

ECO Mtg 3.25.20 online

Members present (via Google Hangouts):

Jody Couser, John Krumm, Tad Aburn, Suzanne Dorsey, Mark Shaffer, Chris Beck, Susan Casey, Kim Drake, Lisa Jones, Jaymie Owen, Laura Bankey, Stephan Levitsky, Danielle Lipinski, Dana Cooper

This meeting was a discussion about the 2020 draft Work Plan and the three priorities therein in an effort to finalize the plan. Chris Beck talked about ECO working with the state's Commission on Environmental Justice and Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) to expand our outreach to disadvantaged and vulnerable communities. (MDE liaison is Duane Johnson of the Secretary's Office. Chris Beck will reach out to Duane.) Tad Aburn said that we historically sent a member to their meetings and one of them would come to ours. Stephen Levitsky is on the CEJSC commission and agreed to be ECO's liaison with CEJSC (who haven't met yet this year. Their chair from Baltimore City Department of Health is tied up with the pandemic.) We want to identify vulnerable communities. Stephen mentioned there is a bill in the General Assembly to task the EJSC commission to identify vulnerable communities. Suzanne suggested that ECO may want to be actively engaged in conversation on that piece of legislation, and to weigh in. Stephen suggested we first focus on the Eastern Shore.

The MDE Climate Program staff is updating the fact sheets housed on the MCCC website. John Krumm is drafting an additional fact sheet about how environmental regulatory programs historically have not necessarily negatively affected the economy, and, in fact, often benefit the economy. The same could hold true for climate change mitigation.

Staff will work with John, and send his polished draft to Secretary's Office for approval, then approval from Governor's Office must be obtained before we "publish" online with our existing and updated fact sheets. (Per Mark Shaffer.)

Jody has been working with MML and MACo to include MCCC Chair Ben Grumbes and/or his designees as presenter/s at their summer annual conferences. Her proposal to MACo is being reviewed now in the Secretary's Office.

No climate bills passed during the regular 2020 Legislative Session but some may reappear during special session, if that occurs, later this year. (Like the Coal Sector Transition bill, and GGRA.)

Danielle Lipinski shared with ECO members the Maryland League of Conservation Voters' environmental wrap-up briefing of the 2020 session.

Chris Beck said he feels confident that the three priorities listed in the draft work plan are doable; he asked for feedback from ECO members (via email) after the meeting. We adjourned at 11:06 a.m. in order to listen to Governor's news conference about COVID-19.

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