

Maryland Commission on Climate Change Mitigation Working Group

October 24, 2016 from 12:30 – 2:30
Maryland Department of the Environment

Attendance: Brian Hug, Tad Aburn, Mike Powell, Susan Payne, Jim Strong, Larry Kasecamp, Rebecca Rehr, Dan Engleberg, Arjun Makhijani, Colleen Turner, Colby Ferguson, Anne Lindner, Mike Tidwell, John Fiastro, Tom Ballentine, Ian Ullman, David Costello, Dave Smedick, Hampden Macbeth, Luke Wisniewski, Megan Ullrich, Chris Beck, Scott Zacharko, Chris Hoagland

On Phone: Tom Weissinger, Mike Remsburg, Tom Walz, Les Knapp, Pam Swartzman, Andrew Kreider and Emily Linn from EPA

Agenda Item # 1: Welcome and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm. No amendments were made to the agenda.

- A brief discussion of the 10/21 MCCC meeting occurred. A unanimous vote for the working group recommendations was received. Co-chairs thanked the voting members.

Agenda Item # 2: 2016 MCCC Report (See attached working group recommendations)

- All working group recommendations approved by MCCC
- MDE staff drafting MCCC report – due 11/15/2016 to General Assembly
- Steering Committee to review in advance of 11/15/2016
- 11/9/2016 is next MCCC meeting – draft report to be reviewed prior to meeting – goal is a consensus vote on 11/9/2016
- 2017 Work Plan: requests have been made for more specificity- charge to Working Groups moving forward is more detailed action items
- Proposal: Fast Acting Climate Changers should be on 2017 Work Plan
- Proposal: look at the impact of proposed federal HFC limits in MD
- Proposal: Methane life-cycle analysis should be 2017 priority

Agenda Item # 3: STWG Methane Study

- STWG will brief MCCC on Methane paper (see STWG recommendations)
- Economic analysis is missing from STWG recommendations
- EPA will be participating (on MWG) in Methane analysis moving forward
- Proposal: STWG focus on methane data and research and MWG develop the policies

Agenda Item # 4: Methane Part III - Discussion among MWG Members

- MDE proposed straw-man for a methane emissions reduction plan in MD to include:
 - In-state reductions
 - Out-of-state reductions
 - Fracking regulations

- MDE uses a bottom-up approach for our emissions inventory and does not include up-stream methane emissions
- MDE has begun to collect more information about methane leakage from oil and gas sector as well as landfills and wastewater treatment plants (WWTP)
- A range should be a starting point
- Need to weigh all proposals against economic benefits, as well as social equity impact
- Other states are also beginning the process (CA, CO, WV, PA) of refining their methane inventory
- MD should continue to force action beyond our borders including pressuring EPA for more stringent regulations
- Proposal: involve other stakeholders like API and CCAN and to chose appropriate methodology
- Proposal: Ag sector should be considered a net sequestration source

Agenda Item #5: Meeting structure

- Proposal: Starting in January 2017 MWG should consider fewer meetings
- Need to lighten meeting load during General Assembly Session
- Proposal: meet in Annapolis during session
- Priority should be maintaining progress w/ fewer meetings
- Proposal: MDE host webinars in addition to scheduled meetings (Ag sector, creative financing)
- Perhaps schedule meeting in AM or PM rather than at lunch

Agenda Item # 6: Opportunity for Public Comment

- Georgetown Climate Center Proposal: brief MWG on other state's Methane regulations and compare MD regulations

Agenda Item # 7: Next Steps/Action Items/Adjourn

- MDE will continue to work on MCCC report and share draft prior to 11/9 MCCC meeting (goal is the middle of week of the 24th)
- MDE will draft 2017 Work Plan