

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

October 24, 2017, 1:00 - 3:00 pm — MDE

Minutes

Attendance: Ben Grumbles, Nancy Kopp, Donna Balado, Susan Payne, Mark Belton, Dorothy Morrison, Jason Dubow, Chris Rice, Colby Ferguson, Charles Deegan, Jane Kirschling, Senator Pinsky, Anne Lindner, Don Boesch, Lori Arguelles, Margie Brassil, Michael Powell, Dick D’Amato, Michael Bibb, Arjun Makhijani, David Smedick, Colleen Turner, Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, David Costello, Tad Aburn, Brian Hug, Lisa Nissley, Jess Herpel, Chris Beck, Luke Wisniewski, Devon Dodson, Hope Hurley, Kim Hernandez, Chris Hoagland, Allison Gost, Joe Lutz, James Bradbury, Kate Charbonneau, John Kumm, Catherine McCall, Pat Harcourt, Susanne Brogan, Matt Rowe, Bob Hoyt, Steve Pattison,

By Phone: Stuart Clarke, Deni Taveras, Mike Tidwell, Pam Kasemeyer, Tom Walz (DHCD), Larry Liebesman

#1 Welcome and Introductions

#2 Review of Draft Report

- Brian reviewed draft report, including new language in the Commission Recommendations (see slideshow posted on website)
- Comments regarding new language:
 - #1: no comments
 - #2: clarify “MDE and the State”; substitute “other State agencies (as applicable)”
 - #3: update passive voice, include “the Secretary of MDE” as the actor
 - #4: new language proposed by Senator Pinsky with minor copy-editing by MDE staff; noted as still under review but no comments were made at this time
- Don Boesch share that he finds the tone of the report to be excellent and noted that he has sent specific comments in to MDE, but raised several of the more general comments at this time
 - Chapter 2 adds good information, however some references are derivative reports/websites and should be reviewed.
 - Chapter 3 also has good information, however some may need to be reviewed. Specifically the balance of forest gains and losses, and lack of information on items needed to be worked on in the transportation sector.
- Mike Powell noted that the Executive Summary should have explicit call for proposals on the 40 by 30 plan in the upcoming year.
- Jason Dubow stated that MDP disagrees with the way long-term (2050) goals are discussed, and did not feel the language was clear enough that there is not an existing statutory requirement for a specific 2050 reduction goal. It was generally agreed that technical edits could easily correct this so that all Commissioners are comfortable.
- Senator Pinsky expressed concern that Chapter 3 does not quantify where we are on progress towards the 2020 goals

- Brian noted that our next inventory update is due for 2017 and will be completed in 2018, but as of right now we do not have specific numbers since 2014. We do have status reports, but these are preliminary.
- Secretary Grumbles stated that the next steps will be to make the edits we have received and that have been discussed, and share these with the Steering Committee tomorrow, for discussion during the call on October 26th.

#3 Working Group Reports

- ARWG has a meeting coming up on December 11th; looking at local partners and information sharing. 2018 will focus on regional meetings (an effort to break down adaptation by region).
- ECO is working on recommendations for the Steering Committee regarding dissemination of the Annual Report and other products; upcoming meetings will also focus on the 2018 Work Plan.
- MWG is continuing work on recommendations for the 40 by 30 Plan, and will focus on the 2018 Work Plan next meeting.
- STWG has not met since the last Commission meeting but will be holding their next meeting in December, continuing work on ways to improve the GHG inventory in the agricultural sector.

#4 Public Comment

- David Smedick stated that the Sierra Club has submitted a letter with comments on the draft Annual Report, and noted that they did not feel the recommendations were tangible, particularly in the transportation sector. It would be helpful to clarify the process for bringing ideas to the MWG. He also expressed specific concern that the Transportation Climate Initiative was not included in the recommendations, and that the Commission should recommend continued active participation in TCI.
 - Mike Powell noted that new ideas for the MWG could be brought directly to either co-chair
- David Costello stated that the recommendations needed to be more concrete, requiring specific action rather than studies; the comments regarding the Federal government were good. He also felt that the information regarding the State's efforts was limited and should have specific numbers attached, updated from the 2014 inventory, and that the agencies should be providing these for their programs.