MCCC Steering Committee Meeting

October 27, 2016, 10:00 am -12:00 pm – MDE


On the Phone: Matt Fleming, Dave Nemazie, Allison Rich, Margie Brassil, Stuart Clarke

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Introductions
- This meeting is for discussion on the draft report; gathering feedback and hearing major concerns

Agenda Item #2: Review of the Draft Annual Report
- The full commission had a good conversation in the 10/21 meeting
  o Work group representatives went through all their respective recommendations, explaining and answering any concerns about them
  o Ultimately, the commission was OK with all recommendations with consensus
- The report will be 29-30 pages
- The design is straightforward; it has background history/structure, shows the law, and has an update on the climate change science in Maryland
  o Ch.3 is a science and policy update
  o Ch.4 speaks on expectations for climate impacts on the environment, the economy, and human health
  o Ch.5 puts the Work Group recommendations in paragraph form (as well as referencing the exact recommendations which are located in the appendices)
- Comment: put the specific names of commission members and possibly Work Group members at the end of their respective sections
- No questions/concerns on the state of the report and Ch.5

Agenda Item #3: Standing reports - Working Group Reports
- ARWG – having a meeting on Friday November 4, 10am – 12pm (on Public/Private Partnerships)
  o Will discuss things like local government, activities on the eastern shore, as well as working with small businesses in the future
- MWG – key issue is deciding on priorities for the coming year
  o Waiting on methane update from STWG (on the quality of methane released by various activities)
  o Had a meeting on methane; what methane is included in our state inventory
  o Must form work plans for 2017; make specific language on recommendations in work plans to be sent to the Steering Committee and full Commission for approval in 2017
  o Starting formal stakeholder process concerning fugitive emissions from in-state methane
  o Started outreach to underserved communities, like Pasadena and North Point, and plan to do more in the future
ECO WG

- Nothing to update since Friday’s meeting
- ECO has a meeting in November to work on their work plan
- Asked for guidance in direction; how much should ECO be working on methane vs other things, for example
  - Ben: You should be working on everything, but not necessarily giving everything the same amount of time
  - Other working groups will work on priorities to send them a more complete answer in the future
- Question: Are agency meetings/outreach events something ECO should be promoting (or should this stick to commission activity only)?
  - Provide information this year, afterwards ECO and the Steering Committee can decide if this is appropriate
  - There will be more discussion in future meetings
- ECO wants to make tools to bring more information to the climate change commission

Agenda #4: New Business

- Next year’s meeting plans
  - Work plans
  - Work products
  - Report writing process
- MDE will package and submit State Agency Reports
- 2018 report will be the huge one (culmination of growth year)
  - Could propose legislation
  - We can include stuff in the interim report like methane because it will be in the final plan
  - Next year (2017) we’ll have a little more detail
- November 9th meeting
  - Possible showing from extra-territorial regional agreements with RGGI
  - Include a spot for news from state agencies in the agenda
    - Work groups will get a chance to speak already
- Tentative schedule for 2017 meetings:
  - April 19th, June 21st, September 20th, November 1st (full commission meetings)
    - Probably will make a placeholder for an October meeting if we need it

Agenda #5: Final comments

- Any news from Town Creek funding? – no significant updates
  - It has been communicated with various groups and projects, they are currently talking with the review team and what to move forward in the next few weeks
  - “Some proposals aren’t as time sensitive as others”
  - We should be able to re-allocate the funds that were to be spent on an editor, since we did not hire one (probably, not definitely)
- Comment: for the 2018 big report, there’s a possibility of turnover on the commission if we get a lot of new appointees – we should consider this and make sure we have the tools to get everyone on the same page to maximize meeting efficiency
- The meeting concluded at 11:03 am.