

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Executive Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2015 from 10:00am – 12 pm

Maryland Department of the Environment- Testing Room

Commission website: <http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Marylander/Pages/mccc.aspx>

In Attendance: Ben Grumbles - Chair of Commission and Secretary of Environment,
George (Tad) Aburn-Maryland Department of the Environment
Stuart Clarke - Town Creek Foundation;
Mike Powell – Business Sector Representative;
John Quinn - Director of State Affairs, BGE;
C. Richard D’Amato; Attorney;
Lori Arguelles - Alice Ferguson Foundation (call-in);
David Costello (call-in);
Amy Owsley - Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (call-in);
Mark Belton - Acting Secretary Natural Resources (call-in);
Lynn Heller - Abell Foundation;

Absent:

Zoe Johnson- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Larissa Johnson- University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)
Donald Boesch- University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)

I. Introduction

Meeting was called to order at 10:08 am by Tad Aburn. Around the room introductions were initiated by Tad Aburn. Tad followed-up with opening the floor for quick work group updates.

Before updates began, Stuart Clarke wanted to look back at the venue for the Commission meeting held at the Baltimore aquarium on May 26th. Secretary Grumbles appreciated the great space and spoke to who we should partner with next for venue space, Brain (MDE) commented on the great space of the aquarium and the view, while Mark projected that there was no call in number for those participants who could not physically make it to the location. John Quinn spoke to the fact that the Commission meeting had been rescheduled from its initial date and the aquarium had less time to prepare; in the future if we decide to utilize the venue again, if we give them ample notice maybe a call in number can be provided to those who cannot physically attend.

II. Working Group Updates

A. Mitigation Working Group (MWG)

Brian Hug discussed the progress of the MWG. Points are as follows:

- Table of Contents for Commission Report: MWG will be working through this throughout the next couple of weeks

- Tad spoke to the integration of working groups. Possibly having working group members participate in other working group sessions.

B. Adaptation Working Group (AWG)

Richard D'Amato, attorney presented the status of the AWG. Points as follows:

- The AWG is looking at over 100 Actions in adaptation as they relate to the executive order.
- In search of more participants/another organization to look over Towson's work
- Teaming up with Science workgroup for combined efforts for adaptation
- Expand the economics
- Tad spoke on bringing the MWG and AWG together and spending a lot of time on economics and what we currently know about the cost of inactions
- Mike Powell stated that spending too much time on certain issues can limit consensus of the commission and implementation of future efforts and recommendations

C. Science Working Group (SWG)

No updates were provided/ No formal meeting has occurred

D. Communication Working Group (ECO)

Lori Arguelles presented status of the SWG. Points are as follows:

- ECO is ready to assist
- Further evolution of outreach is occurring and gaining a public connection
- Goal is to receive quality input and provide quality output
- Stuart Clarke stated his expectations of the commissioner's participation in outreach efforts. At least 1 commission member should be present at each outreach meeting
- Tad emphasized the push for economic/job aspect (positive impacts), the future of our economy and blending the old together with the future and how it relates to climate change
- Tad also suggested that the MWG and ECO meet up to discuss economics and job growth
- John Quinn offered his assistance with outreach and offered up his contacts with the chamber
- Brian Hug stated that there would not be a draft ready in July; the presentations for the outreach meetings would be built from data from 2012. It will be a presentation that walks the public through what the state and working on and projections for the future
- All working groups meet on where to go next?
- Secretary Grumbles will contact Chuck Fry from the Farm Bureau for Agricultural involvement
- Economics is a great way to bring in new supporters and partners

III. Update on Outside Resources

- Tad is scheduling a meeting to map out how to integrate resources and blend them together
- Draft report by August
- Next piece of work to take to the commission will be the format, chapter outline, and draft
- Stuart Clarke stated: How all of these resources are intergraded will help us with the where do we go from here issues

IV. Follow up Items from 5/26 Commission meeting/Developing Agenda

- 2 vacancies remain open on commission
- Chairs need to pick out dates for sub-group meetings
- Future commission meetings only have months, but no dates/times
- Earlier dates are locked in, the more turn out we can expect
- There needs to be another Steering Committee meeting prior to the upcoming June commission meeting (Steering committee needs to meet in 2 weeks)

V. Decision Making Process for Commission Report

- Question: How are decisions going to made?
- A process needs to be formulated
- How do we handle dissenting/opposing views?
- Secretary Grumbles stated that the Steering committee should draft a layout process and make a decision on the process

VI. Wrap-up

- Include the draft layout process as an Action item in the next Steering committee meeting
- Steering committee will meet in two weeks
- Tad/Brian will work on draft language for report
- Secretary Grumbles will contact DGS Secretary in reference to commission vacancy
- Any help with meeting venues, feel free to contact Stuart Clarke

VII. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am