

**MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**March 11, 10 AM to 11:20 AM**

**Present:**

Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Allyson Frantz, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Anna Marshall, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Chris Voigt, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Doris McLeod, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Gabrielle Leach, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Felip Ip, City of Alexandria  
Henry Frishman, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Marcia Ways, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Melissa Atwood, City of Alexandria  
Noble Smith, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment  
Sophia Cortazzo, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Sonya Lewis-Cheatham, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
Thatch Gerike, District Department of Energy & Environment  
Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

**Staff:**

Sunil Kumar, COG/DEP  
Alissa Boggs, COG/DEP  
Dusan Vuksan, COG/DTP  
Erin Morrow, COG/DTP  
Jane Posey, COG/DTP  
Jen Desimone, COG/DEP  
Jinchul Park, COG/DTP  
Leah Boggs, COG/DEP  
Mark Moran, COG/DTP  
Robert d'Abadie, COG/DTP  
Tim Masters, COG/DEP  
Wanda Owens, COG/DTP

**1. Call to Order & Review of Meeting Summary**

Joseph Jakuta called the meeting to order at 10 AM. The February 11<sup>th</sup> 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. He mention that state air agencies and the MWAQC staff are working with MARAMA staff to extract ozone season data for point, nonpoint, and MAR sources from EPA's 2022v1 EMP data. State air agencies are expected to provide MOVES5 inputs for developing onroad and nonroad inventories.

**3. Draft EJ Action Plan**

Robert Christopher briefed members on the draft EJ action plan and sought comments on it. The plan is based on public and stakeholder engagement and covers the following:

- Air Quality in the region – Covers key pollutants, sources, monitoring, regulation Control methods, and regional trends.

- **Equity and Environmental Justice** – Highlights the disproportionate impact of air pollution on underserved communities and emphasizes the need for inclusive and equitable policies. Key points include uneven distribution of pollution, health disparities, equity-focused policies, community engagement, regulatory integration, and monitoring and accountability.

- **Strategies to Improve Air Quality** – Include recommendations to improve air quality monitoring, foster stronger partnerships, improve air quality regulation, increase public outreach and education, reduce emissions from stationary sources, reduce vehicle emissions, and promote land use planning.

- **Recommended Actions** – There are low, medium, and high priority actions. Low and medium priority actions include deployment of hyper-local and mobile air quality monitors, development of new local voluntary bundle measures, educating the public on data center control measures, evaluating local land use zoning for pollution sources, limiting highway expansion projects in impacted areas, increasing jurisdictional control and incorporating EJ in SIPs, reducing vehicle miles traveled for public transportation, partnering with health departments and expanding hyper-local, and monitoring partnerships.

High priority actions include advocating for stronger ambient air quality standards, facilitating knowledge sharing of success stories, enhancing enforcement of fugitive dust and pollution sources, requiring additional controls at stationary point sources, retrofit diesel vehicles and transition fleets to zero-emission vehicles, promoting public transportation and reduce idling of heavy-duty vehicles, and increased air quality monitoring.

- **Call to Action** – Includes call to enhance air quality monitoring: expand monitoring systems and public outreach efforts, implement targeted policies: focus on stationary sources and integrate air quality considerations, into land use planning, strengthen regulations: update and enforce stricter air quality standards, foster regional partnerships: collaborate with various stakeholders to pool resources and, expertise, promote sustainable transportation: invest in public transit, electric vehicle infrastructure, and, anti-idling measures, raise public awareness: conduct education campaigns to inform communities about air quality issues and mitigation strategies, and coordinate efforts: promote cross-jurisdictional collaboration and advocate for regional investments in sustainable infrastructure.

The draft plan will be presented to the public in the second round of listening session and revised based on feedback from the public and EJ Subcommittee before it is approved and published.

#### **4. DOEE/ACLIMA Community Monitoring**

Joseph Jakuta discussed the results of District's community air pollution monitoring project performed by ACLIMA. DOEE has begun implementing its low-cost air quality sensor program. To date they have installed 1 Village Green park bench monitor, 8 Purple Airs, and 2 Clarity Nodes. Potential locations have been chosen for 4 Village Green park bench monitors.

Starting in August 2024, Aclima conducted six weeks of hyperlocal mobile air quality measurement approximately 24 hours a day across the following neighborhoods in the District: Columbia Heights/Park View, Howard/LeDroit Park, Eckington/Edgewood/Bloomingdale, Ivy City/Brentwood, Trinidad/Carver, South Capitol Hill/Barney Circle, Buzzard Point, River Terrace, Greater Anacostia/Naylor Gardens/Good Hope, Bellevue/Congress Heights, and Georgetown/Palisades. The majority of the neighborhoods included in the monitoring project were chosen due to their history of disproportionate exposure to environmental hazards. Georgetown was chosen to provide comparison data to areas of the city that have been historically disadvantaged. DOEE held listening sessions in preparation for data collection and included community input in final maps.

Measurements included Fine particulate matter, Black carbon, Nitrogen dioxide, Ozone, Carbon monoxide, Methane, TVOCs, and Carbon dioxide. Fine particulate matter, Nitrogen dioxide, and Ozone were below or very close to their respective standards during the short measurement period. Black carbon, TVOCs, and Carbon dioxide don't have standards.

#### **5. State Initial Recommendations for 2024 Primary Annual PM2.5 NAAQS (9.0 ug/M3) Designation**

State Air Agency staff briefed members on their respective initial recommendations for the 2024 primary annual PM2.5 NAAQS designations. All three jurisdictions recommended the Washington region for the "attainment" designation.

Sunil Kumar discussed the latest updated quality assured PM2.5 data. EPA recently made changes to PM2.5 data from the Springfield VA near road monitor that updated annual PM2.5 design value for 2015-17 from 9.2 ug/m3 to 10.2 ug/m3 and for 2016-17 from 9.0 ug/m3 to 9.8 ug/m3.

Following these results, potential hot spots will be scouted out for targeted enforcement.

#### **6. State/Local Updates**

Roger said that he is following Maryland's legislative session for any action that affects air quality. Tom said that he is following Virginia's special general assembly session on federal budgets. Joseph said that he is following federal budgets.