

## **Mitigation Work Group (MWG) Meeting at MDE 12/17/2019**

Attendance: Tad Aburn, Chris Hoagland, Mike Powell, Bruce Ho, Colleen Turner, Chris Rice, Elliott Campbell, Les Knapp, Tom Ballentine; Susan Payne, Tom Walz, Jeff Silva, Chris Beck, Brian Hug, Scott Zarcharko, Susan Casey, Erick Thunell

On the Phone: Jana Davis, Elizabeth Bunn, Joey Chans, Audrey Lex Exelon, John Slocum

### Introduction

The meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with a brief greeting, followed by the introduction of our new member, Bruce Ho. Ho works for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), where he works as an advocate for clean energy and transportation. He has background in energy policy and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

### Public Comment

The only citizen commenter was Jeff Silva of Montgomery County. He advocated that the State be more vocal with CO<sub>2</sub> pollution and educate the public at the time of purchase (specifically, at the gas station). He suggested videos be shown at the pump to show consumers exactly how their purchase affects the environment. Ultimately, his message was to put more pressure on individual consumers in the fight against climate change.

### GGRA Draft Plan – Looking Ahead to 2050

#### [Please see the powerpoint presentation.](#)

The big takeaway from the conversation is that Maryland's plan need to be developed with the stipulation that we much reach our climate goals while maintaining an economic benefit. Our projection scenario to reach the 2050 goal of 80% reduction from 2006 levels are good from an environmental perspective, but needs to wait for technologies to develop before we invest heavily in them. Once technology becomes commercialized it becomes much more affordable and accessible. The future plan also involves a lot of electrification, and decarbonization where that's not possible. Bruce Ho introduced a new idea for our projections: re-project the future values based on where we are currently at, rather than the earlier 2006 baseline. This suggestion was considered.

There was some discussion regarding specific practices. Heat pump deployment has proven more difficult than initially anticipated due to differences in buildings; some buildings may require extra walls to be torn down or drilled through. Elliott Campbell also pointed out that we made aggressive assumptions in regard to sinks. He also briefly mentioned the cost of inaction – what is the economic cost of not doing anything? It was stated that this is currently hard to quantify.

### 2020 MWG Work Plan

The discussion on the Work Plan culminated in switching around a few meetings. The goal was to bring Transportation meetings closer to the beginning of the year. It was also suggested that the Work Plan be flexible this year; as the year progresses, different things take priority, and we should allow our Work Plan to accommodate that. Having a side-list of possible items of interest may be a way to achieve this.

### Other Business

The GGRA Draft Public Outreach Meeting is rescheduled for January 10<sup>th</sup>. There also is a public engagement outreach meeting tonight (12/17/2019) in the first-floor MDE conference rooms. We're excited for the upcoming GGRA Outreach Webinars; we're hoping to reach a wide audience in a more accessible way. The Air Quality Control Advisory Council (AQCAC) met yesterday, where they approved Maryland's HFC phase-out regulation and its Methane regulation.

Tad provided update on AQCAC 12/16/19 - approved HFC phase out and Methane reduction regulations.

Meeting Adjourned 11:41 AM.