

ECO Working Group Meeting Minutes November 12, 2015

The meeting was convened at 10:30 at the Maryland Department of the Environment by the Working Group Chair, Lori Arguelles.

Attending in person: Lori Arguelles (Ferguson Foundation), Ben Grumbles (MDE Secretary and MCCC Chair), Tad Aburn (MDE Air Director), Adrienne Diaczok (MDE), Lisa Nissley (MDE), Liz Entwisle (MDE), Michele Peterson (Honeywell), Deriece Pate Bennett (MD Chamber of Commerce), Allison Rich (MEHN), Julie Oberg (MDA), Jason Schellhardt (MDA), Samantha Lozano (DHCD), Devan Willemsen (MEA), Larissa Johnson (UMCES), Dave Costello (consultant).

Attending by phone: Tiffany Hartung (MD Climate Coalition), Kristen Peterson (DNR), Samantha Kappalman (Hatcher Group).

Introduction and Letters of Appointment. Members introduced themselves. Secretary Grumbles gave out their letters of appointment.

Update on MDE and MCCC reports. Tad Aburn gave an overview of the recently released GGRA 2105 Update Report. Lori reported on the progress of the MCCC's report targeted for release in mid-December.

Public outreach meetings. Larissa Johnson reported on the summer outreach meetings ECO conducted at five locations around the state to receive public comments on where the focus should be for the GGRA update report and MCCC report. The feedback included the need for more outreach and education for children and adults. Larissa reported that five meetings are scheduled from late November to mid-December in the same five regions to receive public comment on the GGRA report and, depending on its release date, the MCCC report. MDE and DNR will staff these meetings, which will take place on the following dates/times/locations:

- Monday, November 30th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm - Parks & People Foundation, 2100 Liberty Heights Ave, Baltimore, MD 21217 (pending confirmation)
- Tuesday, December 1st from 6:00 - 8:00 pm - Rockville Library (pending confirmation)
- Thursday, December 3rd from 6:00 - 8:00 pm - Southern Pines Community Center, 20 Appeal Lane Lusby, MD 20657 (pending confirmation)
- Monday, December 14th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm - Crellin Elementary School, Oakland, MD (Confirmed)
- Thursday, December 17th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm - Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Easton, MD (Confirmed)

Lori asked for volunteers to work with Larissa to support these meetings. Secretary Grumbles noted the MCCC Steering Committee is anxious to have more engagement by the agricultural community. **The need to pull more businesses and private sector participants in was also discussed and an additional meeting for this sector was suggested. Deriece Pate Bennett and Julie volunteered to reach out to their communities.**

Media strategy for MCCC report release. Following discussion, it was decided that the concept paper developed by the MCCC's report writing committee would be used to frame a one-page press release for the MCCC to consider using in connection with the report's release. Lori asked for volunteers to join her to draft the press release with input from MDE and DNR. **Julie Oberg, Samantha Kappalman, Kristen Peterson and Adrienne Diaczok volunteered.**

Legislative briefings. Lori noted the interest on the part of the MCCC Steering Committee in having a legislative briefing on the Commission report and that Senator Pinsky and Delegate Stein would likely play a prominent role in orchestrating the briefing(s). Most likely briefings will occur in the first 2-3 weeks of the 2016 Session. Lisa Nissley will provide liaison support for ECO members and legislators.

2016 ECO Work Plan. Secretary Grumbles and Tad Aburn both stressed the need to include adaptation and resiliency in the work plan. Secretary Grumbles stated he and DNR Secretary Belton have talked about the importance of communication on this, and said all the utilities, including water, stormwater management and electric, need to be engaged in the discussion. Identifying MCCC ambassadors to liaison with State agencies was discussed. Lori asked for volunteers to draft a work plan. **Samantha Kappalman, David Costello, Larissa Johnson, Michele Peterson and Tad Aburn volunteered. Kristen Peterson may also contribute on adaptation issues.** The Chair asked that the group have a draft work plan ready on December 7 for the next ECO meeting on December 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.