

# Maryland Commission on Climate Change

## Steering Committee

February 28, 2019, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

*Attendance:* Secretary Grumbles, Brian Hug, Stuart Clarke, Paul Berman (for Nancy Kopp), Susan Payne, Lori Arguelles, Peter Goodwin, Earl Lewis (MDOT), Kim Grubert (DNR/ARWG), Catherine McCall (DNR/ARWG), Dorothy Morrison (MDOT), Luke Wisniewski (MDE), Lisa Nissley (MDE), and Jess Herpel (MDE).

*Phone:* Treasurer Kopp, Matt Flemming, Colleen Turner, Tad Aburn, Chuck Boyd, Joanne Vincic

### Meeting Notes

#### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

- Brian called the meeting to order and conducted introductions around the room and over the phone.

#### **2. Old Business**

Regarding the Schedule:

- Brian stated that we expect to have work plan drafts to the Steering Committee in March; and finalized in April at the Commission meeting.
- Lisa noted that we will have five standard meetings (April, June, September, October, November) and additional dates were sent out to hold for potential meetings (as needed).

Priorities:

- Secretary Grumbles noted that he had several takeaways from the Steering Committee retreat: (1) We need to follow up regarding the heightened sense of urgency, on which we had consensus. This includes evaluating goals for 2030 and beyond. In that context, there's a lot happening right now in the General Assembly, e.g. the Solar Blueprint Commission. (2) We need to make sure that increasing focus and attention is being given to adaptation and resiliency measures. We should develop a science-based, policy-driven metric similar to the 40 by 30. (3) As has been suggested by Treasurer Kopp, MDE and other State agencies should be required to factor climate analysis into all budget/funding discussions. (4) Transportation and climate, and not just TCI, though that is an important component. TCI is planning to design a cap and invest program similar to RGGI, and there is lots of policy and action happening on this front.
- Lori Arguelles brought up the soil regeneration concept and other carbon capture, land management efforts. Secretary Grumbles noted that a lot is going on with health soils in the U.S. Climate Alliance as well, with an emphasis on "natural and working lands"; additionally, next week he will have an opportunity to discuss these subjects in DC. It is very important to MD that we keep working with agriculture. Susan added that a bi-weekly call occurs on natural and working lands, and MD participants are also starting discussions with DE.
- Treasurer Kopp stated that at some point the Steering Committee will need to assess how everything being done can be woven together and communicated to the public, requiring coordination with ECO. Session will be over after the next meeting and we'll have a better idea of what decisions were made and what direction things are moving in the interim. We need to keep education, communication, and outreach in focus.

- Secretary Grumbles agreed, adding that it was brought up recently that, after the GA adjourns, the legislature will be taking a look at waste management (such as trash incinerators), which may be a candidate for further attention from the MCCC.
- Treasurer Kopp suggested we keep a live matrix of everything that's going on... all working up to the final GGRA plan.
- Stuart Clarke stated that there needs to be an ongoing conversation on how we effectively tee-up items for the Commission; what items offer opportunities for Commission discussion. The Steering Committee should be playing a more directive role regarding work plans. This might require more regular Steering Committee meetings, since it will be more work to frame these issues.
  - Brian noted that MDE can set up logistics (i.e., rooms, conference lines, webinars, etc.) if the Steering Committee can tell us what they are looking for more information on.
  - Earl Lewis stated that they would be ready in the first half of April for a transportation webinar, and were planning to do one for the MWG.
  - Stuart suggested that we should make decisions regarding what the focus of the full Commission meetings will be, and then we can decide what additional information would be helpful to provide ahead of time, scheduling the other meetings based on that.
- Short List of Priorities:
  - Adaptation and resiliency metrics
  - Transportation sector emissions
  - GGRA Plan discussions
  - Communications plan
  - Cross-cutting working group issues
  - RPS and solar siting (solar siting to be discussed by the MWG)
  - 2018 Recommendations Follow-ups (to be handled by the working groups)
  - Waste management strategy, carbon capture technology (may be good for later, but not immediately actionable)
- Regarding the short-list, Stuart suggested we focus on what's actionable in the near future. Peter agreed, noting that perhaps we could add links with some more information on those items as opposed to a deeper dive. Secretary Grumbles suggested a highlight box, such as about the growing need for CCS, for example.

#### Meeting Focus:

- Stuart suggested that instead of using April to approve the work plans, we ask the Commission to approve the goals that the Steering Committee has set for the year, and the Steering Committee will then take care of managing the working groups, including approval of the work plans. He also proposed that the working groups take care of the 2018 recommendation follow-ups (reporting back to the Commission), since many fall under the purview of specific groups. Both these suggestions were generally agreed upon.
- Stuart then asked if we would be able to talk about the GGRA Plan in April, noting that once this gets put on the table, it will probably disrupt the other conversations, and furthermore the information would be helpful to lay out the rest of the meetings.
- It was generally agreed that there would be a transportation focus in June.

### 3. Working Group Updates

- **Adaptation and Response Working Group**
  - First quarter meeting was held on Monday and they were pleased to welcome a new co-chair, the DNR Acting Secretary Haddaway-Riccio. The group discussed the work plan with support for local decision-making being an ongoing priority. Additionally they are looking into repeating some effective Eastern shore efforts throughout Maryland, and continuing to coordinate with other working groups, such as with ECO and STWG on updating map products, among other things.
  - Secretary Grumbles suggested the group be more accurately referred to as the Adaptation and Resilience Working Group
- **Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group**
  - The February meeting was snowed out, but a call is being held this afternoon. Part of that discussion will be the survey results regarding what the Commission and other working groups would find it most helpful for ECO to work on, although minimal responses were received. The group is open to ideas/direction from the Steering Committee
  - Secretary Grumbles emphasized the importance of the Climate Leadership Conference this March.
  - Stuart noted that they may want to connect with Treasurer Kopp regarding her suggestions for communication earlier in the meeting.
- **Mitigation Working Group**
  - Brian stated that the MWG has laid out their work plan, with each meeting on independent topics. We will review it to make sure that we are addressing the topics brought up today and loop back with the Commission
  - Stuart mentioned that the MWG could help frame the transportation discussion of the full Commission, since this meeting is also occurring in June. The timing works for this.
- **Scientific and Technical Working Group**
  - Peter Goodwin discussed the group's focus on hindsight, insight and foresight. They aim for closer interaction with other working groups, and noted that if they were able to get work plans once they are finalized, they would hope to have subject-matter experts present at the meeting to bring back any questions for the group to address. They are also trying to keep an eye on the IPCC and ancillary reports coming out this year. He also brought up the possibility of a screening of the National Geographic documentary From Paris to Pittsburgh, with a panel.
  - Stuart suggested also that the STWG could be helpful in providing confidence to the Commission about how to think far into the future, and how to accommodate uncertainty.

## **5. Wrap Up**