

**Maryland Commission on Climate Change**  
**October 23, 2018, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm – MDE**

**Notes**

**1. Welcome from Secretary Grumbles & Introductions (10 Minutes)**

Ben Grumbles, Nancy Kopp, Susanne Brogan, Earl Lewis, Chris Rice, Rob McCord, Peter Goodwin, Colby Ferguson, Charles Deegan, Russ Dickerson, Jane Kirschling, Senator Pinsky, Stuart Clarke, Lori Arguelles, Margie Brassil, Dick D'Amato, Anne Lindner, Natasha Mehu, Michael Bibb, Matt Flemming, Brian Hug, Tad Aburn, Arjun Makhijani, Don Goldberg, Jeff Silva, Dave Smedick, Dan Gotti, Chris Yoder, Brian Ditzler, Eric Greene, William Schmidt, Cheryl Arney, Lindsey Mendelson, Erica Bannerman, Ed Stuebing, David Costello, Jason Dubow, Lisa Nissley, Jess Herpel, Hannah Brubach, Chris Hoagland, Megan Ulrich, Luke Wisniewski, John Fiastro

On the phone: Mike Powell, Mike Tidwell, Donna Belado, Larry Liebesman, Ann Bristow

Secretary Grumbles opened the meeting by highlighting progress we have made on climate change in the recent past and made a suggestion to improve the MCCC Annual Report. Information about the recent IPCC Special Report on Global Warming which recommends the need for urgent action has been added to the front of the report. On page three, it states that the report proposes “45% reductions by 2030 and net zero near 2050, which are only slightly more aggressive than Maryland’s existing goal.” Secretary Grumbles suggested removing the words “only slightly” to more accurately describe the goal.

**2. Public Comment (20 Minutes)**

Arjun Makhijani (IEER) - In light of the IPCC report, and in keeping with past assertions, MD needs to be the at the higher end of the global range for emissions reductions; the Commission report conflates CO<sub>2</sub> with all gases while IPCC accounts separately. (also turned in written comments)

Don Goldberg (Climate Law and Policy Project) - Don has similar thoughts on the range presented in the IPCC report - the responsibility is greater for the countries in a better position to reduce at a greater rate, we should strengthen the GGRA Law if the 40x30 not on track without significant legislation.

Jeff Silva - Jeff noted that transportation is a significant issue that is not being addressed enough, and reductions in this sector would be most beneficial.

Dave Smedick - Sierra Club is disappointed in the recommendations; they lack any specific emission reductions, especially tangible recommendations on methane and transportation, and they do not believe it reflects the MWG discussions. (also submitted a letter)

Dan Gotti (Union of Concerned Scientists) - Transportation is the largest source of emissions, suggested: EVs should be more affordable and rebates could be up front; there should be a heavy-duty electrification incentive; there need to be structural changes in policy (e.g., market-based, low-carbon fuel standard).

Chris Yoder - Agrees with statements from David Smedick; We should be building less roads and increasing public transportation to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> pollution.

Brian Detzler - Criticized lack of specific recommendations and no recommendations on the transportation sector; failed strategy of gradualism.

Eric Greene (MIT.alumniaction.com) - Strive to be carbon neutral by 2035, within a generation; referenced letter on website with signatures and statements.

Cheryl Arney (CCL/CXC) - MWG Recommendations are disappointing, not specific or far-reaching enough; should recommend policies that might exceed the goal..

Lindsey Mendelson (Sierra Club) - The window for climate action is closing; disappointed that none of the recommendations are related to transportation; recommendations need to be specific and substantive, with equity considerations.

Ann Bristow (Concerned Health Professionals of MD) - Report doesn't propose a benchmark for renewable energy; methane impacts are underestimated; we should not be expanding natural gas within MD.

### 3. Review of Draft Report (60 Minutes)

Mike Powell spoke to remind everyone that there are two reports being developed, the MCCC Annual Report and the Draft GGRA. We will have a chance to respond to the GGRA draft before the final plan is due at the end of 2019. The recommendations from the 2018 MCCC report are not the final chance to influence the GGRA plan.

Senator Pinsky raised concerns that the 40x30 plan is due at the end of the year and there are still a lot of questions about how we will get to that goal. He would like to know how far we get with the recommendations in the 2018 report. There are more policy proposals that could get us further and there is no comment on them in the 2018 report. Will the GGRA be a menu or specific option?

Tad answered that there will be specifics, but we will include many options that get us to our goal. He also emphasized that we would like to get the maximum reductions while maintaining a healthy economy and jobs growth. Secretary Grumbles added that MDE is still conducting and analyzing a variety of modeling scenarios to inform more specific policy decisions that will allow us to meet/exceed our goals.

Earl Lewis addressed comments related to the transportation sector, noting that we are committed to moving in the direction of electrification and that a lot of detailed analysis has gone into decisions made thus far. EVIC is working to prepare MD for EVs, and address barriers.

Stuart Clarke noted disappointment that the Commission is not playing a stronger and more ambitious role, and does not feel the report addresses the most urgent components or opportunities. He also encourage the Commissioners to consider those recommendations not related to the 40x30 plan.

There were some questions about the results of policy scenario one in the 40x30 modeling, and MDE staff reiterated that this was only the first of several policy scenarios and we need additional information to make final decisions; reactions should not be based on this alone.

Treasurer Kopp would like to see the report tied together in a way that stresses the work being done and the urgency for action. Secretary Grumbles agreed that language should be modified to indicate a greater sense of urgency. Tad suggested that we add a list to the first recommendation to show the broad nature of the work being done and the commitment Maryland has made to addressing climate change.

There was discussion that some members may draft a minority report to respond to differences of opinion about the recommendations and how far they should go. The operational policies spell out the process for filing a minority report, and state:

“When a vote is taken on an action or recommendation, dissenting members may wish to write a minority report to highlight the opposing view. If a minority report is written, it will be included in the annual Commission report. Any minority report must be shared with the full Commission as part of the final draft of the annual report before the Commission votes on the report in its entirety.”

The Commission agreed to allow MDE staff to make updates to the report and work with the Steering Committee to finalize language. That will be shared with the Commission members as soon as we are able and allow time for review.

#### Notes:

Comments from the general public can be submitted to the Maryland Commission on Climate Change at [climate.change@maryland.gov](mailto:climate.change@maryland.gov)

We hope you will be able to join us in person, however if you need to call in that day, the number is:  
Conference Number: (605) 475-4000  
Access Code: 997763#

