

# Maryland Commission on Climate Change Meeting - Notes

April 18, 2016 from 12:30 am – 2:30 pm  
Maryland Department of the Environment

## **Commissioners in Attendance:**

Ben Grumbles - Chair of Commission and Secretary of Environment;  
Stuart Clarke - Town Creek Foundation;  
Mike Powell – Private Sector Representative;  
John Quinn - Director of State Affairs, BGE;  
Tad Aburn – Maryland Department of the Environment;  
Leigh Williams - Maryland Energy Administration;  
Donald Boesch - University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES);  
Lori Arguelles - Alice Ferguson Foundation;  
Mike Tidwell - Chesapeake Climate Action Network;  
Lynn Heller - Abell Foundation;  
Sue Briggum - Vice President, Waste Management, Inc;  
Susan Payne - Department of Agriculture;  
Peter Zadoretzky - Sustainability Manager, The Bozzuto Group;  
Jason Dubow - Department of Planning;  
Dana Stein – Maryland General Assembly;  
Matt Fleming - Department of Natural Resources;  
Colby Ferguson - Farm Bureau;  
Ian Ullman for Senator Pinsky - Maryland General Assembly;  
Mark Belton - Department of Natural Resources;  
R. Earl Lewis - Department Transportation;  
Chuck Fry - Maryland Farm Bureau;

## **On Phone:**

Nancy K. Kopp - Maryland State Treasurer;  
C. Richard D'Amato - Attorney;  
Paul Pinsky - Maryland General Assembly;  
Gail Bennett;  
Tom Walls - Department Housing Community Development;  
Samantha Kappelman - Hatcher Group

## **In Attendance:**

James Ley, Brian Ambrette, Lisa Nissley, Jim Doyle, Catherine McCall, Phillip Stafford, Rebecca Ruggles, Liz AEntwisle, David Costello, Megan Ulrich, Scott Zacharko, Chris Hoagland, Chris Beck

## **I. Introduction**

Meeting was called to order at 12:30. Secretary Grumbles invited each attendee to introduce themselves.

No Questions or Agenda updates were offered.

## **II. Update on the Legislation (SB 232/HM610)**

- Thanks to Governor Hogan, Senator Pinsky, and the General Assembly
- RPS Bill also a big step forward

- Unanimous MCCC vote on GGRA was helpful in moving Bill

### **III. Update on transition to Revised Commission Membership**

- We have Legislation to codify Commission and outline requirements
- June 01, 2016 will call for Commissioner transitions
- No wholesale changes
- Additional Commissioners will be added (appointees)

### **IV. Working Group Updates**

#### **A. Science and Technical Working Group**

Donald Boesch from UMCES presented the status of the STWG. See attached work plan. Points are as follows:

- STWG will review any new reports that MCCC deems important
- STWG will make recommendations to MCCC in the coming months
- Need to focus more on local government strategies
- Update on Coast Guard legislation – Don will share with MCCC
- Methane is still a huge issue that needs immediate attention
- Need to identify all sources of Methane leakage or GHG mitigation will be cancelled out
- Important that STWG is updating ECOS on key issues
- STWG to provide map of MD with sea level rise impacts? – Yes
- Sea-level rise impact analysis conducted w/ various scenarios? - Yes

#### **B. Adaptation and Response Working Group (ARWG)**

Matt Fleming presented the status of the ARWG. See attached work plan. Points are as follows:

- ARWG to meet quarterly in 2016
- Focused on reviewing progress and new initiatives included in MCCC legislation
- Prioritize serving vulnerable communities, and determining economic impact
- Develop 2-year performance targets
- ARWG to provide language to deal with alarmist language
- Perhaps MCCC should have local government represented?
- Local government in Maryland is quite diverse

#### **C. Mitigation Working Group (MWG)**

Tad discussed the progress of the Mitigation Work Group. Work Plan attached. Points are as follows:

- Mike Tidwell to replace Stuart Clarke as co-chair of MWG
- Balanced group
- 40% by 2030 – we have some time
- Joint meeting with STWG scheduled for July
- Overly ambitious schedule? – maybe
- MDE not taking the primary speaking role at meetings – inviting panelists

- Commissioners invited to all MWG meetings

#### **D. Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group (ECO)**

Lori Arguelles presented status of the ECO. Work plan attached. Points are as follows:

- ECO meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month
- Need MCCC feedback on listening sessions
- Need more public input in 2016
- Need more diversity in targeting groups for listening sessions
- What is the communications platform that ECO uses to communicate with Working groups? - ECO is staffed differently than other WGs – answer is not clear.
- Reminder: Law requires that the MCCC communicate with public in a particular way
- MDE updating website
- From Samantha @ Hatcher: Report giving MD a B+ on GHG mitigation – will fwd to MCCC

#### **V. Proposal for Working Group Funding**

Stuart Clarke referred to Handout in packet.

- Presented funding from Town Creek as an opportunity to access outside expert support
- Stuart provided details on partnership with UMCES to review proposals
- Steering Committee to review findings from UMCES review
- Instead of calling this a proposal, perhaps it should be called opportunity?
- MDE checked legality of the opportunity and it was deemed legal
- Stuart stepping down as co-chair of MWG due to conflict of interest
- MCCC will be briefed by Steering Committee and all commissioners will be canvassed for feedback
- Consensus always the goal – approved by informal vote

#### **VI. Update on By-laws**

MCCC to review attached by-law document

- Not voting on by-laws
- Email Lisa with comments
- June agenda item: inaugural by-laws

#### **VII. MDE presentation on Opportunities for 2030**

Tad presented slides. See attached.

- Hydrogen Vehicles included in transportation programs? – yes
- Failed Bill to re-class poultry trucks would provide benefits
- CPP stay will be key – imported electricity will impact Maryland's progress
- Methane needs to be a top priority – Can STWG brief MCCC asap?
- **Proposal: move Methane discussion to June Agenda**
- In order to discuss Methane, we'll need to include all sectors (waste, petroleum, advocacy, etc)

## **VIII. Public Comment**

From Rebecca Ruggles: Maryland needs to issue Fracking regs in 2016. In proposed legislation, there was no analysis of Climate Impact. This needs to be addressed.

## **IX. Relevant Events/Wrap Up**

- Earth Week
- May 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Climate Action Meeting in Baltimore
- Panel to address Smart Growth issues on May 4<sup>th</sup>
- Are attached Work Plans approved? – Yes
- RPS Bill is a big step forward – but Methane issue trumps any progress
- Revise language when discussing economic issues and GHG emissions as in "alignment" rather than balanced (or tradeoffs)

Meeting was adjourned at 2:34 pm.