

# Maryland Commission on Climate Change

November 15, 2018, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm – MDE

## Agenda

1. Welcome from Secretary Grumbles & Introductions
  - Secretary Grumbles welcomed all attendees to the meeting. He noted that he appreciates the work of those who developed the minority report.
  
2. Public Comment
  - Chris Yoder - Transportation is the largest contributor to climate change pollution; public transportation needs a specific recommendation. He is disappointed in the existing report recommendations, and encouraged members to sign onto the minority report.
  - Donald Goldberg - Proposed to additions to the report recommendations: (1) the IPCC report came out so recently that we couldn't fully integrate the information, 40 by 30 may not be stringent enough, and the results will be taken into consideration; and (2) The commission recommends specific legislative options if MDE determines they are needed to meet the 40 by 30.
  - David Costello - Transportation needs significant attention. Suggested that we need to get ahead of the CAFE rollback, support a specific mechanism for TCI, specifics on ZEV deployment (including for low/moderate income, charging infrastructure and multifamily charging), and State fleet deployment targets.
  - Lindsey Mendelson - Noted a heightened sense of urgency, and a need specific/bold action and recommendations. Supported the minority report. Agreed with David that TCI needs specific suggestions, similar to RGGI. The proposal to expand the highway would contribute to carbon pollution and not decrease congestion - modeling is needed to show the impact on future emissions.
  - Arjun - Proposed that IPCC 1.5 should be adopted as the basis for future planning, as it is the latest science. In addition, using the global average of 45% is not in line with what Maryland should be doing or what we did previously. On PS3 modeling, increased natural gas is problematic; also questioned why we assume nuclear continues past license expiration.
  
3. Review of the 2018 Annual Report
  - Secretary Grumbles underscored the language in the Executive Summary (which was all new). Additionally, it has been made clear in the report that, where appropriate, Maryland does push back on Federal actions and will continue to work with the Attorney General.
  - Stuart Clarke offered a few words of context for the minority note. The document largely speaks for itself; it is not intended to criticize staff; and it does not object to the existing recommendations but more is needed. We are at a critical moment in a planetary emergency and we need to convey focused urgency early and often. These recommendations could be considered for adoption/inclusion with the main Commission recommendations, or can stand alone in the minority note.

- Secretary Grumbles stated that honest criticism is welcome, though he is concerned that the minority report does not necessarily reflect the work that the Commission has done this year. He stated that we do need to work through these in 2019, with a greater sense of urgency.
- Stuart reiterated that this was not intended to be an alternative to the existing recommendations.
- Treasurer Kopp noted that she has also submitted a statement, and endorses both the main recommendations and the minority report, but believes that neither is going to go far enough. This is not a battle to be won and move past, it is an ongoing change in our way of life. She would like to see the report which includes the minority report and her statement, to add strength.
- Secretary Grumbles agrees with everyone and states that this is a beautiful compromise.
- Mike Powell stated that Maryland has had two real advantages - no gridlock, and compromise. The majority report is not what I would have written, or what the business community would necessarily endorse, but the Report captures all the time we have put into this year. The Report has to stand as a foundation or all that work was for nothing. He urged people to vote for the minority report (with whatever additions).
- Margie Brassil asked for clarification regarding the minority report seeming to endorse the Annual Report, and whether there would be two separate votes. Secretary Grumbles indicated that would not be necessary.
- Dick D'Amato asked whether we can incorporate some of the recommendations from the minority report into the Annual Report. Secretary Grumbles reiterated that the minority report will be included as an addition.
- Mike Tidwell stated that the minority report is intended to be constructive, to take advantage of the timing and to be more ambitious. He stated that the recommendation several years ago for the 40 by 30 goal was the last tough joint decision and action taken by the Commission. We should be pushing for the 50% RPS, for example.
- Secretary Grumbles noted that the Commission has been working with the General Assembly, especially on resiliency and adaptation. Revisions to the report were made to reference the new analysis by the IPCC 1.5
- Colby Ferguson thinks the minority report is good, but is concerned about the 2019/2020 enacting dates, since some of the measures are not fully vetted.
- Peter Goodwin stated that it is important to continue science-based decision making, noting that this is an annual report, with big decisions to be made next year. The proposals need to be defensible, so it is a good idea to look at 2019 and how we can structure the STWG to deliver information in a timely fashion.
  - Brian noted that we had a discussion last year about timing, and it's difficult to get recommendations from working groups earlier than we did this year.
  - Peter stated that he would like to assure that the actions we are proposing will get us where we need to be, that he needs to know how the science community can be more responsive, to organize themselves.
- Russ Dickerson stated that the minority report makes excellent points, and is interested in how to express support for the annual report and the minority report.

- Secretary Grumbles reiterated that we will include the minority report as part of the annual report. The executive summary also refers to the minority report. Staff will wait to receive a copy-edited version (fix technical or clarifying items) this coming Monday, before submitting the annual report.
- Stuart advised that anyone who wishes to express support for the minority report should reach out to him.
- Jane Kirschling asked about whether signing onto the minority report would also be endorsing the annual report, since the minority report notes that it is not meant to disapprove of the annual report.
- Secretary Grumbles stated that he believes it sends a powerful negative signal to sign onto a variety of small pieces, and suggested we should be comfortable with either in its entirety.
- Treasurer Kopp noted that the Executive Summary mentions the minority report and that the State will fully address these items in 2019, committing to explore them all seriously. She also confirmed that her statement is free-standing.

#### 4. Action Item: Approval of the 2018 Annual Report

- Mike Powell moved to approve the 2018 Annual Report.
- Susan Payne seconded.
- Those in favor were a majority, there were two dissenting votes and no abstentions.
- Those dissenting provided a statement:
  - Senator Pinsky: A clear and heightened sense of urgency is not reflected in the recommendations. The recommendations are not clearly developed with 2030 in mind, and are therefore not science-based.
  - Mike Tidwell: The recommendations are not science-based. We need at least one major 2019 policy recommendation, we have the data to move forward.

#### 5. Update: Looking ahead to 2019

- Brian noted that the intention is to do quarterly meetings again in 2019
- Mike Powell suggested that the STWG should meet more often, since the MWG meets monthly, to provide more timely assistance/feedback.
- Colby Ferguson proposed that the Commission should meet more than four times, since 2019 is a big year. He stated that he feels we have been procrastinating and there are many things to vet.
- Secretary Grumbles stated that the Steering Committee can discuss this and make a determination, noting that there was no opposition voiced to the idea of having more meetings.

#### 6. Wrap Up

- The meeting was adjourned by Secretary Grumbles.