

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2015 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore, MD 21230 - MDE Stat Room

Please note there is now a Commission website:

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

In Attendance: Ben Grumbles – MDE; Stuart Clarke - Town Creek Foundation; Mike Powell – Gordon Feinblatt, LLC; Lynn Heller - Abell Foundation; Lori Arguelles – Alice Ferguson Foundation; Amy Owsley- Eastern Shore Land Conservancy; Dick D’Amato – Attorney; Larissa Johnson – UMCES/MDE; Dave Nemazie – UMCES; John Quinn – BGE; Zoe Johnson – DNR, Mark Belton – DNR; Tad Aburn – MDE; Mike Tidwell – CCAN via phone

I. Introductions/Goals for Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 am. MDE Secretary and Commission Chair Ben Grumbles opened the meeting, invited each person in the room to identify themselves and the organization they were representing. He then asked if anyone had any questions, additions, amendments to add to the agenda.

II. Overview of Commission Law

MDE Air & Radiation Management Director discussed the document entitled “Comparing the Maryland Climate Commission Act (MCCA) of 2015 to Executive Order 01.01.2014.14” (handout). The new law takes the current tasks of the EO and adds 4 additional tasks to the law but otherwise it is a blend of both the EO and the Law. He specifically highlighted:

- Timing – The new law takes effect July 1, 2016 but the Commission can transition sooner
- Membership – The law mentions 26 members instead of 25 and has very specific membership requirements such as MACO, MML, Public Health, and Philanthropic Members.
- Administrative – The addition of the Education Communication Outreach Working group is a state mandate and
- MDE is charged with completing $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Commission reports. Tasks to highlight from the MDE standpoint :
 - 3rd bullet under EO “The impacts on the state economy, revenue, and investment decision” – MDE is going to need assistance in including that data in the report
 - 6th bullet under EO “Develop annual performance benchmarks” – MDE is going to need participation from all state agencies that have programs under the GGRA, Sec. Grumbles has sent a letter to all of the Secretaries asking for their participation.
 - 7th bullet under EO “Develop a comprehensive action plan with five year benchmarks to meet a 80% by 2050 goal” – MDE will need help thinking this through, also the law doesn’t mention the specific goal of 80%. There is time to determine, through scientific research and data, what the correct number should be moving forward should it be

70/75% ? We will have to figure this out.

- **COMMENT:** The EO 8th bullet, “All agencies to integrate climate change in their planning, regulatory, and fiscal program,” is a misrepresentation of what the law EO order mentioned. This is discussing the regulatory component and should really read “All agencies are asked to review and make recommendations to the Commission on how to integrate climate change in their planning, regulatory and fiscal program.” All state agencies have a mitigation/adaptation person who should be the lead on this topic.
- **COMMENT:** Last bullet of the MCCA of 2015 should read “UMCES to establish science based sea level rise projections and update them every five years to include maps showing areas of greatest impacts.” Since UMCES just completed a Sea Level Panel in 2013, the next update is scheduled for 2018.
- **COMMENT:** Most of the new tasks are focused on analysis – some parts require developing broader public/private partnerships, how is that happening from MDE?
 - **DISCUSSION:** MDE has partnerships with universities and local governments, many of whom are outpacing the state’s efforts. We will continue to foster those relationships. We also need to start thinking about federal partnerships since there is a huge contingency in Maryland and they should be participating in the state lead efforts.
- **COMMENT:** DNR is to issues MEPA guidelines, where are they?
 - **DISCUSSION:** DNR has hired a climate resiliency fellow and they are using the Federal NEPA requirements. **Is there a timeline for this effort?** Not mandated through the EO or by law. It is important to note, MEPA’s requirements are narrower than that of the federal government and may have little effect regarding the obligations of state agencies to take environmental considerations into account in decision-making and policy writing.
- **COMMENT:** How can MCCC be most helpful in moving forward with state agencies and the administration? MDE and DNR are on board but how does this Commission ensure that it is being helpful and that it is supporting the state in the best way possible?
 - **DISCUSSION:** It is still early in the new administrations term and the budget and the Chesapeake Bay are the hot topics for cabinets. The state needs time to transition and climate change spans many departments so there are many opportunities to chat with the cabinets already in existence. There may be thematic focuses for this meeting that the Commission could help shape. In addition to the Bay Cabinet, there is a “Kids Cabinet” and the “Smart Growth” sub cabinets that could potentially be places where climate change can be infused.
 - **NOTE:** Smart Growth Sub Cabinet meeting scheduled for May 13th to discuss scope of the cabinet, roles and responsibilities under the new administration – contact [Zoe](#) for more information.
 - Secretary Grumbles has sent out letters to all of the other agency Secretaries inviting them and urging them to participate in the Climate Change Commission

and the Mitigation Working Group is going to different agencies to hold their working group meetings as a way to garner interest and support from the other agencies.

III. Commission Membership

The Steering Committee accepted the recommendation from the previously assigned liaisons to the Mitigation Working Group to make Stuart Clarke and Mike Powell the new liaison/co-chairs of that workgroup – all Members agreed to bring it to the Commission at large.

- **COMMENT:** Why is there a Steering Committee of the Mitigation Working Group?
 - **DISCUSSION:** Creates a best practices structure for moving forward more quickly and to keep order and organization since this group is tasked with completing the reports expeditiously.

In order to add Mike Powell as a liaison to the Mitigation Working Group, all Members agreed that Mike should be added to the full commission to fill one of the “at large” vacancies.

Another vacancy that is missing from the Commission is the Senate representative. MDE will take the lead in reaching out to Senate President Miller to determine who should participate in the Commission.

IV. Workgroup Updates

Mitigation Working Group (MWG) Updates

- 30 letters went out to the members of the WG for participation in the group.
- Technical experts are not official members of the WG but have been invited to participate in the reports on an as needed basis, they are invited to attend all meetings
- Meeting and Production Schedule (handout) – there is no flexibility in the report schedule, tight deadline since it is needed before the 2016 Legislative Session. MDE needs assistance with the state of the science section and the cost of inaction report. They also need to open it up for public comments.

Adaptation & Response Working Group (ARWG) Updates

- There are currently 35 state agency representatives attending meetings so they are working to balance that out and add more private/public partners. John Quinn mentioned that he would send out the invitation to business partners, especially Chamber of Commerce.

Education Communication and Outreach (ECO) Working Group Updates

- There is an excited group looking forward to the outreach component of the Commission, the two reports should be complimentary so they will build off each other.
- **COMMENT:** Under the MWG timeline (handout) there is a September 1, 2015 deadline of comments due on all draft reports – does this include public comments that the ECO group can help facilitate? YES

- **COMMENT:** Near term priorities and while contributions to the October report are happening is there an opportunity for the working groups needs to be heard? Is there a structure?
 - **DISCUSSION:** It was mentioned that the Steering Committee meetings would be the place for that and that Co-chairs are not empowered to ensure that everything runs on time.
- **COMMENT:** There was cause for concern that in the current process, we may be missing the beyond 2020 outlook that needs to be included in the November report. We don't want to put that on the back burner. Right now the MWG June 4th is the only time that there is a placeholder for that discussion.
 - **DISCUSSION:** Since that is part of the GGRA report as well it will be addressed in the October report as well so it will not be overlooked and will be discussed earlier.
- **COMMENT:** Looking at the MDE schedule, it seems as though the public comment period is scheduled for July/August and that may not be the most opportune time to do outreach about the reports.
 - **DISCUSSION:** The ECO WG should draft a timeline that they think would be beneficial to garnering interest and support for the report and those dates may differ from the MWG group but the questions and comments will be beneficial to the reports. Also, the November report could potentially have outreach opportunities in September.

V. Goals and Agenda for April 28th Commission Meeting

Secretary Grumbles went through the Commission Meeting #3 Agenda (handout) to determine if there were any changes that needed to be made.

Under Working Group Reports, the language was changed to read "Status of appointments" instead of "Formal appointments of working group members and liaisons"

- **COMMENT:** It is important to have buy-in from all sectors so that people know that their group is represented on the Commission and that this wasn't created by special interest groups.

Structural/time changes that were suggested:

- 3:10 pm: Use of Outside Resources
- 3:40 pm: Recommendations for Approval by the Commission

Use of Outside Resources

Stuart Clarke sent out a Memo on Earth Day to discuss the Town Creek Support of the Maryland Climate Commission which will provide additional outside expert resources in support of its work to develop, prepare, and deliver a report to Governor Hogan and the General Assembly in November 2015. The package of grants approved totals a little over \$350,000 in support for four pieces of work:

- Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (Bob Perciasepe) – will provide research and analysis on the costs of the climate impacts in Maryland, the status of Maryland's plans and strategies when compared with the plans strategies and adopted in other states as well as best methodical approaches for ongoing policy tracking and progress evaluation;

- Georgetown Climate Center (Vicki Arroyo) – will provide research and analysis on emissions reductions and other environmental and economic co-benefits and on policy options to achieve greater emissions reductions;
- The Hatcher Group (Sam Kappalman) – will provide writing, design, and outreach support to insure the delivery of the report and recommendations that are clear, comprehensive and compelling;
- David Costello – will provide facilitation and troubleshooting support (through Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN)) to insure that these resources are integrated and coordinated in an efficient and effective way to meet the Commission’s needs and produce the best possible product.
- **COMMENTS:** Why is David Costello working with CCAN? Will his opinions be swayed by their affiliation?
 - **DISCUSSION:** CCAN is the fiscal agent but if this raises concerns, we can look at alternative options. Also, note that the Commission doesn’t have to use these specific groups/organizations/people but the money from Town Creek is allocated to these groups to provide support. Also, David Cosetllo as part of CCAN involvement might present challenges in the way that the business community interprets the findings.

VI. Wrap Up/Summarize Action Items

- MDE will contact Senate President Miller to determine who from the Senate or a Senate Representative should participate in the Commission and will contact Department of General Services before the Commission meeting on Tuesday, April 28th.
- John Quinn/Zoe Johnson – will work together on recruiting more private partners (Chamber of Commerce) to participate in the ARWG.
- ECO and Mitigation Working Groups will begin communicating to put together a comprehensive communication/outreach plan for the two reports.
- MDE Communications to include a link on the website about Public comments/recommendations and email address: <http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Marylander/Pages/mccc.aspx>

VII. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 12:17 pm by MDE Secretary and Commission Chair Ben Grumbles.