

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Executive Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

October 09, 2015 from 10:00am – 12 pm

Maryland Department of the Environment

In Attendance: Ben Grumbles, Tad Aburn, Stuart Clarke, Mike Powell; Lori Arguelles; David Costello; Lynn Heller; Mike Tidwell; James McGarry, Ian Ullman - for Senator Pinsky; Mark Belton

On Phone: Richard D'Amato; Samantha Kappalman; Catherine McCall; Leigh Williams

Introduction

Tad opened the meeting with an update on the GGRA Report (MDE)

- Final touches are being applied
- MDE received feedback from state agencies
- DRAFT version scheduled for release mid-October (on schedule)
- Received support for the Working Groups
- Very large report
- Complies with GGRA law
- Covers uncertainties and future work

What is the recommended protocol for report distribution?

- Public Libraries?
- Legislature?
- Provide briefing during legislative session?
- How should MDE handle comments?

MDE Plan: 1) Share internally (MDE) and with Secretary's Office; 2) Governor's Office; 3) General Assembly 4) Finalize with "published" version 5) Post to website

Working Group Progress Updates

Mitigation Working Group

- MWG waiting for MDE report to be made available for review
- Start to come up with expectations for 2016
- Resolve ongoing issues:
 - governance, threshold for consensus, by-laws, procedural uncertainties

Adaptation Working Group

- Prepared a AWG response group in August
- Update on all policies from all Agencies
- Sent draft chapter to MDE
- In next few months – establish 2016 priorities

Sec Grumbles: must highlight importance of prioritizing Adaptation and assisting local government in preparation

Science Working Group

- Don Bosche provided MDE with an “Update on the Science” chapter for report
- Need to start working on “emerging issues”

ECO Working Group

- ECO working group met 10/8 - MDE contributed
- Need to appoint new members
- Need to ensure there is diversity in membership
- Lori distributed roster (see handouts)
- Need better business sector participation –
 - someone should contact Chamber of Commerce
- Fall Outreach Sessions: November timeframe – need to set-up
- Late November - GGRA report will be available and public will respond - early December
- Need 5 sites for meeting around the State
- Mindful of legislation session (January)
- House and Senate will be briefed on report
- What will the media strategy be for report briefing?
 - Stand-alone event?
 - In Annapolis?
 - State-wide briefings?
- Transparency is key to MCCC success. Need website to receive comments
- What should the MCCC messaging be?
- Add MCCC website to the existing MDE website?
- Maybe an improved MCCC website?
 - Third party manages?
 - Who controls content? MDE?
 - Should ECO working group manage website?
 - Will comments be accepted?
 - Need procedural items finalized

Small group of Commissioners need to brief Sec. Grumbles on all options for MCCC website

- Oversight
- Transparency
- Accessibility
- MDE management of website is preferred
- MCCC needs to be the independent voice

MCCC Report Writing Update

Report Drafting and Review Proposal:

- 1) Sam K. drafts MCCC report
 - 2) Lynn and MDE review
 - 3) MCCC Chairs review
 - 4) Report writing reviews
 - 5) Working groups review
- Note: Chapters 2 & 3 did not follow this protocol

Next Steps:

- Need to see MDE report
- Decide on issues of substance
- Progress to date
- Uncertainty
- Include future goal?
- Need consensus on a process to make recommendations on issues of substance

Goal-setting Update

- Can MCCC get a consensus on future goal?
- Resistance in business community for 35% goal
- 35-45% is a big gap to close
- Mike P. is meeting with Chamber of Commerce to discuss goal
- In the past, MCCC moved forward without consensus
- Science suggests 45% is prudent
- If there is discussion about not making 25% goal, the future goal discussion will be impacted negatively
- MDE “straw man” is possible.
- Commissioners will work hard to get consensus
- 45% with economic benefits is possible
- Range Concept – worth discussing further
- Role of Federal programs is significant – they alone get us close (about 32%)
- Transportation sector is still under-performing but will gain momentum by 2020
- Market Forces? NG and VMT will contribute
- Need to remember Adaptation

Future Meetings

- Steering Committee to meet on consensus – 10/22?
 - Can we get better participation at Steering Committee meeting?
- Report Writing Group (call) before 10/22
- 10/29: What is structure of meeting? Agenda? Include recommendations?
 - Tad’s Proposal: 1) discuss MDE report 2) report writing for MCCC report 3) Consensus document 4) Working group updates
- Last 2015 meeting? - Ideally not
- Need to include Future work as an agenda item

- Compare 2015 and 2016 and find path forward
- Proposal: late 2015 Steering Committee meeting
 - Tough issues (emerging issues)
 - Future work
 - Consensus
 - Procedural business in 2016

How to process submittals (i.e. Sparrows Point letter)

- Need procedure for sharing submittals with MCCC

Misc items before closing meeting at 12:24

- MCCC vacancy - add local government representative?
 - MML and MACO are good resources
 - Municipalities represented but not local government
- Keep Adaptation in focus