

Maryland Commission on Climate Change
June 21st, 2017 | 3:00PM - 5:00PM

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Committee Members and Proxies: Ben Grumbles, Stuart Clarke, Anne Lindner, Donna Balado (for Karen Salmon), Susan Payne (for Joseph Bartenfelder), Colleen Turner (for Pete Rahn), Chris Rice (for Mary Beth Tung), Delegate Dana Stein, Colby Ferguson (for Chuck Fry), Charles Deegan, Russell Dickerson, Deborah Prout (for Jane Kirschling), Michael Powell, Mark Belton, Jason Dubow (for Wendi Peters), Nancy K. Kopp, Don Boesch

Non-Committee Members: Tad Aburn (MDE), Allison Rich (ECO co-chair), Catherine McCall (ARWG coordinator), Steve Pattison (EcoLogix), Molly Knoll (OPC), Alicia Moran, Camilla Arias (Exelon), Pat Harcourt (UMCES/MADE CLEAR), Allison Gost (DHMH), Grant Samms (Washington College), Kristen Peterson (Hatcher Group), Dawn Stoltzfus (Hatcher Group), Kathy Selle (Dept. of Legislative Services), Kate Charbonneau (Critical Area Commission), Ed Stuebing (Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, David Smedick (Sierra Club), David Costello (IEER), Susanne Brogan (State Treasurer's Office), Margie Brassil (Del. Dana Stein Leg. Dir.), John Fiastro (MEA), Kyle Baroang (Cadmus Group), Dave Nemazie (UMCES), Julia Kalloz (DHCD), Joe Seehusen (DHCD), Tom Walz (DHCD), Phillip Stafford (DNR), Brian Hug (MDE), Lisa Nissley (MDE), Jess Herpel (MDE), Luke Wisniewski (MDE), Hope Hurley (MDE), Megan Ulrich (MDE), Liz Entwisle (MDE), Erick Thunell (MDE), Chris Beck (MDE), and Chris Hoagland (MDE)

On the Phone: Senator Paul Pinsky, Michael Tidwell, Lori Arguelles, and Tamara Toles O'Laughlin (MdEHN)

1. Welcome from Secretary Grumbles & Introductions (10 Minutes) Secretary Grumbles began by bringing up the Paris Accord and the Climate Alliance. He noted that the administration is not in support of the decision to withdraw from the Paris Accord, but wanted to focus on meeting Maryland's goals and strengthen our partnerships. We continue to be briefed on the potential benefits of the Alliance.

Commission members voiced their opinions on this matter, including Pinsky and Tidwell, who expressed that they felt the governor should join the Climate Alliance. Non-commission members Allison Rich, and Tamara Toles O'Laughlin also expressed this sentiment. Tamara noted the Baltimore agreement.

Commission member Stuart Clarke stated that it may be of particular importance to consider the impact of this and the preceding decisions on the Commission's work and the ability of Maryland to meet our goals, and especially consider this when drafting recommendations for this year's Report. Allison mentioned that ECO discussed this and hopes the Commission will communicate about this issue in a timely manner.

2. Presentation: A look at the MCCC Website, Brian Hug, MDE (5 Minutes)

Brian briefly walked through the new look of the website, and noted that a survey would be sent out shortly regarding the work Hatcher would be doing on it.

3. Update: Report Writing Timeline and Table of Contents, Lisa Nissley, MDE (10 Minutes)

Lisa provided a brief overview of the Report-writing timeline, which has not changed since the last meeting, and the draft Table of Contents. Working groups should be working on recommendations for the report. Please send any suggestions you have about the TOC to Lisa and/or Brian.

Stuart asked if we received feedback on past reports to know if there is anything we should address. No responses have been received as far as any members present were aware. Tad noted that the report is mainly done for the Governor and the Legislature. Allison Rich noted that ECO proposed a bi-lingual executive summary and that literacy level be considered, as well as including some data in the form of graphics that may be used as stand-alone information tools.

4. Update: Outreach Work with The Hatcher Group, EcoLogix, and State Agencies, Dawn Stoltzfus and Steve Pattison (30 Minutes)

Liz Entwisle presented on the outreach plan ECO developed incorporating the work of The Hatcher Group and EcoLogix. Hatcher's focus to date has been the five one pagers that were shared with the Commission. They will move on to the

website and a slide deck next. EcoLogix is working to be the eyes and ears around the state to help find opportunities to work with communities to educate with real personalized effects then let them spread the knowledge.

5. Action Item: Approval of one-pagers presented by The Hatcher Group (10 Minutes)

Ben requested any feedback on the one-pagers, and none was provided at that time. He then requested permission to get approval from the Commission to move forward, with the understanding that the Steering Committee will approve the final products. Unanimous approval; none opposed or abstained.

6. Update: Working Group Reports (20 Minutes)

● **Adaptation and Response Working Group – Catherine McCall, DNR**

The 2nd quarter meeting focused on service to local government and support for their adaptation. Presentations were given by Les Knapp and Jason Dubow, and a survey was sent out to determine the needs of local communities. ARWG wants to translate the science and information to local partners and continue the dialogue and will work with ECO to find the best way to communicate these ideas.

● **Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group – Allison Rich, MdeHN**

Requested more collaboration and contribution for the toolbox and other initiatives; noted the Climate Photo Essay; requested that all sectors represented by the Commission make an effort to contribute so that the contents of the toolbox etc are well-balanced.

● **GHG Mitigation Working Group – Tad Aburn, MDE**

Tad mentioned the recent meeting on Healthy Soils and the upcoming meeting on Green Banks.

● **Scientific and Technical Working Group – Don Boesch, UMCES**

Discussed the most recent meeting, noting that there were a few little things that can be done to improve the EI which they will keep looking at; we are counting on sinks to offset about 13% of emissions and these are not as accurate, so there is scientific interest to help improve these estimates (plans to form a sub-group to address). He also presented a handout on potential ramifications of the presidential budget proposal and suggestions for the Commission which Ben agreed would be reviewed at the Steering Committee level.

7. Update: 40x30 Plan, Brian Hug, MDE (20 Minutes)

Brian Hug presented a power point update on the plan.

Senator Pinsky responded that the gap is highly uncertain and broad. He would like to see issues like increasing the RPS or setting a carbon tax be part of the discussion as well. Ben noted that we can certainly update based on the input, and that these were developed with input from the STWG and MWG. If other ideas are out there, please communicate them to us.

Don noted that looking at 2030 as a destination would be dangerous, since that is only 40% of the full commitment; since ultimately we need to accomplish more, we should anticipate some heavy lift and start incorporating long-term measures earlier.

8. Public Comment (10 Minutes)

Allison mentioned the Commission might vote on communicating on the Paris Accord. It was suggested that ECO draft a paper/statement the Steering Committee could look at in July.

Grant Samms (Washington College) provided a copy of the Shore Power report, noting that the group is around and would be excited to help in any way they can.

David Smedick asked whether there would be public input to the 2018 draft Plan, and Mike Powell noted that we have been requesting suggestions and input at the MWG level. Brian stated that they would circulate publically prior to end of 2018 assuming there was something suitable to do that with.

Meeting adjourned around 5:15PM