

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2015 from 12:00 am – 1:30 pm

Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore, MD 21230 – Test Room

In Attendance: Secretary Grumbles, MDE; Tad Aburn, MDE; Mike Powell, Private Sector Representative; Brian Hug, MDE; Lori Arguelles - Alice Ferguson Foundation; Jim Doyle; David Costello; Lisa Nissley, MDE

On Phone: Stuart Clarke, Town Creek Foundation; Zoe Johnson, DNR; Dave Nemazie, UMCES; Brain Ambrette for Amy Owsley, ESLC

I. Introduction

Meeting was called to order at 12:12 by Tad Aburn. He opened the meeting by proposing that future steering committee meeting be held over conference call. He then asked if anyone had any questions, additions, amendments to add to the agenda. No comments were offered.

II. Working Group Reports

Mitigation Working Group (MWG)

- Three meetings were held last month
- Updates from lead agencies (MDE, MEA, DNR, and MDOT) about GGRA programs
- Sub-group meetings are being set-up to provide more detail. Focused specifically on subject areas per agency. Meeting dates are as follows:
 - MEA – date pending
 - MDOT – 6/19
 - MDE – date pending
- Need to transition conversation from GGRA progress report to other issues (i.e 2020 and beyond)
- Need to address structure and content of both reports (bottom-up review)
- MWG roster is complete (including MML)

Science Working Group (SWG)

- Dave Nemazie (UMCES) spoke on behalf of Don Bosche
- SWG is progressing (albeit slowly)
- 10 working group members confirmed
- Held a planning call 6/10 with MWG
- Meeting scheduled for 6/24 to review tasks in Executive Order
- SWG will form sub-group to develop emission trajectory assessment
- SWG needs to ensure that they have balanced representation – consensus driven – may need to defend roster
- SWG has a longer-term view. The working group will move ahead in the short-term with the (best) data available

Adaptation Working Group (AWG)

- Held one meeting. Slow start, but progress is happening
- Starting to compile existing adaptation data
- Setting short-term, mid-range, and long-term adaptation priorities
- Might need more staff (DNR) and more funding

- Need to dovetail tasks in EO with tasks in Statute
- AWG is currently limited because of the DNR grant-writing time-line (soon to be finished)
- Tad's conversation with Don Bosche: There is interest in linking MWG and AWG to the cost of inaction => according to Don, this is difficult without new data
- Zoe has hired a research fellow to conduct literature search of any economic cost studies related to adaptation
- MCCC needs to explore financing for climate change related mitigation and adaptation
- Not much data available on the cost of adaptation => mostly related to inaction
- Perhaps AWG should reach out to C2ES or GCC about cost of inaction related work
- Most cost of inaction work (studies/data) is international.
- Local costs are difficult to quantify
- Best approach for MD is to lead by example
- DNR's current tasks related to but not under the umbrella of the MCCC:
 - Co-Smart Council: finalized on 6/30/2105
 - Climate Change Management Strategies for Chesapeake Bay
 - Community Visiting Smith Island – vulnerability issues
- Plenty of cross-over and over-lap but not directly required by the MCCC
- Once these projects wrap-up (soon), DNR will have more time to dedicate to AWG
- Secretary Grumbles: These might not fall under MCCC umbrella but they are very important. Adaptation issues in the public and private sectors need more focus
- The NOAA grant that DNR is working on will provide important information that will support the MCCC work

Outreach Working Group (ECO)

- Understanding the scope of the outreach is still a challenge for ECO
- Six dates confirmed for the public meetings – “listening sessions”
- “Silent Majority” at meetings is a concern – need balanced representation
- The public meetings have the potential to stimulate public to “own” some of the CC issues
- MCCC needs to use public feedback to steer their direction
- Stuart: really need to leverage the influence of the Commission members to get diverse and balance representation at the public meetings
- Tad: equal time needs to be reserved for GHG issues and economic issues related to GHG

III. Outside Resources

- Based on timeline, outside resources will be on the agenda at all future meetings
- Good opportunity to discuss structure/content of the reports
- August draft needs to include deliverables from outside resources
- Two handouts: Stuart's concept paper and the proposed color-coded TOC
- Steering Committee is tasked with refining the draft TOC
- Stuart's concept about reports: how can the MCCC report compliment the GGRA report?
- Deeper engagement in MCCC report
 - Identify recommendations in GGRA that MCCC agrees with
 - Layout future agenda (2016) in MCCC
 - Be prepared to present findings and offer recommendations to General Assembly
- MCCC has an on-going responsibility (beyond 2016 report)
- Executive Order requires many things – some need to be viewed long-term
- Lori: Perhaps Chapter 6 of the MCCC report can be removed?

- Steering Committee needs to evaluate Stuart's recommendations and compare to Executive Order
- Perhaps this discussion can occur at 6/29 MCCC meeting?
- Hatcher Group role: MCCC will write the report – not the Hatcher Group. Important nuance.
- Important to ensure that the MCCC report is unbiased so it can be sold to the business community

IV. Agenda for next MCCC meeting

- Unstructured (as of 6/11)
- Previous MCCC meetings included mostly administrative tasks
- Chairs need to be involved in the development of the next MCCC meeting
- Proposed Agenda
 - Short update on Working Groups
 - Short update on Outside Resources
 - MCCC involvement in report writing
 - Post 2020 goal-setting
- Timing of the Working Group reports may present a problem for MCCC 2020 goal-setting
- Perhaps the SC should review the WG reports and then share with MCCC
- Without WG reports, there isn't much for the MCCC to make decisions about at 6/29 meeting
- Should 6/29 MCCC meeting be a conference call?
- Additional items for 6/29 MCCC meeting
 - Outreach issue (diverse representation)
 - How to time/organize working group updates and reports
 - WG reports need to inform 2020 goal setting
 - MCCC role in the report writing
 - End-game for MCCC
- Need to engage MCCC earlier in meeting.
- WG updates need to be concise
- SC needs to advise MDE about meeting schedule/agenda/format
- If MCCC meeting frequency slows, it will only pick back up when WG data/reports come in
- MCCC needs to know their role and needs WG data/reports to make decisions about direction
- MCCC meetings depend on what their role is – Role will determine meeting frequency
- Future MCCC meetings need to include progress updates from Outside Resources
- MCCC meetings are important for voting and answering directional questions
- SC needs an update of WG progress via email to keep MCCC involved

VI. Adjourn

No additional questions or comments. Meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm