

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
April 8, 10 AM to 11:05 AM

Present:

Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment
Allyson Frantz, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Emily Bull, Maryland Department of the Environment
Gwendolin McCrea, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment
Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Thatch Gerike, District Department of Energy & Environment
Thomas Foster, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
Fiona Wisell, ICF
Naomi Cohen-Shields, ICF

Staff:

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP
Alissa Boggs, COG/DEP
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP
Mark Moran, COG/DTP
Maia Davis, COG/DEP
Robert d'Abadie, COG/DTP
Tim Masters, COG/DEP

1. Call to Order & Review of Meeting Summary

Joseph Jakuta called the meeting to order at 10 AM. The March 11th meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. 2015 Ozone NAAQS RR/MP Inventory

Sunil Kumar briefed members on the status of emissions inventories for all sources for the redesignation request/maintenance plan. State and COG staff have been working with MARAMA on the point, nonpoint, MAR sources for the maintenance plan. MARAMA provided information on point sources and currently states are discussing whether to use ERTAC or EPA's IPM projections for them. COG staff got MOVES5 inputs for developing onroad and nonroad inventories for a few jurisdictions and is waiting for others to provide them. QA/QC process will follow after staff has received all input. Staff will focus on new MOVES5 default fuel and AVFT data. Members will be updated on the status of inventories in future meetings

Roger said that Maryland is planning to develop its own point source inventory and will provide that along with a write-up to explain the development process as EPA's Maryland point source inventory file has incorrect information. He wanted to know how point source inventory for Maryland will be separated. Sunil said that it is possible and was always done in the past. Joseph agreed with it.

3. Draft FY2025-26 Work Program & Budget

Jen Desimone briefed members on the draft FY2025-26 Work Program & Budget. Core work areas are Emissions Inventory Development, Regional Control Measures, Transportation

Conformity/Mobile Emissions Analysis, Public Participation, MWAQC Support, and Program Management. The work program and budget will be finalized and approved by MWAQC in May. Roger Thunell said that with budget constraints MDE cannot agree to the proposed budget increase. He also mentioned that MDE does not have the partnership with MDOT on the funding yet.

4. EPA's News Release regarding Proposed Changes to Air Pollution Regulations and Standards

State Air Agency staff briefed members on their initial recommendations for designations for the 2024 annual PM2.5 standard. All three jurisdictions recommended attainment designation. Joseph said that there are some very important changes proposed to criteria pollutant rules. The region will have only 30 days to comment on them, so we need to be prepared if we want to comment.

5. CPRG Measures Analysis for GHG and Air Quality Standards

Fiona Wisell of ICF briefed members on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Benefit Analysis being undertaken currently. The report outlined the approach for assessing co-pollutant impacts under the CPRG program. The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) requires inventories of criteria and hazardous air pollutants (CAPs and HAPs), projections of business-as-usual (BAU) emissions, and estimated reductions from proposed measures. Key data sources include the EPA's National Emissions Inventory and Emissions Modeling Platform, with projections extended to 2050 using trends and energy outlooks. Tools like EPA's AVERT and COBRA will quantify emissions changes and associated health impacts, especially for disadvantaged communities (LIDACs). The final analysis will detail co-pollutant reductions, health outcomes, and potential co-benefits or disadvantages from the measures implemented.

6. 2025 Air Quality Forecast Protocol

Sunil briefed members on the 2025 air quality forecast protocol. The document outlines the procedures for developing, issuing, and disseminating air quality forecasts for the Metropolitan Washington and Winchester/Hagerstown regions during the 2025 ozone season. Forecasts, based on 8-hour ozone and 24-hour PM2.5 levels, are issued daily and coordinated among agencies like COG, MDE, VDEQ, and DOEE, with consensus forecasts determined by averaging predictions across regions. Forecasts are posted to the EPA's AIRNowTech system and shared across multiple platforms, including COG and state websites, and disseminated to the public via Enviroflash and National Weather Service alerts. Action Days are declared for AQI values of Code Orange or worse, and real-time notifications are available to subscribed users.

7. State and Local Updates

There were no updates.