

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Executive Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2015 @ 10:00

Maryland Department of the Environment

In Attendance: Ben Grumbles, Tad Aburn, Brian Hug, Luke Wisniewski, Stuart Clarke, Mike Powell; Lynn Heller, Mike Tidwell, Ian Ullman - for Senator Pinsky, Donald Boesch, Richard D'Amato, Suzanne Brogan, David Costello, Jim Doyle

On Phone: Samantha Kappalman; Matt Fleming, Kristen Ahern

Introduction

Tad opened the meeting with an update on the GGRA Report (MDE)

- Final touches are being applied
- Draft available early next week (week of 10/26)
- Release to MCCC Working Groups will be a “preview” in advance of the final document
- Mark Schaffer is working on a media strategy (not large scale)

Working Group Progress Updates

Science Working Group (Don Boesch)

- Need to clarify basis and trajectories for goals
- Alerted committee about Methane analysis – soliciting ideas
- Will address other emerging issues (in 2016) like fast acting pollutants
- Need to start working on “emerging issues”

Adaptation Working Group

- Focused on increasing availability of resources to adapt to climate change to vulnerable and low income groups
- Amplify the voices of those who need additional resources
- Generate data that shows cost savings of adaptation and resilience efforts
- Develop partnerships and involve business in adaptation and resilience
- Grants:
 - Increase funding for non-tidal community resources
 - Partner with Nature Conservancy to connect environmental justice with MCCC goals
- Chesapeake Bay Program partnership to set goals and build monitoring network (state and regional partnering is necessary)

Tad/Stuart/Sec Grumbles: must continue to prioritize Adaptation and Resilience. Perhaps we need to clearly define what Adaptation and Resilience means

ECO Working Group

- ECO working group meeting update - due 10/29
- Identify fall outreach session dates
- Added four (4) new members from private sector– see handout
- Conducted a call with new members
- Next meeting Nov 12
- Liz Entwisle will be lead in absence of Larissa
- Lori will bring proposal for media plan/strategy to MCCC
- Lori will provide guidance on legislative briefings strategies
- Need a plan to report to media when reports come out
- Paris climate change meeting will shine light on our work
- Media strategy is MCCC governance issue
- How should Commissioners respond to info requests (future goals)
- Reminder: Commissioners need to solicit their constituents for public meetings
- Samantha can assist with social media strategy
- New MCCC website is still being considered. Mark Schaffer (MDE) is helping

Mitigation Working Group

- MWG is still waiting for draft MDE report from Governor's office
- 10/26 meeting is postponed
- MDE report is being released to working groups as a preview with very limited comment period – not a request for comments. Just advanced notice.
- Start to come up with expectations for 2016
- Resolve ongoing issues:
 - governance, threshold for consensus, by-laws, procedural uncertainties

Report Writing Update on Concept Paper

- Final draft of Concept Paper to be presented to MCCC on 10/29
- MCCC draft report delivery goal is 11/15 with a hard deadline on 11/30
- 10/29 – 11/15 will be time period for WGs to comment on MDE report
- Media strategy can be developed without full report
- Priority should be 2016 work plan
- Proposal: Concept Paper is Executive Summary for MCCC report
- Proposal: MCCC approve (vote) on Concept Paper on 10/29
- Alternate Proposal: MCCC approve Concept Paper by email
- WG chairs are responsible for managing their - need to provide feedback prior to 10/29
- Ideally WG's see draft MDE report before being asked to approve Concept Paper
- Major edits: (see draft of Concept Paper for actual language)
 - Methane leakage language – “*whether and how*”
 - 2050 goal language – “*consistent with science and international agreements*”

- 2030 goal language – see Brian Hug’s proposed language options

MCCC Consensus

- Can MCCC get a consensus on 2030 and future goals? – Should be a goal
- Commissioners will work hard to try and find consensus
- Compromise and consensus adds value to deliverables (reports)
- In the past, MCCC moved forward without full consensus and progress was made
- 2/3 vote vs. majority vote
- 2/3 vote = “*lowest common denominator*” – not ideal
- Some Commissioners believe that 2/3 is too stringent
- NACAA (National Association of Clean Air Agencies) uses 2/3 vote

Next Steps

- 10/29 MCCC meeting Agenda
- Revise Concept Paper and share
- MDE to propose 2030 goal language for Concept Paper