

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Steering Committee (call only)

May 23rd, 2019, 10:00 am to 10:51 am

Attendance: (phone only) Secretary Grumbles, Brian Hug, Tad Aburn, Matt Flemming, Treasurer Kopp Susan Payne, Lori Arguelles, Earl Lewis (MDOT) Luke Wisniewski (MDE), Lisa Nissley (MDE), Erick Thunell (MDE) , and Joe Lutz (MDE)

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Brian called the meeting to order and conducted introductions over the phone. Announced that this meeting will consist of workgroup updates and mentioned the next meeting is scheduled for June 20th.

2. Old Business

Priorities:

- Secretary Grumbles emphasized the importance of the governor allowing the clean energy job act to become law. Mentioned that we need to be working on cleaner and smarter approaches to the act and this will help us to develop our GGRA draft plan. He specifically highlighted on the goal of having 100% clean energy by 2040.
- Earl Lewis mentioned that transportation is a tough issue to deal with when it comes to environmental issues.
 - Treasure Kopp noted that the problem is convincing people that progress in transportation is being tied to what's happening on the ground.
 - Earl Lewis stated that there's always difficulty in communicating important, complex issues in an accessible and understandable way to the general public.

3. Working Group Updates

- Adaptation and Response Working Group (Matt Flemming)
 - Mentioned in the meeting last week that they discussed forming a partnership with MDE for a state of the science downscaling precipitation models. They are trying to figure out the state of science and what research is being done. He mentioned standard guidelines for BMPS, Jim George and DNR working with other groups to have the best modeling possible, identifying regulatory barriers and information gaps to move Chesapeake Bay restoration forward, and the need to do a better job of conveying trackable metrics in their progress.
 - Stated they agreed to work with UMCES to develop metrics for tracking adaptation progress. DNR will convene a group to discuss possible metrics for tracking progress and begin the process to develop meaningful indicators or measure of adaptation and resilience.
 - Highlighted the Phase 1 and Phase 2 comprehensive strategies. ARWG agreed to form a state agency workgroup to evaluate the development of a new/revised climate adaptation strategy to advance Maryland's next decade of climate adaptation and resilience progress. Explore how they can advance Maryland in the next decade with regards to climate change.
 - Updated on the Climate Leadership Academy which has generated a lot of interest and excitement. In total, 200 people enrolled over three cohorts, with 170 on track to complete all 6 classes. Cohort A is complete and Cohorts B and C will be completed on June 14, 2019. Currently nearly 50% of participants have signed up to complete the testing required to get their CCP (Certified Climate Change Professional). Cohorts D, E, and F are being planned for 2019-2020. Registration for cohort D reached 95 enrollees within the first two weeks.

- Highlighted on the Coast Smart Council Statute. This is a small workgroup with membership from MDE, MDOT, DNR and OAG agreed to explore and promulgate legislative amendments to the Coast Smart Statute in regard to the long term recommendations identified last year. They approved the approach regarding the recommended vulnerability assessment standard to use the special flood hazard areas (100 year flood) plus 3 feet freeboard. The council will update the Coast smart building and Design guidelines. They agreed to a recommended approach to use the Environmental Assessment (EA) form to show weather projects coming before the Board of Public works are compliant with Coast smart guidelines. They will use two weeks to provide comments and edits. The next step is to review the EA form for any additional changes (if it was untouched for 30+ years). They have a series of maps and opportunities to scale up intensity of responses to hurricanes and other intense weather.
 - Susan Payne mentioned that she previously talked to Delegate Dana Stein regarding the Coast Smart Council and the fact that MDA is not a part of it. She thinks it would be beneficial due to the future problems that saltwater intrusion may cause.
 - Paul Berman proposed that the steering committee and/or AWG look at the Coast Smart Council as a whole.
- Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group
 - Have not met since last call
- Mitigation Working Group
 - Tad mentioned that this group has skipped a couple of meetings and on June 18th they will have an update on the GGRA draft plan, set an agenda for the rest of the year, and focus on the correct topics.
 - Brian stated that the webinar on transportation and meeting on energy efficiency in the buildings were very important.
 - Tad noted that state agencies extremely involved in implementing the progress of projects in GGRA and TCI is very important for MD.
- Scientific and Technical Working Group
 - Brian mentioned that updates are needed for this and the last meeting was April 12th.
 - Tad informed that if the MWG has priorities then we will look to collaborate with STWG.

4. New Business

- Brian mentioned the June 20th commission meeting and where we are at with the GGRA plan and progress.

5. Wrap-up

- Paul Berman (being a Montgomery County resident) brought up the 495-270 P3 project and how we will integrate the environmental impact statements with GHG goals. Earl then added that congestion will lead to more emissions from idling; this problem is not as straightforward as it appears.

Meeting adjourned at 10:51