

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

September 8, 2015 from 12:00 am – 2:00 pm
Maryland Department of the Environment

In Attendance: Ben Grumbles; John Quinn; Stuart Clarke; Todd Chason for Mike Powell; Paul Pinsky; Dana Stein; Lori Arguelles; Richard D'Amato; Ben Dennison; Kevin Lucas; Lynn Heller; David Costello; Dorothy Morrison; Anne Havemann for Mike Tidwell; Kristen Fleming; Susan Payne; Sue Briggum; Robert McCord; Tad Aburn;

On Phone: Lee Williams; Barry Powell; Nancy Koppleman; Samatha Kappleman

Introduction

Meeting was called to order at 12:04 pm. Secretary Grumbles opened the meeting with a discussion of the consensus-based decision making in the context of the MCCC process

- MCCC has been consensus based since 2007
- Never had formal votes
- 2014 Executive Order reshaped the Commission by adding more players but does not require majority voting
- Compressed timeline might not allow for full consensus - but it should to be the goal
- Delegate Stein: majority vote should be required
- Commission needs to get a consensus on the process to gain a consensus
- Sue Briggum: Consensus has value
 - End product is more valuable when parties compromise
 - Presenting opposing views in final product is informative
- Dick D'Amato: The message that opposing parties reached a consensus is important
- Report should be greatly consistent with views of the major players and also include the views of each player (as an Appendix or footnote)
- Majority vote would be more important if Commission wasn't on-going.
- Consensus based approach is more appropriate given the iterative nature of the annual Commission report
- Action: set up a small group of diverse stakeholders with MDE representation to compile all suggestions to Steering Committee with process to be used to establish protocol.
- No new by-laws
- Can't risk splintering the Commission

Tad presented “*The 2015 Update to the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Act (GGRA) Plan*”

Comments following Presentation

- Stuart: Does the Commission intend to include recommendations about emerging issues in the November report?
 - Recommendations about emerging issues will be incorporated into October.
 - Need Commission support.
- Stuart: What were the lessons learned from the previous legislation?
 - Linking jobs and GHG reductions was key
- Stuart: What will be included in November report about rationale for recommendations on emerging issues?

- Use Commission and Working groups to analyze programs and enhancements to ensure that programs perform
- Does the Commission need more authority to meet 2020 goal?
 - No but we will for beyond 2020 goal
 - Federal rules and fleet turnover will help – but not enough
- 40% reduction is actually conservative. 3% wage growth is too aggressive.
 - STWG findings support aggressive goal
 - Messaging is key
 - Why not 45%?
 - Needs to be data driven
 - Calculation depends on which baseline was used (MD uses 2006)
 - 1/2/3/40 is a MDE draft concept
 - Will need Commission feedback
- Near-term vs. Long-term Strategy
 - Eventually short-term programs stop working well
 - State agencies can't make big structural changes easily
 - Keep doing short-term work but look long-term
 - Not incremental. Together w/ structural is best approach
- Equity Issues
 - Applaud incorporating economics into GGRA goal
 - How can benefits be distributed through state?
 - Vulnerable populations need to be considered – need to go further
 - Next step is access to benefits work
- Timeline for future plan
 - Nothing magic about 2019 date as Tad mentioned
 - MDE needed 3 years last time (2009-2012). We probably will again.
 - 3-year planning process worked, but open to discussion

Updates on Working Groups

- Science and Technology Working Group
 - No update
- Adaptation Working Group
 - Held 1 meeting and scheduled another
 - Discussions going on about how to transition and focus group on work plan
 - Resilience is still a priority
 - Who replaced Zoe on MCCC?
- Education, Communication, Outreach Working Group
 - Public meetings well attended (30-75 people)
 - Not balanced enough
 - Needed MCCC constituents to attend
 - Should ECO get feedback on Future goal?
 - Proposal: 2nd round of listening sessions

- **Report Writing Group**
 - Report Writing group took input from public meetings, MWG members (email), and AWG members (email) and made a list of emerging issues
 - Consensus was to focus on process instead of emerging issues list
 - What will the MCCC want to recommend in November report?
 - What does the MCCC want to include in 2016 work plan?
 - How does MCCC want to approach November report?
 - There has been consensus on the report outline
 - Chapter designated as: response to MDE report and other recommendations
 - These will make up the 2016 work plan

- **Proposal: Charge a small separate group of Commissioners to develop protocol and sequencing to handle issues where a consensus isn't reached – can't neglect the hard issues**
 - MWG would make recommendations and those would be approved by Steering Committee for consensus
 - Remember: the Commission reports annually. Not our only chance on some issues
 - MWG has a important role – make recommendations to MCCC
 - But MWG can't be circumvented

- **Closing Statements:**
 - Steering Committee to form small group to handle consensus issue
 - Working Groups should provide list of recommendations for 2016 work plan to show Steering Committee prior to 10/9 meeting
 - MDE staff is working hard to get MDE report to Commission ASAP
 - Secretary Grumbles needs to review prior to sharing with Commission

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.