

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Mitigation Working Group

November 17, 2017 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Ben Grumbles, Tad Aburn, Brian Hug, Mike Powell, Anne Lindner, Jim Strong, Larry Kasecamp, Dorothy Morrison (for Colleen Turner), Tom Weissinger, Ben Hobbs, John Fiastro, Chris Rice, Christine Conn, Susan Payne, Tom Walz, Larry Liebesman (Citizens' Climate Lobby and Climate X Change), Cheryl Arney (Citizens' Climate Lobby and Climate X Change), Margie Brassil (for Delegate Dana Stein), David Smedick (Sierra Club), David Costello (IEER), James Bradbury (Georgetown Climate Center), Bihui Xu (MDP), Jim Frazier (Michael Baker Intl), Elliott Campbell (DNR), Chris Hoagland (MDE), Chris Beck (MDE), Joe Lutz (MDE), Erick Thunell (MDE), Hannah Brubach (MDE), Jess Herpel (MDE), Luke Wisniewski (MDE), Lisa Nissley (MDE).

Phone: Megan Goold (EPA RIII), Jason (Energy Efficient Futures Foundation), Donald Goldberg (Climate Law & Policy Project)

10:00AM MWG Meeting Begins

Item #1: Introductions

- Tad called the meeting to order and introductions were made around the room
- Tad also provided an update on RGGI discussions, noting that it is looking good to potentially involve NJ and VA in the program. He also noted an event occurring the following Monday, Nov 20 in Baltimore to announce new idle-reduction efforts with the Maryland Motor Truck Association and Cowan Systems.

Item #2: Discussion on 2018 Priorities

- Brian introduced the discussion (see list of potential priorities under meeting materials), and also noted that additional items could be discussed via webinar if needed.
- Mike Powell stated that some of the items listed as priorities could also be integrated within other discussions, for example environmental justice
- Ben Hobbs requested clarification on the scope of the MWG - Brian confirmed that we do also discuss some impacts (H2 and A5).
- Brian proposed a selection of approximately six meetings that he put forward (prioritizing additional analyses or methodology requested of State Agencies; GHG emissions reduction from fuel conversion; economic modeling for 40 by 30 and other updates; carbon markets and labor/manufacturing; healthy soils or EJ; transportation).
- Susan Payne and Christine Conn brought up that the sequestration (healthy soils/forestry) discussion will not be ready until November/December 2018 time frame. They are working with Dr. Sara Via, among others, to prepare.
 - The Draft Plan for 40 by 30 is not due until December 2018 however the Commission report is due Nov as always, and the MWG will not be able to take on a new topic in the proposed time frame.

- Mike Powell stated that all answers are not necessarily needed in order to engage in a discussion or include it in the draft plan. Tad added that more detail up front is preferable if possible.
- It was brought up that Environmental Justice might be best actively incorporated into discussions as they occur, rather than setting aside a specific meeting for the topic
 - There was general agreement that since none of the environmental advocates were at the table when this was being discussed, they should be consulted prior to finalizing a decision.
- Brian and John Fiastro suggested that, since most of these topics have already been discussed by the group, we may do better to come into the meetings with draft recommendations written, and work on refining them during the meeting

Item #3: Discussion on 2018 Schedule

- Brian went over the schedule briefly

Item #4: New Business

- It was determined that December's meeting would be a call
- No other items were brought up during this time

Item #5: Public Comment

- Larry Liebesman - Citizens' Climate Lobby: Updated that they are working on a legislative proposal, economic analysis, and compatibility with RGGI.
- David Smedick - Sierra Club: Support the concept of additional webinars as part of the Work Plan. Would like to hear from the environmental advocates. Suggested that the collaborators should highlight role by presenters; an early discussion on jobs and economic justice; and transportation early in the Draft Plan process. Requested clarification on the public process in terms of the 40 by 30 Draft Plan.
 - Brian stated that the official process will occur in 2019 after the release of the Draft, and we are not likely to have one available sooner than that. We will know enough to comment and provide updates on what will be in it.
 - Mike Powell added that this year we will try to have specific proposals that are more concrete to react to, before drafting.
 - David expressed concerns that the public is not involved early enough in the drafting process.
- David Costello - IEER: Suggested that the group review the 2015/2016 recommendations that proposed an accountability framework to be established.

In closing remarks, Ben provided a brief update on the UNFCCC conference he attended recently in Bonn.

12:00PM Meeting Adjourns