

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Steering Committee Meeting – Notes

April 28, 2016 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

In attendance: Tad Aburn, Lori Arguelles, Don Boesch, Susan Payne, Matt Fleming, Megan, Lisa, and Chris B. from MDE

On the phone: Stuart Clarke, Mike Powell, Lynn Heller, Richard D’Amato, Jim Doyle, Chris Hoagland, Susan Brogan, Tom Walz

1. Welcome and Introductions

Reminder: MCCC roster be shuffled a bit to comply with law (no major changes)

2. Old Business

Update on Membership

- Lisa provided update on roster: currently mostly just coordination happening
 - MACCO, MLL, and Critical Areas to have official spot on roster
 - Coordinating with Senate/House for nominee(s)
 - Somewhat less flexible structure under new law
 - Additions: 2 philanthropic, 2 labor
 - No “at large” members
- Don B. to provide a few names of experts on public health and climate change, respectively

Update on By-Laws

- Lisa has received comments on individual sections, and 2/3 voting issues
- Proposal: assemble small group to discuss by-laws and make recommendations to Steering Committee by 5/26/16
- Current roster of “small group”: Sue Bringham, Susan Brogan, Dick D’Amato, Tad

Update on Town Creek Funding

- Stuart: Updates will come from Dave Nemazie, UMCES, in the future
- RFP document completed by 3rd week of May
- Receive proposals 3 weeks later
- Review proposals by mid-June
- Responses by full MCCC in June
- Disperse funds in July
- Need to have an end-date (deadline) for proposals – no rolling submission period
- UMCES will administer under firm deadline
- MCCC Website being considered for funding

3. Standing Reports

Working Committee Reports

- Education, Communication, and Outreach Working Group

- Need a better communication platform
 - Climate Change Website – (existing or new)
 - Outreach and public listening sessions not well timed in 2015
 - Need feedback from SC on topics for outreach and public listening sessions
 - What is the end-game for 2016 MCCC report?
 - Website is a potential place for the Town Creek funds
 - Need to determine what the goals are for website
 - Public info (resource for stakeholders)
 - Internal business (resource for MCCC)
 - Both?
 - Does MDE have the resources to both internal communication and outreach as required by the law? - No
 - MCCC has more flexibility as an independent group compared to MDE relative to content on website
 - 40% by 2030 should remain the guiding principle
 - Need to educate the public about goals
 - MCCC Report
 - When will public input be most useful?
 - When to schedule listening sessions?
 - What does report construct look like? – need to know ASAP
 - Proposal: Listening sessions be poster-sessions with a variety of content and outreach happens in small groups at session
 - Proposal: an ECO group co-chair be appointed to assist Lori
 - Key to MCCC continued success is the partner with the legislative branch - General Assembly reps during outreach
 - MCCC briefings to General Assembly were necessary and useful. Session does consume time, but that won't change
- Scientific and Technical Working Group
 - Organizing talent to help ECO communicate complex issues
 - Doing the work on climate impact assessments
 - Sea level rise
 - CC and Bay restoration (mid-point assessment of TMDLs)
 - Methane
 - Petroleum industry need to be involved – need balance
 - Proposal to move fwd on MCCC Agenda – need to review
 - Don will brief MWG if Methane moved fwd – MDE follow-up
- Adaptation and Response Working Group
 - See approved work-plan
 - June meeting scheduled
 - Economy and impacts analysis on agenda
 - Presentation from SHA on CC and infrastructure resilience
 - Presentation from NOAA – storm impacts
 - Developing 2-yr performance metrics
- Mitigation Working Group
 - Last meeting focused on Environmental Justice (EJ) and Equity
 - Enhancing tools internally (MDE)
 - Multi-pollutant analysis

- Economic impacts
- Building social justice and EJ into analysis of all programs
- 3-year economic look-back with real data
- MDE scheduling update from panelists at last meeting
- Reminder: all MCCC members invited to participate in MWG meetings
- MWG trying to find time to discuss presentations at meetings
- Priorities: EJ issues and Methane

4. New Business and Summary

- 6/20 MCCC meeting agenda – Steering Committee to set/discuss on 5/26
 - Membership
 - By-laws
 - Update from Working Groups
 - Methane
 - Economic/Social Justice Issues
- Proposal: EJ to be discussed before Methane
- Proposal: add 2016 MCCC Report structure and content
- Methane discussion should occur in MWG before MCCC
- Need to keep Adaptation and Resilience issues on agenda
- Proposal: a sub-committee from Steering Committee to frame discussion of 2016 MCCC report
- Proposal: MDE + DNR draft outline of MCCC report and share with Steering Committee
- Sequestration and the Bay issues need to be added to MWG work plan
- Proposal: another SC call or SC meeting prior to 5/26 to discuss MCCC report

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45am