

## **Quarterly Meeting**

**Monday, April 19th, 2021, 1:00PM – 3:00PM**

### **Meeting Notes**

#### Members present:

Ben Grumbles  
Anne Lindner  
Charmaine Brown  
Charles Deegan  
Margie Brassil for Dana Stein  
Earl Lewis  
Tad Aburn  
Jane Kirshling  
Jeannie Riccio  
Jessie Iliff  
Joe Bartenfelder  
Kim Coble

Lori Arguelles  
Mark Belton  
Michael Bibb  
Paul Pinsky  
Peter Goodwin  
Rob McCord  
Russ Dickerson  
Jim Strong  
Mary Beth Tung  
Charmaine Brown  
Bruce Lesh for Karen Salmon  
Chris Hoagland, staff lead

#### Welcome:

Chair Ben Grumbles opened the first meeting of the year and explained that the quarterly meetings typically begin in late April after legislative session is over. Gave a bit of a legislative recap and reiterated that the Commission stands ready to work with everyone; some people/members were disappointed that the Climate Solutions bill did not pass. "But we are proud of the 50x30 plan laid out in the GGRA plan. MCCC will continue to advance the ball."

#### Public Comment:

Hannah Brubach, Chesapeake Legal Alliance said she is looking forward to the Commission's insurance of overburdened communities.

1. Re stormwater general permits – MDE needs to provide feedback that includes climate and rising sea levels in permitting.
  2. Would like to see agency staff involved in permitting receive training in climate change and adaptation strategies.
- See 2021 Stormwater Design Standards legislation.

David Smedick, Sierra Club

Referring to the 2021 legislative session, said there were a good transit, PSC

regs and other issues covered this session, but a lot of other issues were largely ignored by the General Assembly. He encouraged the MCCC to have more frequent communication with the General Assembly. The annual report comes out too late in the year for the G.A. to prepare for its upcoming session that begins in January each year.

James Wagner, Frederick County resident, appreciates MCCC's work. Dismayed at renewables creeping up very slowly. Would like to see more emphasis on Clean Energy goals and jobs and how to get more renewables on the grids. "0.084% for solar, and 3.30% for wind are pitiful numbers to me." He would like to see the Commission encourage policies that increase the speed to which renewables are put into place.

Vontasha Sims, Charles County Democratic Central Committee, asked what action MCCC will take to provide infrastructure and Environmental Justice to the Brandywine area of Southern Maryland. She is concerned with airport expansion in western Charles County – millions of taxpayer dollars to tear down pristine forest area. Protect communities, public health and safety, and hold everyone accountable. Federal legislation is coming to declare southern Maryland a natural preserve to protect. (US Rep Hoyer, US Senators Cardin and Van Hollen).

Jeff Silva, Montgomery County resident, suggested:

1. That the state require all government contracts include carbon intensity rating (Morgan Stanley quantifies metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.)
2. The state should use bidders' carbon intensity ratings when awarding contracts.
3. The state should mandate all corporations make their carbon intensity ratings public by publishing on their websites.

2021 Legislative Session Outcomes and Next Steps: Presentation by Tyler Abbott, MDE's legislative director. See attached slides showing which bills passed.

Chris Hoagland, MDE Climate Change Program manager asked "what can the Commission do between sessions to move forward, continue to make progress?"

MDoT Deputy Secretary Earl Lewis said it takes a lot of work to electrify transportation, but he sees consensus building. He also mentioned that he and Chair Ben Grumbles recently attended an Electric Vehicles show in Annapolis – 12 models were on display.

Mr. Lewis believes that Maryland can be a leader of electric vehicles, including school buses. He said we need overt education with legislators to keep MCCC's momentum going into the next session.

Peter Goodwin, Chair of the Science and Technology Working Group offered to

create information over the next 8 months rather than waiting until the last minute just before session starts. Chair Grumbles mentioned that we should continue to coordinate with MEMA.

Senator Paul Pinsky said the state opposed funding to electrify the fleet. How does the Administration square not leading by example? My understanding is that GGRA is conditioned on the Governor's CARES Act. He asked if the CARE Act can be eliminated from the GGRA plan because it has not passed in the legislature for 3 years now.

Maryland Energy Administration Director Mary Beth Tung said that MEA has already spent \$2 million on electrifying light vehicles. State agencies are required by policy to procure EV's now.

Environmental & Climate Justice:

MCCC Climate Justice co-chair Charmaine Brown introduced herself and recapped why Chair Grumbles appointed her. He wants to ensure the Commission's proceedings are intentionally inclusive and that we are applying an equity lens to the Commission's work in general. This means:

Multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary collaboration with stakeholders; engage with them to understand how we can improve their quality of life. Look at the most vulnerable communities.

She said the CJ team (comprised of liaisons from each of the working groups) will make recommendations for the 2021 MCCC Annual Report. The CJ team is in the process of creating a vision and mission statement and produce actionable, measurable work. Co-chair Brown said she would like to implement some cultural competency training because "even well-intentioned people have blind spots."

Chair Grumbles thanked her and others who are promoting equity and climate justice. "I'm very proud of the work that came out of the legislature with coordination of the CEJSC and the MCCC."

Several members who are familiar with Ms. Brown and her equity work expressed their gratitude of Chair Grumbles for bringing Charmaine Brown on board as a co-Chair.

New Federal Actions:

Federal Action summary was presented courtesy of the U.S. Climate Alliance (USCA). The Biden/Harris Administration's Approach to Climate Change and Recent Climate Actions. The Biden Administration is pursuing a whole-of-government approach to tackling the climate crisis, led by former EPA

Administrator Gina McCarthy in a newly formed Domestic Climate Policy Office. See attached briefing paper.

Peter Goodwin suggested leveraging and optimizing federal opportunities that will be coming up.

Chris Hoagland said that we're looking to the feds to help with investments to reach our goals.

Co-chair Kim Coble wondered what process we can adopt to weigh in on the Biden Administration's bold goals. Chair Grumbles said MCCC is a great forum to let the feds know what we're interested in, and what funding is needed. RGGI and USCA are also weighing in as bodies representing states and regions in which Maryland is included.

Chris Hoagland asked to members to reflect on IF the MCCC wants to weigh in on the Biden/Harris plans.

Dep. Sec. Lewis said we could use the feds' help with removing barriers to electrifying vehicles and call for flexibility as to where EV chargers can be located.

2021 Recommendations and Other Business:

Treasurer Nancy Kopp stressed the importance of making clearer the urgency of the problem (and that vehicle and building electrification is the solution) to the legislature and local governments.

Chris Hoagland asked the members to think about what kind of forum they'd find useful to the legislators between now and next January.

The meeting ended at 3 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21 – 1-3 p.m.