

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Mitigation Working Group

August 22, 2016 from 12:30 – 2:30
Maryland Department of the Environment

Attendance: Secretary Grumbles, Tad Aburn, Mike Powell, Tom Weissinger, Ben Hobbs, John Fiastro, Gerrit Knapp, Arjun Makhijani, Joe Uehlein, Rebecca Rehr, Colby Ferguson, Colleen Turner, Susan Payne, Russ Dickerson, Mike Tidwell, Chris Rice, Jim Strong, Tom Ballentine, Ian Ullman, Dorothy Morrison, David Costello, Dave Smedick, Gerrit Knaap, James McGarry, Dan Engleberg, Todd Metcalfe, Michael Leslie, Jim Doyle, Gabe Pacyniak, Hampden Macbeth, Brian Hug, Luke Wisniewski, Megan Ullrich, Jess Herpel, Liz Entwisle, Chris Beck, Scott Zacharko, Chris Hoagland, Anne Lindner, Phillip Stewart, Lynn Heller

On Phone: John Quinn, Mike Remsburg, Tom Walz, Les Knapp, Dave Vanko

Agenda Item # 1: Welcome and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 12:35 pm. No amendments were made to the agenda.

- A brief discussion of Maryland's air quality occurred. Weather has not been favorable for good air quality, but monitors are reporting lower concentrations of NO_x and O₃, as well as better regional haze
- Secretary Grumbles provided an update on the Volkswagen (VW) settlement for Maryland.
 - MD will get >71 million dollars
 - Most of the proceeds will go to EVs and EV infrastructure and NO_x reductions programs

Agenda Item # 2: 40 by 30 Update

- See attached presentation on 40 by 30
 - Overlap adjustment might be less than 30%
 - as we get closer to 2020 we'll know more
 - currently being analyzed
 - correct adjustment probably between 30 and 10%
 - Fleet turnover will result in future reductions
 - MDOT to release updated modeling results very soon
 - MDE using RGGI 2016 Program Review to ensure cap is sufficient to drive reductions
 - MEA: expanding Combined Heat and Power (CHP) programs
 - Bottom Line: 2009-2020 was challenging to predict but 2016-2030 will be more difficult
 - MDE used a "back of an envelope" strategy for 2030 update
- See attached presentation on EPA/DOT's new Heavy Duty Trucks rule to reduce GHGs
- Need to take advantage of regional partnerships
- Carbon sequestration issues need to be explored by MWG

- Susan Payne updated MWG on Adaptation and Response WG August meeting on “Soil Issues”

Agenda Item # 3: MWG Input for MCCC Report See handout.

See supplemental materials included in meeting packet. Also posted here: [MCCC website](#)

- Potential topics for draft of MWG input on MCCC 2016 report
 - 40 by 30 Status Report
 - 25 by 20 Update
 - Methane Leakage
 - Enhanced Economic Analysis/Social Equity Issues
 - Electric and Other Zero Emission Vehicle Initiatives
- Others Issues:
 - Equity and Economic Analysis tools being explored?
 - Should there be specific EJ issues identified in document?

Agenda Item # 4: Methane Part II and Discussion by MWG Members

- See attached presentation
- MDE proposed straw-man for a methane emissions reduction plan in MD to include:
 - In-state reductions
 - Out-of-state reductions
 - Fracking regulations
- Need to weigh all proposals against economic benefits, as well as social equity impact
- Proposals from MWG members:
 - Write letter to EPA to support more stringent fracking regulations
 - Expand Maryland inventory to include methane emission leakage from imported natural gas
 - Apply EPA national methane leakage rate to all imported natural gas
 - Partner with NIST to study actual emissions in MD
 - Look at Landfill and WWTP emissions more closely
 - Extend time frame for leakage analysis to 2050 timeframe
 - Request that NG utilities release product loss data
 - Go beyond EGUs to examine RCI methane leakage
 - Define “generation” to understand life cycle analysis
 - Work to interpret GGRA language about “in-state” emissions including imported natural gas fugitive emissions
 - MCCC make a recommendation to general assembly to include upstream methane emissions in GGRA goal
 - Recommend that all raw materials for new RE come from USA manufacturers
 - Create “focus-group” to examine MD’s job sector before MWG makes any recommendations to MCCC
- Fuel related methane emissions vs. capital investment methane emissions will shed light on where life cycle analysis needs to start

- Accounting for methane emissions will benefit all forms of energy accounting especially renewable energy
- MDE uses a bottom-up approach for our emissions inventory and does not include up-stream methane emissions
- Summary of actions/options for MWG input to MCCC on Methane
 - Collect more information about methane leakage
 - in and out of state emissions
 - Force action beyond our borders including pressuring EPA for more stringent regulations
 - Change rules and risk impacting Maryland electricity rate-payers

Agenda Item #5: Public Comment

- Dave Smedick from Sierra Club asked: Can MWG provide an update on RGGI 2016 Program review?
 - MD supports an “aggressive but attainable” updated RGGI cap
 - MD is 1 of 9 states who decide on 2016 Program
- Gabe Pacyniak from Georgetown is currently working on a comparative analysis of Oil and Gas Sector Fracking regulations – will provide prior to October MWG meeting
- Les Knapp from MACO commented that several landfills and WWTPs in MD will be impacted if methane emissions are further controlled. Also, only a few counties will be affected by fracking regulations, but those counties will be affected dramatically

Opportunity for Discussion Session (2:45-3:30)

- MD can set a goal of 40% by 2030 and over-achieve (exceed goal)
- Maryland can build fugitive methane emissions (in and out-of-state) into the GGRA reduction goal and adjust if necessary
- GGRA law allows for a mid-point adjustment if necessary
- Proposing a more aggressive 2030 goal may be a tough sell politically
- STWG should look at MD’s inventory more closely
 - Maryland’s expanded inventory could include “ranges” rather than precise emissions
- Upstream coal mining methane emissions need to be analyzed
- MWG use a 20-year GWP for methane leakage analysis
- Proposal: continue methane leakage discussion when MWG has more/better information