

Science and Technical Work Group
Meeting Notes
April 8, 2020

Meeting Attendees

STWG Members: Dr. Peter Goodwin (Chair), Dr. Don Boesch, Dr. Eric Davidson, Dr. Russell Dickerson, Dr. Charles Glass, Dr. Jane Kirschling, Dr. Amir Sapkota, Dr. David Vanko

MCCC Members: Lori Arguelles, Treasurer Nancy Kopp

Participants: Christopher Beck (MDE), Paul Berman, Kim Drake (MDE), Dorothy Greene (MDOT), Chris Hoagland (MDE), Colleen Turner (MDOT)

Staff Support: Dave Nemazie, Kane Samuel

1. Discussion regarding last meeting minutes (Goodwin)

There were no comments regarding last meetings minutes, so they were accepted with no objections.

2. Brief remarks regarding this past legislative session, more specifically, bills that pertain to the environment (Nemazie)

In response to the new coronavirus, Maryland lawmakers decided to end the state's legislative session three weeks early, with the intention to reconvene in a special session in the last week of May. As a result of the shortened session, several key bills associated with climate change were left adjourned sine die. Notably, among these bills are senate bill 926 and senate bill 656. Senate bill 926, sponsored by Senator Paul Pinsky, requires the State to achieve net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 and requires the Department of the Environment to adopt a final plan that reduces statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 60% by 2030. Senate bill 656 requires Department of Natural Resources to incorporate an evaluation of the impact of certain electric power plants on climate change into the Power Plant Research Program. In the event that Maryland lawmakers are unable to reconvene for a special session, these bills will be reintroduced next legislative session.

3. Meeting Objective (Goodwin)

The objective of this meeting is to scope out the review by Secretary Ben Grumbles and the MCC. By determining:

- Where the existing members will be able to contribute to the review?
- Where science input is needed, meaning if the commission lacks the expertise, who in Maryland can they reach out to?

4. **Presentation of MDE's GGRA Plan** (Hoagland, Powerpoint presentation)

Chris Hoagland (MDE) gave a presentation on MDE's GGRA plan. In this presentation he provides two long term approaches to reducing GHG in Maryland. The first approach, which is actually in the plan, requires 25% reduction by 2020 and 40% reduction by 2030. The second approach is called policy scenario 2, which isn't mandated, is a more ambitious goal that proposes an 80-95% reduction by 2050.

While policy scenario 2 leads to greater long-term reductions in GHG, Chris Hoagland highlights 3 major issues with this approach.

- The first major challenge identified is the lack of available technology and the cost associated with these technologies
- The second major challenge identified with this approach is trying to create policies that would enable these things to happen 20 or 30 years out. Anything created now would be merely hypothetical.
- The third major challenge identified with this approach is that the GGRA requires the plan for 2030 to demonstrate positive economic impacts. In both slide 5, which includes contributions to transportation infrastructure, and slide 6, which does not, the graphs show a negative economic impact.

5. **MCCC review outline** (Goodwin, Word file)

An outline of a review of the GGRA was distributed. Members were asked to comment on both the outline and recommend potential sections for emphasis.

Dr. Boesch suggest that this working group can provide more insight as to how the plan can increase the number of carbon sinks to make this goal more obtainable.

6. **Public Comments**

No public comments

