

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

October 21, 2016, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm – MDE

Meeting Notes

Attendance: Allison Rich, Russ Dickerson, Dick D'Amato, Lori Arguelles, Larry Kasecamp, Ian Ullman, Charles Deegan, Deborah Prout, Colby Ferguson, Dana Stein, Michael Powell, Tad Aburn, Stu Sirota, Jason Dubow, Dorothy Morrison, Barry Powell, Mary Beth Tung, James McGarry, Allison Gost (DHMH), Catherine McCall (DNR), Rebecca Rehr (MDEHN), Dan Engelberg (NCSG), Susan Payne (MDA), Colleen Turner (MDOT), Jim Doyle, Clifford Mitchell (DHMH), Chris Hoagland (MDE), Luke Wisniewski (MDE), Jess Herpel (MDE), Erick Thunell (MDE), Carline Varney-Alvarado (DHCD), Thomas Walz (DHCD), Kate Charbonneau (CAC),
On the Phone: Councilwoman Deni Taveras

Agenda Item #1: Welcome & Introductions

Agenda Item #2: Update on the 2016 Annual Report Timeline & Outline

- An overview of the timeline was provided by Brian Hug (MDE)
 - A draft version of the Annual Report will be provided to the Steering Committee in time for the Oct 27th meeting.
- Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) expressed a concern for the timeline of report review and requested 2 weeks; proposed pushing back the meeting date for the November 9th vote on the final Annual Report
 - MDE expressed that staff will work as quickly as possible to compile and distribute a draft; reminded that this year will not be as critical as last, since it was a building year
 - Concerns were noted on rescheduling such an important meeting, since it is often difficult to find a time that works for everyone and this date had been reserved for some time now
 - As resolution, MDP will attend the Steering Committee meeting on Oct 27th

Agenda Item #3: Update on the Working Groups 2016 Annual Report Recommendations

1. Adaptation and Response Working Group – Catherine McCall, DNR
 - a. Are currently in the implementation phase, significant progress has been made
 - b. Overview of new goals:
 - i. To support local partners and highlight progress
 - ii. Focus on non-coastal impacts (e.g. Historical Ellicott City)
 - iii. Expand partnerships
 - c. Q: should the state not be actively encouraging instead of just supporting non-coastal impact areas?
 - i. A: We see a lot of the problem is a simple lack of resources. Our goal is to match resources with the needs of local groups to support and accelerate their progress
 - d. Q: are you addressing equity, and was it discussed to specifically call this out in the recommendations
 - i. A: Equity was our Q3 meeting focus; this year we focused on a number of themes we will continue to incorporate. It is a priority within individual actions and among sectors

2. Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group – Allison Rich, MD Environmental Health Network
 - a. Introduction by Lori Arguelles (Alice Ferguson Foundation)
 - b. Overview of recommendations (see ECO attachment)
 - c. Emphasized a desire for formalizing partnerships, and potentially having the working groups present to or update ECO on the work being done
 - d. Expressed environmental justice concerns
 - i. “We should learn from the town hall models”
 - e. Q&A - “we will take advantage of tree cover and traffic patterns to improve air quality, especially in urban areas”
 - i. “Let’s not forget our rural areas in addition to our cities”
3. Mitigation Working Group – Tad Aburn, MDE
 - a. First, we worked on a status report, picked priority issues
 - i. 25 by 20 is going well
 - ii. 40 by 30 looks good, however, there are more variables that cannot be fully accounted for/estimated yet
 - b. Reached consensus to look at more methane
 - i. In particular look to reach out to other nearby states like Pennsylvania to reduce natural gas emissions from fracking (NG largely consists of methane)
 - ii. In addition, we would like to work on a methane inventory, though at this time we have not decided what exactly that will include
 - c. Discussed MWG recommendations (see attachment)
 - d. Q&A - concerns were raised over the spending of state money, it was determined that Maryland Department of the Environment will prove a key steward to the funds
 - i. The Commission should make recommendations in the future on how to spend it; it is within the role of the commission to advise on how the state can meet its emission goals
4. Scientific and Technical Working Group – Dr. Russell Dickerson, University of Maryland
 - a. Our goal is to use the best science available to inform policy
 - b. Overview of recommendations (see STWG attachment)
 - c. Methane - need to keep leakage rate below 3% for smallest impact
 - i. Landfills in particular do a lot of damage,
 - ii. the delivery to D.C. has a 3-5% leakage rate
 - d. Discussed the importance of sea level rise and its impacts for Maryland
 - e. STWG seeks more accurate/reliable measurements
 - f. Q/A:
 - i. Climate change must be taken into account when planning for the Chesapeake Bay Restoration
 1. Changes in climate/water quality will make meeting the existing standards more difficult
5. General Discussion
 - a. What is the timeframe for RGGI? What’s going on?
 - i. Expect this to be the last month of negotiations; the main issue is to reach consensus on how strict it will be
 - ii. There is some uncertainty, but an agreement should be reached before the end of the 2016

- b. Infrastructure - Collaboration with transmission owners and generators was suggested regarding EV and methane, since both will require a large investment on their part.
 - i. It was noted that there have been discussions in the past, and agreed that this is a significant concern
- c. Comment - Agriculture is most vulnerable to climate change, as it affects what crops can be grown as well as yield. Farmers have difficulty adjusting prices due to the nature of the market to adjust for increased climate related costs

Agenda Item #4: Public Comment

- Cliff Mitchell (Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene) announced that:
 - DHMH just reinstated a 5-year arrangement with the CDC to profile public health, with several goals relevant to the commission, including how climate change adaptation efforts accomplish public health goals.
 - They seek to help local community efforts, giving technical support in the form of resources and knowledge
 - On Dec 9th there is a meeting at University of Maryland College Park that focuses on identifying vulnerable communities, stakeholders, and others; may build on the ECO Working Group efforts
 - DHMH just released some environmental public health tracking data
- Rebecca Ruggles announced a document to be published called *Prosperous Renewable Maryland*, which is a roadmap for a healthy, economical and equitable energy future in Maryland

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon