

# Maryland Commission on Climate Change

## Mitigation Working Group

October 27, 2017 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM

### Minutes

*Attendance:* Ben Grumbles, Tad Aburn, Brian Hug, Tom Walz, Susan Payne, Christine Conn, Colleen Turner, Ben Hobbs, Dan Engelberg (for Gerrit Knaap), Jana Davis, Tom Weissinger, Tom Ballentine, Larry Kasecamp, Jim Strong, Anne Lindner, Michael Powell, David Smedick (Sierra Club), Chris Hoagland (MDE), David Costello (IEER), Kate Zyla (GCC), Bihui Xu (MDP), Elliott Campbell (DNR), Rachel Marks (DNR), Ujjval Shukla (MDOT), Jess Herpel (MDE), Luke Wisniewski (MDE), Christopher Beck (MDE), Joe Lutz (MDE)

*On the Phone:* Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, Lisa McNeilly, Pam Kasemeyer, Larry Liebesman, Donald Goldberg

#### **Item #1: Introductions**

- The meeting was called to order and introductions were made around the room
- Mike Powell opened by noting that, as we are laying out the work plan, we should keep in mind that we need to consider the time and resources of MDE staff, and make sure to bring any new ideas for the 40 by 30 Plan forward as soon as possible

#### **Item #2: Emissions Modeling for 40 by 30**

- See slide deck posted on Commission website
- Chris answered several questions:
  - Electricity supply is represented by a transmission constrained dispatch model with hourly capabilities.
  - The RPS will be handled as it relates to the PJM generation mix (used to determine emissions rates for imported electricity), and calibrated with (RGGI) IPM modeling results.
  - The public health impacts are incorporated later, but are not a part of the PATHWAYS modeling being discussed today.
  - It would be difficult to use this modeling to determine which specific programs are most effective, because they do not operate in isolation of one another. We will have multiple policy scenarios, but in order to get individual program-level estimates, we would need to run several dozen scenarios, which is not possible with the current modeling budget. Even with such results, a determination would still be complex.
- Brian Hug noted that MDE plans to discuss policy scenarios with the MWG once we begin making determinations

#### **Item #3: Draft Annual Report**

- Brian provided an overview of the recent process at the Commission and Steering Committee level for the Annual Report, and introduced David’s additional recommendation to be discussed.
- No comments were made regarding Chapter 4 recommendations or the appendices.

#### **Item #4: Transportation and Climate Initiative**

- See slide deck posted on Commission website

- Mike Powell noted that there was likely not much opposition to the first portion of the recommendation, however in the second, it sounds like the Commission would be endorsing a decision that has not yet been made (therefore, without knowing what TCI will recommend).
- Ben Grumbles stated that he appreciates the Sierra Club efforts to advance TCI, it is certainly a good program that should undoubtedly be continued; however he agrees with Mike Powell that it may be complicated to adopt a component of their strategy that is not fully fleshed out.
- The following was submitted to the Steering Committee for their consideration: "The Commission recommends that MDOT and MDE continue their participation in the work of the Transportation and Climate Initiative to develop a regional clean and equitable transportation policy. MDOT and MDE should regularly report back to and engage with the Commission and Working Groups as appropriate."

#### **Item #5: Discussion on 2018 Work Plan**

- Brian introduced the discussion on the 2018 Work Plan, identifying priorities from the recommendations in the 2017 Report. We will likely spend a good portion of time on updates regarding the 40 by 30 plan, and should be sure to limit the number of new topics we are addressing.
- Tom Walz noted that many elements do not have a clear direction, but rather state that future discussions should be held; these are the things we should focus on.
- Anne Lindner suggested (and Mike Powell agreed) that it may be useful to have one meeting looking at what other jurisdictions are doing that we may learn from
- Arjun suggested that looking back from 2050 to shape 2030 is also as important as looking forward, and that we should be sure to think about negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions moving forward
- Christine Conn we should consider strategies at different scales, such as activities being undertaken by local governments. Tad added that we would need to consider duplication of efforts, but perhaps bring the Washington area back into the discussion. Tamara also suggested that it would be great to have information about community-lead action linked to these matters, such as natural gas infrastructure, and healthy air initiatives.
- David Costello reminded the group of the suggestions that were submitted to the Commission in August. Mike Powell noted that this was a very large list, and would be more impactful if there were not so many items.
- Tad requested that an important early discussion should be any analysis planned regarding the 40 by 30 Plan by those other than state agencies, and second, should consider how to handle error bars which seemed to cause grief for several members previously. Christine Conn suggested that with the latter, it may be helpful to touch base with the Chesapeake Bay Program to see what method they used. Colleen noted that it may also be worth considering referring to them as "uncertainty" rather than "errors", since that is in reality what they are.

#### **Item #6: Other Business**

- Brian briefly reviewed that we would continue discussing the Work Plan at the upcoming meeting in November.

#### **Item #7: Public Comment**

- There were no comments during this period.