

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

October 29, 2015 from 2:00 am – 4:00 pm
Maryland Department of the Environment

In Attendance: Ben Grumbles; Tad Aburn; John Quinn; Stuart Clarke; Mike Powell; Paul Pinsky; Dana Stein; Lori Arguelles; Richard D'Amato; Lynn Heller; Dorothy Morrison; Mike Tidwell; Susan Payne; Sue Briggum; Robert McCord; A. Leigh Williams; Susanne Brogan; John White; Donald Boesch; Peter Zadoretzky; Brad Karbowsky

On Phone: Marc Belton; Jim Doyle; Kristen Ahearn; Caroline Varney-Alvarado

Agenda Item # 1: Welcome and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm. Secretary Grumbles opened the meeting with a discussion of the Agenda and proposed moving Agenda item #2 (Voting and Consensus Based Decision Making) to later in the meeting.

Agenda Item # 2: Voting and Consensus Based Decision Making

- Moved to end of meeting

Agenda Item # 3: Working Group Updates

Science Working Group

- Update on the science of Climate Change impacts
- Served to inform goal setting and goal trajectory
- Establish future work priorities (example: fugitive Methane leaks)

Adaptation Working Group

- Met in the summer of 2015
- Have concurrence on MDE report
- Set priorities for 2016
- Focused on increasing resources for all Marylanders and especially lower socio-economic groups
- Applying for NOAA and EPA grants
- Elevating new voices
- Conservation and resiliency master plan is developed

Mitigation Working Group

- Front-loaded to meeting schedule to allow for report-writing
- Discussed future work at most recent MWG meeting
 - Examples: Methane leakage, Fast-acting pollutants, new ideas?
- MDE report is due for release in next few days

ECO Working Group

- Monthly meetings

- Work-plan is being developed in the context of two reports
- Five (5) summer “listening sessions” were successful
- Recruited new members to ECO working group
- Next meeting 11/21 – agenda will be a focus on next “listening sessions” in November and December of 2015 – (see attachment)
- Work with MDE staff to unveil MDE report
- Focus will shift to General Assembly

Agenda Item #4: MDE Report 2015 Update

- Required by legislation
- Due for release in a few days
- Message:
 - Review of key components of 2012 plan
 - MD is on track to meet 2020 goals –“3 pillars” of GHG, jobs, and the economy
 - Update on Science

Agenda Item #5: Report Writers Working Group Update

- MCCC report due November 15, 2015 – may meet deadline? May not.
- “Concept Paper” created and reviewed extensively
- Worked very hard to find a consensus
- Review of “summer process” - solicit input and create list of priorities
- Review of “fall process”- create concept paper with key points of MCCC report to provide direction moving forward
- Concept Paper Highlights
 - How to interpret and articulate progress to date (reductions and market forces)
 - Upstream Methane emissions
 - Setting future GHG reduction goals (post-2020)
 - 2016 Working Plan
- Need MDE report ASAP to make comments
- Timeline too tight to get significant public input before November 15
- Report writing team will draft and present to Working Groups
- Steering Committee will approve with full Commission via email
- Consensus will be the goal moving forward
- In 2016 the Steering Committee and Working Groups will ensure that full MCCC is efficiently inclusive

Key Issue: post 2020 GHG reduction goal

- Steering Committee was divided on future goal
- Non-profits and Business reached a consensus as outlined in Concept Paper (see attached)
- Commissioners should support goal when it appears as legislative action
- “Look-back” and exemptions will be consistent with 2009 language
- Public input was considered
- Secretary Grumbles proposed a vote on approving language in Concept Paper
 - Unanimous vote in favor of future goal language as it appears in Concept Paper

Agenda Item # 2 - Voting and Consensus Based Decision Making

- Proposal: Discuss voting and consensus based decision making issue at a later meeting
- MCCC will establish by-laws and take up the discussion at that time
- 2/3 majority vs. majority will be included
- MCCC agreed to postpone discussion

Comments received from the following individual:

Rebecca Ruggles (MD Environmental Health Network) – commend MCCC on work

Michael Giangrandi (RH Michaels) Co.) – Energy Efficiency and Jobs

Sara Via (UMD) – cost of inaction is higher than mitigation

Betsy Singer (League of Women Voters) - commend MCCC on work

Regina Minnis (Public) – Methane issue is important

Owen Dubois (JHU) – Criteria pollutants and Public Health. EJ issues need to be addressed

Arjun - Energy Efficiency is a good investment and should be accessible by all Marylanders

Will help create jobs and will decrease MD's dependency on imported electricity

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 by Secretary Grumbles

Key points and Action Items:

- Report writing will continue
- Thank you to all MCCC members
- Thanks to all State Agencies who participated
- Thanks to all for finding consensus