Hatcher Group

In Attendance:

James Ley, Brian Ambrette, Lisa Nissley, Jim Doyle, Catherine McCall, Phillip Stafford, Rebecca Ruggles, Liz AEntwisle, David Costello, Megan Ulrich, Scott Zacharko, Chris Hoagland, Chris Beck

I. Introduction

Meeting was called to order at 12:30. Secretary Grumbles invited each attendee to introduce themselves.

No Questions or Agenda updates were offered.

II. Update on the Legislation (SB 232/HM610)

- Thanks to Governor Hogan, Senator Pinsky, and the General Assembly
- RPS Bill also a big step forward

- Unanimous MCCC vote on GGRA was helpful in moving Bill

III. Update on transition to Revised Commission Membership

- We have Legislation to codify Commission and outline requirements
- June 01, 2016 will call for Commissioner transitions
- No wholesale changes
- Additional Commissioners will be added (appointees)

IV. Working Group Updates

A. Science and Technical Working Group

Donald Boesch from UMCES presented the status of the STWG. See attached work plan. Points are as follows:

- STWG will review any new reports that MCCC deems important
- STWG will make recommendations to MCCC in the coming months
- Need to focus more on local government strategies
- Update on Coast Guard legislation – Don will share with MCCC
- Methane is still a huge issue that needs immediate attention
- Need to identify all sources of Methane leakage or GHG mitigation will be cancelled out
- Important that STWG is updating ECOS on key issues
- STWG to provide map of MD with sea level rise impacts? – Yes
- Sea-level rise impact analysis conducted w/ various scenarios? - Yes

B. Adaptation and Response Working Group (ARWG)

Matt Fleming presented the status of the ARWG. See attached work plan. Points are as follows:

- ARWG to meet quarterly in 2016
- Focused on reviewing progress and new initiatives included in MCCC legislation
- Prioritize serving vulnerable communities, and determining economic impact
- Develop 2-year performance targets
- ARWG to provide language to deal with alarmist language
- Perhaps MCCC should have local government represented?
- Local government in Maryland is quite diverse

C. Mitigation Working Group (MWG)

Tad discussed the progress of the Mitigation Work Group. Work Plan attached. Points are as follows:

- Mike Tidwell to replace Stuart Clarke as co-chair of MWG
- Balanced group
- 40% by 2030 – we have some time
- Joint meeting with STWG scheduled for July
- Overly ambitious schedule? – maybe
- MDE not taking the primary speaking role at meetings – inviting panelists

- Commissioners invited to all MWG meetings

D. Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group (ECO)

Lori Arguelles presented status of the ECO. Work plan attached. Points are as follows:

- ECO meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month
- Need MCCC feedback on listening sessions
- Need more public input in 2016
- Need more diversity in targeting groups for listening sessions
- What is the communications platform that ECO uses to communicate with Working groups? - ECO is staffed differently than other WGs – answer is not clear.
- Reminder: Law requires that the MCCC communicate with public in a particular way
- MDE updating website
- From Samantha @ Hatcher: Report giving MD a B+ on GHG mitigation – will fwd to MCCC

V. Proposal for Working Group Funding

Stuart Clarke referred to Handout in packet.

- Presented funding from Town Creek as an opportunity to access outside expert support
- Stuart provided details on partnership with UMCES to review proposals
- Steering Committee to review findings from UMCES review
- Instead of calling this a proposal, perhaps it should be called opportunity?
- MDE checked legality of the opportunity and it was deemed legal
- Stuart stepping down as co-chair of MWG due to conflict of interest
- MCCC will be briefed by Steering Committee and all commissioners will be canvassed for feedback
- Consensus always the goal – approved by informal vote

VI. Update on By-laws

MCCC to review attached by-law document

- Not voting on by-laws
- Email Lisa with comments
- June agenda item: inaugural by-laws

VII. MDE presentation on Opportunities for 2030

Tad presented slides. See attached.

- Hydrogen Vehicles included in transportation programs? – yes
- Failed Bill to re-class poultry trucks would provide benefits
- CPP stay will be key – imported electricity will impact Maryland's progress
- Methane needs to be a top priority – Can STWG brief MCCC asap?
- **Proposal: move Methane discussion to June Agenda**
- In order to discuss Methane, we'll need to include all sectors (waste, petroleum, advocacy, etc)

VIII. Public Comment

From Rebecca Ruggles: Maryland needs to issue Fracking regs in 2016. In proposed legislation, there was no analysis of Climate Impact. This needs to be addressed.

IX. Relevant Events/Wrap Up

- Earth Week
- May 4th, 5th, 6th Climate Action Meeting in Baltimore
- Panel to address Smart Growth issues on May 4th
- Are attached Work Plans approved? – Yes
- RPS Bill is a big step forward – but Methane issue trumps any progress
- Revise language when discussing economic issues and GHG emissions as in "alignment" rather than balanced (or tradeoffs)

Meeting was adjourned at 2:34 pm.