

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

September 19, 2016 from 12:30 am – 3:00 pm
Maryland Department of the Environment

In Attendance: Ben Grumbles; Tad Aburn; Anne Linder; Mark Belton; R. Earl Lewis, Jr; Jason Dubow; Mary Beth Tung; Don Boesch; Jim Strong; Michael Powell; Dick D’Amato; Dana Stein; Paul Pinsky; Charles Deegan; Colby Ferguson; Jane Kirschling; Susan Payne; Karen Salmon; Susanne Brogan; Stuart Clarke; David Costello; Daniel Engleberg; Mariah Waul; Dorothy Morrison; Colleen Turner; Kate Charbonneau; David Smedick; Allison Rich; Catherine McCall; Ewing McDowell; Rebecca Rehr; Dave Nemazie; John Quinn; Grant Samms; Chris Beck, Erick Thunell; Jess Herpel; Luke Wisniewski; Brian Hug; Megan Ulrich; Pam Kasemeyer

On Phone: Lori Arguelles; Jim Doyle; Brett from Eastern Shore Land Conservatory; Jake Day

1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 12:34 pm.

- Secretary Grumbles opened the meeting by thanking the new Commissioners for their participation
- Secretary Grumbles clarified MDE’s position on RGGI’s 2016 Program Review stating that MD will work with the other RGGI states to find consensus on the best path forward beyond 2020
- MD is not signaling that we are leaving RGGI
- Regional collaborations like RGGI and the Transportation and Climate Initiative of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States (TCI) need to continue to be embraced

2. Brian Hug provided update on the 2016 Annual Report Timeline & Outline (see handout)

Key Actions:

- state agency reports were due 9/14 and will be shared as MDE compiles them
- working groups reports should be near completion by October.

Important dates in September

- State Agency Reports Due to MDE 9/14 – these are trickling into MDE
- Walk through outline with full MCCC
- Receive recommendations from working groups for the report
- Complete first draft

October

- Working Groups review main points at their meetings
- Complete second draft
- Review of second draft at MCCC Meeting
- State Agency Reports Finalized, shared with MCCC

Brian reported that an additional appendix will be added to the Table of Contents and draft report titled “Minority Reports”

3. Updates from Working Groups and 2016 Annual Report Recommendations

- Adaptation and Response Working Group
 - Quarterly meeting held Thursday, September 15, 2016; 10–12 AM in Easton, MD
 - Meeting topics were as follows
 - Natural Solutions for More Resilient Communities
 - Vulnerable Communities: Historic Structures and Communities
 - Vulnerable Community – Deal Island
 - Measuring Adaptation & Work Plan Milestone Discussion
 - Working Group Updates & Logistics
 - Recommendations
 - Overview of current adaptation needs based on the four meeting categories
 - growth and infrastructure,
 - financial and economic well-being,
 - climate and health impacts,
 - natural resources and resource based industries.
 - Program highlights for 2015/2015
 - Projections for 2017 initiatives.
 - Comments and Questions
 - SHA assessment of vulnerable infrastructure in MD is already being utilized and will be completed in 2017.
 - MD is already experiencing “high-high tides” similar to those in the communities highlighted in a recent WSJ article (not referenced in these notes)
 - SHA has a social vulnerability tool that has promise – ECOS should review
 - Groundwater is an “unseen resource” that needs to be considered by the ARWG
- Education, Communication, Outreach Working Group (see handout)
 - Thanks to the new co-chairs (Allison and Steve)
 - Monthly meetings are on-schedule
 - Continuing to work off of 2016 work plan
 - Need to work closely with MDE on outreach effort
 - CEJSC provided guidance on equity sessions and what vulnerable communities need the most investment
 - ECOS should collaborate with MD Dept of Education
 - Encouraged other working groups to reach out to ECO for assistance on outreach so that they can operate in their full capacity
 - Will be looking at recommendations at the meeting this coming Wednesday
- Mitigation Working Group (see handout)
 - MWG focusing on priorities from the MWG 2016 work plan
 - 40 by 30 Status Report
 - Not going to have the answers yet, but refine as time passes
 - 25 by 20 Update
 - 25% and 40% goals are in reach thanks to new programs like EPA’s HD trucks regulations
 - Methane Leakage has been discussed in 2 previous MWG meetings
 - Enhanced Economic Analysis/Social Equity Issues
 - Working with EJ community to schedule outreach meetings

- Partnered with RESI and RFF
 - Electric and Other Zero Emission Vehicle Initiatives
 - VW settlement may provide opportunities for NOx programs
 - Scientific and Technical Working Group (see powerpoint)
 - STWG is sticking to the task at hand as outlined in 2016 MCCC report
 - Vetting team for communication & education
 - General update of 2008 assessment based on newer assessments
 - Update of 2013 sea-level rise projections
 - Began assessment of impacts on agriculture
 - Assessment of methane emissions
 - Emerging Issues:
 - Methane emissions from the Bay from over-supply of Nitrogen
 - Provisional Recommendations:
 - Address methane emissions from all controllable sources
 - Broaden economic impact analyses to better account for employment, human health and well-being, and environmental quality
 - Enhance GHG emission inventories to include duration of radiative forcing and presently unaccounted sources
 - Revise or fine-tune adaptation and response strategies in light of updated climate impacts assessment
 - Next Steps for Working Groups
 - MDE needs agency updates ASAP. First or second week of October will impact deadlines.
 - Working groups need to get recommendations to Steering Committee by first week of October
 - MCCC need to schedule an October meeting (10/14/2016 is the placeholder)
 - MCCC to review draft report in October and finalize recommendations
 - Proposal: MCCC should focus on 2030 glidepath to 40% and consider back-up policies to make up the difference, should we come up short.
 - 40% by 2030 progress tracking is challenging – making the plan is an iterative process
 - Many of the current GGRA programs are working
 - Need to bound the future goals (and keep an eye on NG prices)
 - Consider how programs impact MD economy and jobs
 - 2017 GHG inventory will be informative
- 4. Final Adoption of Operational Policies (see handout)**
- MCCC operational policies related to schedule, membership, working groups, MCCC charge and responsibilities, voting, and public comment
 - Unanimous vote to approve all items as presented
- 5. UMCES Working Group Funding (see handout)**
- 13 proposals were submitted for review by the steering Committee as well as third-party reviewer
 - 5 of the proposals were preliminary pushed through for 2nd review
 - Healthy Soils Initiative
 - Supporting and Highlighting Local Adaptation and Resilience
 - Maryland Climate Change Commission Website

- Maryland Climate Change Commission 2017 Annual Report
- Enhanced Tools for Climate Change and Equity in Maryland
- Many were “conceptual” in nature
- Some will get funded and some will not
- Some may receive more funding than requested and some will receive less

6. Public Comment

- None offered

7. Wrap-up

- Working groups are busy coming up with recommendations
- MCCC report schedule should be reviewed
- UMCES is finalizing proposals
- Proposed MCCC meeting 10/14/2016 10-12 (DNR headquarters)