



22 April 2015

To: Members of the Steering Committee of the Maryland Climate Change Commission  
From: Stuart Clarke  
Re: Opportunity to Access Expert Support

I am happy to let you know that at its Spring 2015 Annual Meeting, held Monday April 20, 2015, the Town Creek Foundation Board of Trustees approved a package of grants intended to create the opportunity for the Maryland Climate Change Commission to access additional outside expert resources in support of its work to develop, prepare, and deliver a report to Governor Hogan and the Maryland General Assembly in November of this year.

My purposes in this memo are to explain the Foundation's purpose in approving these grants, to provide some detail about the grants themselves, and to request a communication from the Commission describing if and how it intends to access this support.

#### The Purpose of the Grants

The Town Creek Foundation has had a longstanding interest in helping the State of Maryland to meet and exceed the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals established in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act of 2009. Given this interest, we were very enthusiastic about the expansion and reinvigoration of the Climate Change Commission, and about its being tasked with annual reports on the state of Maryland's efforts to address the causes and consequences of climate change.

Given the statutorily mandated review of the GGRA in 2016, we believe that the Commission's first report represents an especially important opportunity. We have made these grants to help insure that the Commission is able to produce a report and a set of recommendations that will be informed by state-of-the-art analysis and perspective. We are hopeful that the Commission's first Annual Report will establish a national leadership standard for state-level planning and action to address the causes and consequences of climate change.

## The Grants Themselves

The package of grants approved by the Town Creek trustees totals a little over \$350,000<sup>1</sup> in support for four pieces of work:

- research and analysis by the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions on the costs of climate impacts in Maryland, the status of Maryland's plans and strategies when compared with the plans and strategies adopted in other states, and the best methodological approaches for ongoing policy tracking and progress evaluation;
- research and analysis by the Georgetown Climate Center on emissions reductions and other environmental and economic co-benefits, and on policy options to achieve greater emissions reductions;
- writing, design, and outreach support from The Hatcher Group to insure the delivery of a report and recommendations that are clear, comprehensive, and compelling; and
- facilitation and troubleshooting support from David Costello (through the Chesapeake Climate Action Network) to insure that these resources are integrated and coordinated in an efficient and effective way to meet the Commission's needs and produce the best possible product.

## The Request

The Town Creek grant cycle that concluded with Monday's Board began last November, and was far advanced by the time that the Commission had begun to get on its feet. Under normal circumstances these grants would have been made after considerable discussion between and amongst the grantees and with the direct input of the Commission itself. Under the present circumstances we had to develop these four grants in an expedited manner.

This expedited process was informed by assumptions about the Commission's interest in additional capacity, and also by our own conversations with the prospective grantees. Prior to executing the grant awards, we will need to ground truth those assumptions and understandings, and make any necessary adjustments.

Therefore, if the Commission would like to access these resources we would ask that it convey to us – as soon as is feasible – signed MOU's between itself and each of the grantees (Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, Georgetown Climate Center,

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<sup>1</sup> In order to enable conversation about this at the April 23<sup>rd</sup> Steering Committee meeting, we are conveying this communication prior to formal communication with the grantees themselves. We will communicate the precise amount of each grant after we've had an opportunity to speak directly with each grantee.

UMCES (for the Hatcher Group), and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (for David Costello) that include:

- a brief description of the work the organization or individual is expected to perform;
- delineation of the activity that the organization is expected to undertake in order to produce that work;
- a timeline for how that work and activity is expected to proceed, along with key deliverable milestones; and
- a description of the process by which the work will be monitored and overseen.

We recognize the possibility that the Commission and the vendors may arrive at scopes of work that differ from those described above. So long as these scopes are mutually acceptable to the Commission and to the vendors, and are achievable with the funds that have been approved, they will be acceptable to the Town Creek Foundation. Our principal interest is that the work undertaken with the grant funds be overseen and governed by the Maryland Climate Change Commission as a whole, and we therefore would ask that the MOU's be formally approved by the full Commission, or by the Steering Committee as its designee.

We recognize that this will add a share of complexity to the work of the Commission, but we intend (and hope) that it will add a greater share of value.

Sincerely,

Stuart Clarke  
Executive Director