

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Mitigation Working Group

August 24th, 2017 | 1:00PM - 3:00PM

Minutes

Attendance: Tad Aburn, Mike Powell, Mike Tidwell, Christine Conn, Colleen Turner, Lisa McNeilly, Les Knapp, Ben Hobbs, Colby Ferguson, Tom Walz, Arjun Makhijani, Dan Engelberg (for Gerrit Knaap), John Quinn, Susan Barnes (for Mike Remsberg), Susan Payne, Anne Lindner, Tom Weissinger, Margie Brassil (for Delegate Stein), Brian Hug, Marissa Gillett (PSC), Steve Charles (MDOT), David Costello (IEER), Elliott Campbell (DNR), Sara Via (UMD), Jim Doyle (Trade Point Atlantic), Lisa Nissley (MDE), Jess Herpel (MDE), Joe Lutz (MDE), Erick Thunell (MDE), Chris Beck (MDE), Chris Hoagland (MDE), Megan Ulrich (MDE), Kaley Laleker (MDE), Scott Zacharko (MDE)

Phone: Jim Strong, Rebecca Rehr (for Tamara Toles O'Laughlin), Megan Goold (EPA), Caroline Varney-Alvarado (DHCD), Pam Kasemeyer (Schwartz, Metz & Wise, PA), Sara Wahls

1:00PM MWG Meeting Began

1. Introductions

- Introductions were made around the room and on the phone
- MDE provided a brief overview of the RGGI announcement, noting the press release and upcoming stakeholder meeting
- MDE also provided a brief update on their actions related to the Clean Air Act's "good neighbor" provision, at the request of Colby Ferguson

2. Recommendations for the MCCC 2017 Report

- The recommendations and comments submitted prior to the meeting can be found on the Commission's website under "meeting materials" for this date.
- General process clarification:
 - Ben Hobbs inquired as to the procedure if there is a diversity of opinion. It was agreed that as everything has been a consensus so far, it would be best to discuss language and try to arrive at a conclusion that everyone can support.
- Regarding "The 40 percent by 2030 Plan"
 - clarify that the draft is due at end of 2018
- Regarding "Enhanced GHG Emissions Inventory"
 - The comments received (slide 4) were generally accepted
 - It was noted that transportation was related generally to along pipelines, rather than on-road transport; and that this is related to providing an estimate, not necessarily requiring it to be offset.
- Regarding "EJ and Underserved Communities"
 - Colleen Turner asked if there was a consensus MWG definition of EJ and underserved communities. There is no official definition per MWG, however this falls under the ECO Working Group's jurisdiction. It was also noted that the CEJSC has an existing 1-pager. Rebecca Rehr requested that an example of a vulnerable population be inserted in the parenthetical reference to urban and rural communities
 - It was suggested that the reference to DNR in the second bullet also include ARWG
- Regarding "Clean Energy Businesses and Manufacturing Jobs, and Fossil Fuel Dependent Workers"
 - Ben Hobbs expressed concerns for the mentions of Maryland-specific purchasing and supply chain, indicating that this could end up causing more economic harm than good.

Possible remedy would be to include the idea of keeping in mind procurement costs and rates.

Jim Strong brought up the increased environmental costs of importing solar panels from other countries (i.e. China)

Arjun agreed with Ben, noting the development of a supply chain should be more focused on the whole east coast, though Maryland should certainly be involved; focus on regional Atlantic Coast, remove the language “Maryland first”.

Mike Powell pointed out that an increase of Maryland jobs is actually required by statute; perhaps the language could reflect a “preference for” Maryland jobs and procurement.

Chris Rice suggested that, to incorporate the idea of increased GHG emissions from over-seas procurements, we could add language referring to life-cycle emissions.

Regarding the first bullet, Marissa (PSC) noted that the PSC does not have the authority to require procurements, jobs, etc.; the existing language was simply them codifying voluntary plans of the company. The PSC is required currently to consider the application for a certificate of public convenience, including taking into account wages, local labor, and other features being discussed in this section.

John Fiastro suggested alternative balancing language, such as ensuring that the project is still cost-effective.

Regarding comments received (slide 5), it was generally agreed that part one referencing nuclear could be made more general, to encompass advanced/emerging technology.

Regarding comments received (slide 5), Mike Tidwell expressed a desire to make the language more about a positive action improving the quality of jobs in the clean energy sector, rather than addressed in a way that indicates fossil-fuel jobs should be maintained due to these benefits; he suggested adding context that this information be used to advocate for improving clean energy jobs.

- Comments and language suggestions will be submitted to MDE for compilation and finalized on the Steering Committee call Sept 1st.

3. Other Business – 15 minutes

- Arjun presented a document with recommendations for consideration. It was clarified that this may be more applicable for something to look at in 2018, and start considering; some more long-term items. It was noted that the item related to transportation may be considered at the upcoming meeting, however. This document will be circulated electronically to the MWG members following the meeting.

4. Public Comment – 10 minutes

- Dr. Sara Via advised that she will be preparing a white paper regarding quantifying the strategies of carbon sequestration, coordinating with the Scientific and Technical Working Group. She expects to have a draft available in a few months.

3:00PM Meeting Adjourned