

# Maryland Commission on Climate Change

## **Mitigation Working Group**

January 15, 2019 10:00AM - 12:00PM

### Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:** Tom Walz, Lisa McNeilly, Tom Ballentine, Elliott Campbell, Jim Strong, Jason Keppler (for Susan Payne), Audrey Lyke (for Heidi Hawkins), Chris Rice, Stuart Clarke, Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, Bihui Xu (MDP), Ken Choi (MDP), Catherine Menking (RESI), Nick Wetzler (RESI), John Kumm (ECO Working Group), Earl Lewis (MDOT), David Costello, Gary Greening (MDOT), Paul Berman, Richard Crenshaw (Solar Villages), Jeff Silva, Chris Hoagland (MDE), Luke Wisniewski (MDE), Lisa Nissley (MDE), Jess Herpel (MDE), Hannah Brubach (MDE), Megan Ulrich (MDE), Joe Lutz (MDE)

**Phone:** Tom Weissinger, Mike Remsberg, Donald Goldberg (Climate Law & Policy Project), Jim George (MDE)

### **10:10AM MWG Meeting Called to Order**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Brian Hug called the meeting to order and went around the room and phone for introductions.
- Stuart Clarke provided opening comments, thanking MDE staff for their work on the 2018 Annual Report, and expressing that he hoped everyone was refreshed and energized for our work today, since there are many pieces to organize and determine our focus.

#### **Public Comment**

- Donald Goldberg (phone): Concerned by the lack of specific reference to a carbon fee in the draft work plan, acknowledging that carbon pricing in general was mentioned in one of the meetings. Stated that since we have spent so much time on it, and seen positive modeling results that employed it among other mechanisms, it should be on the agenda. He noted that there is a bill coming up that may pass next year (2020) which is similar to the previous carbon fee bill. He hopes that the working plan will be revised to leave room for a robust carbon fee discussion.
- Jeff Silva: Stated his belief and concerns that some members of the MWG are not bringing forward solutions, only negative comments; and that if they are not contributing to the body then they should not be members. He made several statements directed at individual members, noting concerns regarding the agricultural, real estate, and electrical generation sectors. He closed by stating that we need to end up with legislation that ensures Maryland's survival; that there are many possibilities out there, and that we can find the necessary resources. (Jeff also provided some written materials to MDE).

#### **Discuss and Finalize the MWG's 2019 Work Plan**

- Brian introduced the draft work plan and schedule discussion, noting that lengthening meetings is an option, and that we are working today to determine the content and the order of the meetings.
- Stuart had a general statement that the MWG would be very challenged to tackle all of these items using our current meeting structure. He suggested that we may need to either enhance the structure or elevate/prioritize particular items, noting that by utilizing subcommittees or connecting our work to other platforms (working groups and outside resources) at the steering committee level, we may be able to expand our capacity.
  - Earl Lewis mentioned the connected autonomous vehicles work group; Secretary Grumbles suggested that the next Port meeting should perhaps focus on climate research/action.
  - Tom Ballentine does not support the idea of subcommittees.

- Lisa McNeilly inquired regarding how presenters will be selected and how the MWG will be prepped for these discussions.
  - Brian noted that the panels were productive but could be a hassle. He also noted that we do not want to limit discussion, and asked whether the group wanted panels or just discussion.
  - Chris Rice stated he felt that it was particularly useful when the panel members brought specific recommendations.
  - Tad Aburn reminded everyone of the format that we had begun using towards the middle of the year, with panel members being given specific questions to answer, which seemed to work very well.
  - Tamara Toles O’Laughlin suggested that panels may work for some things but not others, and asked if there was a way to divide up the work of organizing the panels. Brian noted that people can volunteer to work with the MWG Steering Committee to help with planning specific meetings of interest.
  - Stuart agreed that not all meetings have to be set up the same way. He also suggested we should begin planning the panels further in advance than the MWG Steering Committee call the month prior, to allow more time for preparation and ease the process of getting responses, etc.
- Tamara also suggested a mid-way check in to reflect on how the meetings have gone and make a course-correction if necessary.
- #1 GGRA
  - Tom Ballentine asked whether there were specific tracking metrics in mind, noting that it may be helpful to look out-of-state at other influencers that are tracking progress, to improve process.
  - Elliott Campbell referred to resources at the Climate Alliance that may be useful.
  - Stuart suggested that there may be opportunities for collaboration on the first and fourth bullets: (1) assess ways to enhance existing efforts to track key data/indicators; and (4) Analyze long-term implications of the 40 by 30 plan and ensure it is compatible with long-term goals.
  - Stuart also noted that this draft plan may drive new conversations, so we might want a placeholder for those.
- #2 Transportation
  - Colleen Turner suggested that we should just get a check-in on the progress of the recommendations from the 2018 MCCC Report. The first bullet (TCI efforts to implement a market-based program) is already being worked on though they are early in the process; we may have information in August. Chris Rice also suggested that the third bullet (EVIC and ZEV MOU efforts to increase EV infrastructure and sales) may also only require an update, since it is part of what EVIC is already doing, and could include PSC work.
  - It was also suggested by MDOT that there would be more information for the transportation topic towards the end of the year, once they were farther along with their work on these areas; August or September. Brian noted that September was too late because we did need to make sure we had the meeting prior to finalizing recommendations, as we ran into a similar issue two years ago.
  - Lisa McNeilly requested clarification, asking whether the point of discussions were that we were going to determine if there were certain things that the MWG wanted to push for or recommend in regards to these efforts. This was confirmed, and Colleen stated that any discussion/update could also welcome recommendations. Stuart suggested we could generate some questions and share with the relevant parties to inform our discussions.
  - Tom Ballentine noted that, in his opinion, the drivers of VMT are one of the biggest challenges (falls under bullet 4, ways to enhance travel demand management strategies). Colleen stated that there were MDOT programs in place but this also has a lot to do with personal choice.

- Lisa McNeilly noted that autonomous vehicles are a very complicated topic and coming up fast, so we should leave time for this.
- #3 Energy
  - It was determined that we do not want to discuss this until after session because there are several bills up that could change the nature and direction of the discussion, so it would be better to know the outcome of these prior to developing recommendations on the subject.
- #4 Buildings
  - Lisa McNeilly asked whether we have considered reporting on building energy usage.
  - Stuart emphasized that as we look at these really large/broad items, it may be important to identify specific opportunities or challenges; to elevate certain things which are more effective near-term.
  - Tom Walz stated that an important component of this discussion will be how to finance any projects that we recommend. He also suggested that aligning the useful life of measures and the time to payback would be an important consideration.
  - Audrey Lyke noted the link between some transportation and building initiatives with the power sector; and that we need to coordinate efforts in these sectors in order to achieve the maximum benefit overall. She clarified that this refers to the benefits gained by electrification of transportation being clearly enhanced by a lower carbon electric grid.
- #5 Land Use
  - Elliott Campbell noted that we need to remember to include tree planning on agricultural land, not just the two separate topics.
  - It was also mentioned that we should discuss issues with converting land-use types, for example as related to the RPS. Stuart suggested that solar siting may be something we can give focused attention to, and Mike Powell agreed.
- #6 Additional Items
  - Brian noted that this will probably be the last meeting and it will have other items that spill over into it out of necessity.
  - Audrey stated that we could consider having one extra meeting in the time frame given as well.
  - Tamara suggested that this meeting could include regional climate. She also stated that she believes the health connection/lens would be better included in all the discussions instead of as its own category/discussion.

### **Meeting Order**

- Mike Powell noted that transportation may be easiest to put first, since we've already done a lot of work on it.
- Stuart proposed that the MWG Steering Committee may decide on their call Friday if there are no really strong feelings about what to do for February.
- There was also a suggestion that informational sessions could occur between meetings, e.g., briefings, panels, other information. It was decided that the MWG Steering Committee could discuss it.
- Tamara expressed interest in starting with Buildings, but not strong feelings either way.

### **Wrap Up**

- It was determined that the first meeting would be decided by the MWG Steering Committee on their call this upcoming Friday.

### **12:00PM Meeting Adjourns**