

GWSA Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)

March 7, 2019, 10:00AM – 12:00PM

100 Cambridge Street, Boston, 2nd Floor, Conference Room C/D

Meeting Minutes

(Approved 6/27/2019)

EEA Undersecretary Katie Theoharides welcomed everyone and introduced Ronald DeCurzio, CEO of MA Municipal Wholesale Electric Company, as a new IAC member.

The meeting was called to order at 10:08AM. Undersecretary Theoharides thanked the IAC members for their contributions to the GWSA 10 Year Progress Report, a hard copy of which was given to each IAC member. Several IAC members praised staff members of the GWSA Team for a job well done on the report.

Undersecretary Theoharides called for a vote to approve the meeting minutes of December 6, 2018. A motion was made by David Ismay with a second by Berl Hartman. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Brief updates from state agencies and IAC working groups

Eric Steltzer of DOER updated the IAC members on the status of the Offshore Wind Study, which the *Act to Advance Clean Energy* had directed DOER to investigate the necessity, benefits, and costs of requiring electric distribution companies to conduct additional offshore wind generation solicitations of up to 1,600 megawatts.

Stephanie Cooper, Deputy Commissioner of Policy and Planning at MassDEP, updated the IAC about the Volkswagen Settlement Beneficiary Mitigation Plan and the opportunities for providing input on potential amendments to the Clean Energy Standard (CES) regulation (310 CMR 7.75). The CES could potentially be amended to increase its stringency, include municipally-owned electric companies, and include “existing” (pre-2010) clean energy generators.

Steve Woelfel of MassDOT provided information about the MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference to be held in Worcester on April 9 and 10, 2019.

Steve Long, the lead of the IAC’s Nature-Based Solutions and Land Use work group, briefed the full IAC body on H.842, *An Act to Sustain Natural and Working Lands Carbon in Communities*.

Presentation and Q&A of the Commission on the Future of Transportation’s reports

Steve Kadish presented on the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Transportation, along with key facts and trends that the Commission had reviewed and plausible scenarios of 2040 that the Commission had discussed while developing their recommendations. The Commission focused their work on understanding the “what” and

“why” of transportation issues, and did not focused on the specifics of “how” (of addressing transportation issues) nor predicting the future in 2040. Instead of near-term issues or specific policies or projects, the Commission concentrated on developing big-picture recommendations to address what major transportation issues Massachusetts could face in 2040.

Summary of discussion points and questions & answers:

- Recommendation #9 of establishing a goal that all new cars, light duty trucks, and buses sold in Massachusetts beginning in 2040 be electric or emit zero carbon is a very ambitious but important recommendation.
- The Commission couldn't focus on freight and aviation, but addressing GHG emissions from those sources are important as their emissions are projected to grow. Aviation and shipping are difficult to electrify due to technological constraints.
- Impact on quality of life has implications on climate work moving forward.
- Whether the Multiple Hubs scenario can become reality through policy decisions or market forces, the hubs should be well connected (e.g. grid, streetlights, etc.)
- The state's transportation planning efforts should coordinate with the Commission's recommendations.

Update on the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI)

Undersecretary Theoharides provided an overview of the TCI's regional low-carbon transportation design process in 2019. The states are exploring the cap and invest approach, with each state deciding how to use the revenue. The Leadership Team is being chaired by Secretary Beaton; the Executive Policy Committee is being co-chaired by MassDEP Commissioner Suuberg; the Technical Analysis Workgroup is being co-chaired by Christine Kirby of MassDEP; the Investment and Equity Workgroup (missing from the diagram in the slide deck) is being co-chaired by Kate Fichter of MassDOT.

Summary of discussion points and questions & answers:

- The IAC applauded Massachusetts for taking the leadership role in TCI.
- New York state is a participant in the 2019 design process, though not in a voting role.
- There is a regional stakeholder process, but each state will also have their own stakeholder process. The regional stakeholder events are open to the general public, but engage community representatives more so than the general public and do not specifically target specific parts of each state. There will be opportunities for transportation experts to provide feedback though the workplan for the 2019 TCI process is still being finalized.
- Messaging and strategic investment with revenue dollars are critical in addressing concerns that the cap and trade program would be seen as a carbon tax. The TCI process includes conducting public outreach and gathering public opinions.

Additionally, the cap is likely to be a price signal (and not priced at the consumer end), raising funds for projects more so than changing behaviors.

- The 2019 TCI process is focused on TCI-participating states and not expanding to Canada or other non-TCI states.

Discussion of the IAC Transportation working group's policy recommendations for analysis in the 80x50 Study

Dan Gatti and Berl Hartman, the leads of the IAC's Transportation working group, presented on the work group's draft recommendations and how they were qualitatively rated by the work group participants on the different criteria that EEA had provided. Due to little time remaining in the meeting for this discussion, the IAC's feedback included:

- The draft recommendation list should be revisited because it was developed before the Commission on the Future of Transportation's report was published. There should be more recommendations on transit.
- The rating worksheet that EEA provided should allow for additional comments as rating each recommendation as "High," "Medium," or "Low" for each criterion is inadequate.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:08PM.

Documents or exhibits used at the meeting (posted online¹):

1. Meeting agenda
2. Meeting minutes of December 6, 2018 (posted online²)
3. Natural solution to carbon pollution factsheet
4. Slides for Commission on the Future of Transportation presentation
5. Slides for Transportation and Climate Initiative update
6. Slides for IAC transportation policy discussion
7. Preliminary policy recommendations from IAC Transportation Work Group
8. Rated policy recommendations from IAC Transportation Work Group

¹ <https://www.mass.gov/event/march-7-2019-meeting-of-the-gwsa-implementation-advisory-committee-iac-2019-03-07t100000-0500>

² <https://www.mass.gov/event/december-6-2018-meeting-of-the-gwsa-implementation-advisory-committee-iac-2018-12-06t140000>

IAC Member/Designee in attendance

Organization	Name
A Better City (ABC)	Kathryn Carlson
Boston University	<i>(absent)</i>
City of Boston	Carl Spector
Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)	David Ismay
Dismas House / Commonwealth Green Low Income Housing Coalition	<i>(absent)</i>
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)	Berl Hartman
Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM)	<i>(absent)</i>
Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE)	Christian Hoepfner
Mass Audubon	<i>(absent)</i>
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Mark Staples
Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC)	Ronald DeCurzio
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Rebecca Davis
National Grid	<i>(absent)</i>
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)	Peter Rothstein
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Steve Long
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)	Dan Gatti

Others in attendance

Organization	Name
E2	Sarah Simon
ML Strategies	Taylor Shepherd
Winchester Climate Action Advisory Committee	Ruth Trimarchi
ELM	Nancy Goodman
MAPC	Cammy Peterson
MAPC	Kasia Hart
MMWEC	Brian Sewell
Commission on the Future of Transportation	Steve Kadish
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)	Katie Theoharides, Undersecretary of Environment
EEA	Hong-Hanh Chu
EEA	Benjamin Miller
EEA	Kurt Gaertner
MA Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Stephanie Cooper, Deputy Commissioner
MassDEP	Sharon Weber
MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER)	Eric Steltzer
MA Department of Public Utilities (DPU)	Megan Wu
MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT)	Steve Woelfel
Massachusetts Clean Energy Center	Rachel Ackerman