

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Mitigation Working Group Meeting

July 25, 2016 - 12:00PM – 2:30PM - MDE

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Tad Aburn (Working Group Lead, Mike Tidwell (Co-Chair, CCAN), Anne Linder, Gerrit Knaap, Arjun Makhijani, Joe Uehlein, Rebecca Rehr (for Rebecca Ruggles), Colby Ferguson (for Chuck Fry), Jim Strong, Colleen Turner, Susan Payne, Secretary Ben Grumbles, Jim Doyle (Attorney), Aliyah Russell (DNR), Megan Ulrich (MDE), Jess Herpel (MDE), Qubilah Huddleston (Exelon), Todd Chason (GFR), Alicia Moran (AM Media & Marketing), Larry Kasecamp (SMART), Ian Ullman, David Costello (IEER), Dorothy Morrison (MDOT), Hampden Macbeth (Georgetown Climate Center), Allison Rich (Maryland Environmental Health Network), Ellen Bast (RESI of Towson), Todd Metcalfe (RESI of Towson)

Agenda Item #1: Introductions

- No changes were made to the agenda

Agenda Item #2: Old Business

- An update was provided on the upcoming vote at the MCCC Steering Committee level regarding Working Group proposals for UMCES/Town Creek funding

Agenda Item #3: Equity/Economics Discussion

- Presentation by Chris Hoagland with an update on economic and social equity analyses that are currently in progress (see handout posted in meeting materials on MCCC website)
- Group discussion on what other efforts we may want to focus on resulted in the following comments, recommendations and concerns:
 - *Spatial Analysis* is an important consideration for Social Equity and should be included
 - Care should be taken to not overlook rural communities
 - *Quality and location of new jobs* should be considered, rather than quantity only
 - Suggestion to proactively move on job training in those fields anticipating losses
 - Suggestion to focus on not only the number of jobs moving from one sector to the other, but also the quality of the jobs (wages and benefits)
 - Suggestion to focus on where new jobs were being created (e.g. solar manufacturing jobs overseas, or wind farm jobs in other states)
 - Suggestion that strong mandates for renewables will allow negotiation to bring manufacturing into the state (guaranteed market)
- *Bottom-Up Analysis* recommended to examine job growth, to act as a comparative to the RESI results.
- Rebecca Rehr reported on CEJSC response to input sought by MWG
 - Request from MWG was for criteria or indicators to determine the location of information outreach sessions.
 - CEJSC current thoughts included seeking out existing community group forum/meetings and becoming one of the speakers at those events.
 - Suggestion that the focus for the first few sessions would be that we are there to listen, making discussion a priority as opposed to presenting information.
- Suggestion that the MWG needs to *not ignore negatives* - should seek to analyze those situations and programs which are having negative impacts, rather than focusing solely on win-win-win scenarios.

- Suggestion that some of the settlement money from Volkswagen should go to creating EV charging stations, with care that these are distributed equitably and so all communities have at least some access
- Reminder that there is a difference between equity and equality – funds may be distributed differently throughout the state for different programs.
- Alternative Clean Energy – suggestion to focus on alternatives besides wind, solar and biofuel, with a concern that these in particular have competition with agricultural land for food crops.
 - Tidal/wave action was proposed as one option
 - Suggestion to look for situations where possibilities exist but legislation is a hindrance

Agenda Item #4: Public Comment

- There were no public comments voiced

Next Steps/Action Items/Adjourn - MWG Co-Chairs, MDE - 5 Minutes

- Collaboration and further technical discussion was suggested regarding the inclusion of spatial parameters within equity analyses, with Gerrit to possibly take the lead in seeking collaboration. MDE expressed budget concerns.
- Arjun Makhijani is sending publication “Beyond a Band-Aid” for review in regards to protecting workers and communities during energy transition; collaboration potential with Department of Commerce. (see document posted in the meeting materials on MCCC website)
- MEMA was suggested as a potential resource for identifying communities for CEJSC information/communication sessions, as they have been engaging in similar outreach.
- Green Banking program was suggested as a collaborative opportunity for seeking out alternative/emerging renewable energy sources.
- Concern was expressed that we need to review our timeline and designate both short and long-term goals, transition and bridge strategies, and how we can balance the need to show results without eliminating programs with long-term payoffs.
- Technical Feedback – Suggestion to form an economic advisory group to provide technical feedback on MDE’s economic analyses. MDE agreed that is a good idea; that group’s relationship with the MWG and STWG will need to be considered.
- Modeling Creativity – Suggestion that the MWG support more creative modeling that considers scenarios in which broader, structural changes happen, rather than relying on modeling that takes the current economic structure as a given (e.g. REMI).

Meeting Adjourned