

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

July 16, 2015 from 10 am. - 12 p.m.

Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore, MD 21230 – Aqua Conference Room

In Attendance: Secretary Grumbles - MDE; Stuart Clarke - Town Creek Foundation; Mike Powell – Private Sector Representative; Tad Aburn – MDE; Anna Schoolman – MD Sun/CPN; Megan Toomey – Talen Energy/Raven Power; Kevin Lucas - Maryland Energy Administration; Marissa Gillett – MD PSC; Mike Remsberg – Trinity; Anne Linder – Exelon; Jana Davis – Chesapeake Bay Trust; Justin Hynicka – DNR; Lynn Heller – Abell Foundation; Sara Tomlinson – Baltimore Metro Council; Todd Lang - Baltimore Metro Council; David Jackson – Consultant for MDOT; Colleen Turner – Consultant for MDOT; Tom Ballentine – NAIOP; James McGarry – UMCES; Arjun Makhijani - Institute for Energy and Environmental Research; Betsy Atkinson for Rebecca Ruggles – MD EHN; Les Knapp – MACO; Fred Ducca – U of MD; Susan Payne – MDA; David Costello – UMCES; Melanie Santiago-Mosier – Sun Edison; Ian Ullman – Senator Pinsky

I. Introduction

Meeting was called to order at 10:08 pm by Mike Powell who reminded the attendees that the meetings are a good opportunity to submit proposals for new ideas and strategies. Tad Aburn invited each attendee to introduce themselves. Tad asked anyone attending the meeting if they had any comments to add. No comments or proposals were offered.

II. Old Business

Tad opened the discussion with a review of MDE programs and asked if all Commissioners understood the concepts of each MDE program review. A discussion ensued about accounting for RGGI reductions and how overlap was considered.

III. Introduction to MDE Straw Man Post-2020 Goal Setting

Tad presented PowerPoint slides on current progress, next steps and the critical decisions during the 2016 General Assembly Session. For details of the presentation, please see attached.

Four basic questions were raised:

- How are we doing with achieving the GGRA goals for 2020?
- What might we want to do to improve the 2020 effort?
- Where do we want to go beyond 2020?
- What else have we learned over the past 10 years?

Four key areas where it may be good to massage our current process a bit:

- Drive the Plan more, much more, by economic development and jobs
- Consider an initiative to look at “faster acting” GHGs
- Push “Green Financing on Steroids”
- Regional Approaches and Partnerships

Question: What happens to the GHG reduction programs if the GGRA sunsets in 2016?

The requirement for a State Plan disappears but the language in the Act allows for certain programs to continue. Language in the GGRA will require interpretation. MCCC would drive for a GHG Plan if law were to sunset.

Green Financing discussion was initiated and was referred to as the “silver bullet”. Initial capital cost is a limiter for long-term savings and the financial and insurance world are evolving.

Question: How would the language in a new plan build on the language in GGRA? Certain things should remain that same (ex Manufacturing Sector). Need to build on success of the past. Also need to consider CO2 sequestration and sinks.

MDE can provide analysis for future goals (40% by 2030 from 2006 baseline) but cannot provide a Plan as was completed in 2012. Need MCCC support.

Question: Can MDE compare “straw man” to other states? See attached for MDE analysis sent to Commissioners on 7/16/15 by Luke Wisniewski.

Question: How can DBED be integrated? Good idea. Needs further discussion.

Question: How can the Commission analyze how a regional approach to GHG reduction can benefit MD economically when transported emissions decrease and health and economic benefits are seen in MD?

We are making headway with other states that previously were uncooperative.

Economic impact and development needs to be integrated into MCCC plans (ex. SunShot study indicates that \$1/watt of solar electricity will be met before 2020). This will impact several things that the MCCC is charged with such as (energy equity, Weatherization, RPS, jobs, etc). EE and RE need to be part of an “economic development plan”. This brings in several of Tad’s key points (ex. Green Financing, regional cooperation, etc)

Different goal timelines require a different approach/strategy to program reduction and design. As reductions get built into a plan, each additional ton gets more expensive.

MCCC is tasked with making a long-term Plan. A Long-term approach had to differ from short-term approach.

Incremental gains from current programs won’t get us to future (2050) goals. Need a different strategy. (ex. 100% de-carbonizing of Power sector). Magnitude is different than 2030 goal setting strategy

Wrap-up questions:

- What short-term and long-term GHG reduction goal makes sense?
- We need an analysis of the trajectory of current set of programs in different implementation scenarios (under-perform, meet goal, over-perform) out to 2030 and beyond.
- Did we have unrealistic goals in 2009?
- Enhance current programs or design new ones?
- Sustainability Plan vs. GHG Plan? Where and how do economic benefits fit in?
- How is the plan going to include low income impacts (energy equity)?
- How to address community resilience? Preparedness will unify people.

- Sustainable prosperity will be an opportunity to bring DBED to the team
- Should we consider economic goals along with GHG reduction goal?
- Should MCCC focus on Adaptation and wait to set GHG goal?
- If MD wants to meet future goals, we need to figure out how to get the current GGRA programs to perform as designed
- Will environmental community want GHG reduction goals? How stringent?
- Does MCCC need more time to study current GGRA programs?
- How would the business community respond to various goal setting scenarios?
- How can we convince General Assembly to consider new goals?
- Political calculations need to be considered
- How can future Plan incorporate more DNR forestry programs?

Marissa Gillette (MD PSC) provided update on the utilities and their EmPOWER plans moving forward past 2017. Our electricity utilities will have equivalent energy efficiency requirements as the most progressive states. The PSC EmPOWER order was emailed to Commissioners 7/16/15 by Kevin Lucas.

Commissioners were reminded to attend Public Meetings and were asked to ensure that equal representation is maintained. Need balanced feedback.

VI. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm.