

Maryland Commission on Climate Change
Steering Committee

Annual Retreat

January 24, 2019, 10:00 am to 100 pm
Conference Room, Office of the Treasurer
80 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD

Attendance: Secretary Grumbles, Stuart Clarke, Anne Lindner, Mike Powell, Peter Goodwin, Lori Arguelles, Dick D'Amato, Matt Fleming, Treasurer Kopp, Paul Berman (for Treasurer Kopp), Jason Keppler (for Secretary Bartenfelder), Earl Lewis, Tad Aburn, Dave Nemazie (UMCES), Jason Dubow (MDP), Brian Hug, Lisa Nissley, Jess Herpel, and Luke Wisniewski.

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. 2019 Proposed Schedule - Thoughts on format, length, etc

- There was some discussion about how to make the Commission meetings most effective and use time efficiently.
 - Stuart suggested that (1) the Steering Committee could possibly do a better job of framing/teeing-up topics for the full Commission; (2) we may use up too much time with working group reports; and (3) we should prioritize some items that are most useful for the Commission to engage with, since 2019 is a busy year.
 - Lori suggested additional lead time, when feasible, to review materials
 - Stuart suggested the S.C. may want to develop a full Commission work plan, which would be useful to consider the timeline and best position us to respond to the 40 by 30 draft plan. Lori later brought up a pathway with annual stepping points, to clarify roles and responsibilities of the Commission, Steering Committee, and Working Groups.
- Earl brought up an idea which had been discussed at the MWG, to have session (e.g., webinars) in between meetings to bring people up to speed on particular topics. MDOT has already volunteered to organize one in the February/March time frame.
 - Tad expressed some concern that peralize how much the state agencies are already doing in many of the areas under discussion, based in part on some of the comments from the 2018 annual report's minority report. He would like to make sure that the Commission understands what is happening.
 - It was suggested that the agencies may take turns at each meeting doing a very brief update/overview on the relevant activities.
 - Stuart linked this back to prioritization of annual goals by the Commission - e.g., three areas of focus so that it will be clear what is relevant to bring to the Commission's attention.

- It was generally agreed that the Commission may need to be more assertive this year in terms of making decisions regarding work plans and setting priorities for both themselves and the working groups.
 - Stuart proposed that the conversation could occur at the MCCC before it goes to the working groups; that the MCCC can frame the discussion and then would be more connected to the outcome.
 - Mike Powell also suggested that, for MWG in particular, perhaps the co-chairs should be providing the conclusions from the working group so that it is more distinct from MDE staff roles.
- Participation from the Members: It was noted that the varying degrees of engagement from members can sometimes hold back the conversation; it was also suggested that those who do not attend frequently may need to be contacted regarding the need for regular attendance to be effective as a group. A stronger culture of engagement is needed within the Commission. The exact procedures were not determined but this was generally agreeable.
- The number of meetings to be held, Treasurer Kopp suggested that we schedule extra meetings so that the dates are held, and we can always cancel them later.
- For the September 19th meeting, it was suggested that we possibly break out into groups to review the report, to give us time to adapt or change course if needed. This meeting could be treated more as a retreat.

3. Working Group Updates *Please share your meeting schedule and preview your 2019 Work plan. Work plans will be finalized at the March Steering Committee Meeting.*

- **Adaptation and Response Working Group**
 - ARWG has set quarterly meetings (Feb 25th, May 20th, Aug 5th, and Nov 19th) and will coincide with meetings of the CoastSmart Council
 - Topics being explored in 2019 include: supporting local decision making through Building Local Capacity to Compete for Natural Infrastructure Resilience Funds, Nuisance Flood Plans, and the Climate Leadership Academy, Adaptive Retreat, Beneficial Use as an Adaptation Tool, Building Financial Resilience, Addressing Increased Precipitation, Saltwater Intrusion, Dam Safety, Tracking Progress, Collaboration with other working groups
 - Details to follow in 2019 Work Plan
- **Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group**
 - Lisa discussed a short survey that the ECO working group has developed to help them determine their direction for the year.
 - A new co-chair is needed to replace Kris Hoellen, from the advocate perspective. There is also a need for additional membership outside of the State agencies, but capacity is often an issue with advocates and others. Stuart agreed to look into some potential candidates.



- Mitigation Working Group
 - Work plan which was developed is consistent with the minority report and other discussions. The group is considering advanced webinar briefings to provide background information on topics.
 - Also having an attendance issue, and the co-chairs will be looking into this.
- Scientific and Technical Working Group
 - STWG expressed a desire to be involved and provide expertise and capacity to support the other working groups. Brian requested that the STWG have someone attend the MWG meetings.

4. New Business

- Opportunities for Work Group Collaboration
 - Stuart suggested two opportunities for the Commission: (1) note what is the most interesting in the 40 by 30 draft plan; and (2) review the 2018 recommendations and determine what might need a follow-up.
 - Mike Powell noted that this will be the year for transportation, which should be one of our priorities.
 - Nancy Kopp requested a legislative briefing on the US Climate Alliance work.

5. Wrap Up

- February meeting - is a phone call preferable?
 - Since February will now be used to determine priorities for the Commission and working groups, it was decided that an in-person meeting would be most useful.

MCCC Steering Committee Meetings take place on the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:00am. The next meeting is scheduled for February 28th.

