

ECO Working Group Meeting Minutes April 20, 2016

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

Attending in person: Tad Aburn (MDE Air Director), Lisa Nissley (MDE), Mark Shaffer (MDE), Liz Entwisle (MDE), Allison Rich (MD Environmental Health Network), Jason Schellhardt (MDA), Sara Luell (DHCD), Larissa Johnson (UMCES).

Attending by phone: Samantha Kappalman (The Hatcher Group), Louis Campion (MD Motor Truck Association), Deriece Pate Bennett (MD Chamber of Commerce), Steve Arabia (NRG), Amy Henry (DNR), Sara Luell (DHCD), Colleen Turner (MDOT), Stuart Clark (Town Creek), Dave Costello (consultant).

Welcome and opening remarks. Lori convened the meeting and members introduced themselves.

GGRA and other updates. Tad Aburn reported on GGRA's passage, changes in the composition of the MCCC as it transitions from executive order to law, programs in the works to move the state toward its 2030 GHG reduction goal, methane leakage as a priority issue for the MCCC and MWG, and the Town Creek funding opportunity to support the work of ECO and other working groups.

Work Plan priorities.

- *Public Listening Sessions.* There was discussion about bringing methane into ECO's public listening sessions and using meetings of the MCCC, MWG and Commission on Environmental Justice as additional forums for ECO's outreach on methane, social equity, MDE's GGRA report, RGGI and other issues.
- *Communications Portal.* A small working group of volunteers was established to draft a communication plan to present at the May ECO meeting for consideration as a funding proposal. Tad volunteered MDE staff to develop a straw proposal for a web platform to support the plan.

Presentation on carbon sequestration through organic lawn care. Paul Tukey presented on his organization's work at Glenstone in Potomac, MD to educate the public through its demonstration of best practices for sequestering carbon through organic lawn care. He noted that 10% of the soil carbon sequestration opportunity in Maryland lies in lawn care and that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation is very engaged in promoting organic practices as a carbon sink potential.

Presentation by Association of Climate Change Officers. Erin Cummings presented on the Association's work which is focused on developing curricula and offering certification programs through its Climate Academies for energy, climate risk, emergency response and building asset managers in industry, businesses and the public sector. Curricula cover eight core competencies

at a “Climate 101” level and include such subjects as building risk analysis into an organization’s supply chain and other processes.

Public Comment. David Smetik from the Sierra Club spoke about a letter signed by Sierra and a number of other organizations to Secretary Grumbles and the Public Service Commission Chair calling for a public forum to allow broader participation in RGGI’s ongoing program review. He asked ECO to include RGGI in its listening sessions in the most impacted communities.

Tad said MDE will conduct Maryland’s RGGI review process with the traditional stakeholders but will work with ECO to broaden outreach to the larger community. He noted that ECO could link up with the Commission on Environmental Justice on this issue. Allison Rich, who serves on the Commission, reported that DHCD Secretary Cliff Mitchell will be releasing the climate-health report soon. There was agreement to invite Secretary Mitchell to present at an upcoming ECO meeting.

Adjournment. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:00.