

ECO Working Group Meeting Minutes June 15, 2016

The meeting was convened at 10:30 at the Maryland Department of the Environment by the Working Group Chair, Lori Arguelles.

Attending in person: Allison Rich (MD Environmental Health Network), Tad Aburn (MDE), Mark Shaffer (MDE), Lisa Nissley (MDE), Liz Entwisle (MDE), Brian Hug (MDE), Dave Costello (IEER).

Attending by phone: Lori Arguelles (Ferguson Foundation), Louis Campion (MD Motor Truck Association), Deriece Pate Bennett (MD Chamber of Commerce), Jason Schellhardt (MDA), Colleen Turner (MDOT).

Welcome and opening remarks. Lori convened the meeting and members introduced themselves. The presenter, Dr. Cliff Mitchell from DHMH, was not able to attend so Lori moved on to a discussion about how best to use ECO members' time for meetings. She noted that the logistics of getting attendees escorted upstairs from the MDE lobby often delayed the start of meetings and asked for suggestions about changing the meeting location, time/dates and frequency. It was noted that the meetings had been moved upstairs to improve call-in and webinar capabilities. Some members expressed difficulty attending every month due to distance and conflicting commitments. Suggestions included meeting every other month, meeting in community locations and offering new and exciting topics and initiatives to boost attendance. While no decisions were made regarding permanent changes, it was decided to hold the next meeting on July 20 at 10:30 at MDE and not to have a meeting in August.

UMCES funding proposal discussion. Tad reported that discussions between UMCES and MDE regarding procurement rules and vendor selection had delayed UMCES' release of the RFP but that it could be out as early as that day and would likely extend the submission date beyond June. Brian explained that under state procurement law UMCES rather than the working groups must select the vendors for funded proposals. Tad said proposals should not include vendor recommendations.

A discussion ensued about ECO's straw proposal Lori sent to the working group on June 11. Regarding the \$25,000 proposed for writing the State-mandated report, Tad said MDE has the resources and is offering to write the report this year and will be telling the Steering Committee this but will also support ECO's recommendation. He said the report's independence must be seen through the lens of the MCCC and Steering Committee and the consultant selected by UMCES. Dave Costello said that transparency in the flow of information from MDE and other State agencies and the hired report writer will add a level of comfort regarding the report's independence. It was agreed to keep this item in the list of proposed activities to be considered for funding.

Lori said the \$7,500 proposed for public outreach meetings would include five listening sessions starting in early 2017 to inform the 2017 report. Tad asked how many sessions would be with the environmental justice community. He reported that the MWG will want to conduct at least two

public outreach meetings in Fall 2016 with the Environmental Justice Commission to align with MWG's work and asked whether this effort could be joined with ECO. Lori said she would like more information from that Commission about its charge and when the meetings will be. Allison Rich said there was also a need for the MCCC to play a listening session role in conjunction with the Children's Health Commission. Lori noted that ECO's charge is to educate in addition to providing listening sessions and so should participate in both kinds of outreach. Dave said combined MWG-ECO meetings this Fall will be necessary to inform the 2016 report. Allison said the proposal should fund an individual to identify community meetings scheduled around the state and match up ECO's outreach with these community issues. Tad noted that last year's "talking head" format didn't engage a lot of people. Lisa Nissley said there are not sufficient State resources to do all the outreach meetings. After some discussion it was decided to double the \$7,500 to \$15,000.

Regarding the \$5,000 proposed for media outreach, some members felt that ECO may not be able to present a singular message for press releases, op eds, etc. given the diversity of views on the MCCC. Lori expressed a desire to keep media outreach in and align the messaging by working with MDE and the MCCC Chair.

There was agreement that the straw proposal's request for funding to develop content for and maintain a new MCCC website captured the recommendations that grew out of discussions in several prior ECO meetings and that \$25,000 was an appropriate amount to fund a contractor to perform this work.

Tad brought up the need for a climate ambassadors or air quality ambassadors program based on models from surrounding states and local jurisdictions. Allison Rich seconded this motion and there was consensus among the group. In the interest of time, Allison Rich and Elizabeth Entwisle discussed the benefits of implementing a climate ambassadors program to increase the commission's capacity for education and outreach. The ambassador program builds upon and synthesizes ongoing discussions in ECO about creating tools that support ambassadors to engage and educate diverse constituents on climate change

The committee deferred to the working group, consisting of Lori Arguelles, Allison Rich and Samantha Kappalman to make any final modifications to the proposal based on the day's discussions.

Closing remarks and next steps. Lori reminded members that the next meeting will be held on July 20 at 10:30 at MDE. There being no further business, she adjourned the meeting at 11:50.