



SEVENTH MEETING OF THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
September 10, 2008
General Assembly Building, House Room D
Richmond, Virginia

I. **Call to Order**

The Honorable L. Preston Bryant, Jr., Chairman, called the seventh meeting of the Governor's Commission on Climate Change to order at 11:09 a.m.

II. **Attendance**

The following Commission members were present: The Honorable L. Preston Bryant, Jr., Ms. LuAnn Bennett, The Honorable Donald S. Beyer, Jr., The Honorable Joseph F. Bouchard, The Honorable David Bulova, Mr. Dan Carson, Jr., Christine Chmura, Ph.D., The Reverend Richard Cizik, The Honorable John Daniel, II, Mr. Ralph Davis, The Honorable Paul Ferguson, Mr. Robert J. Fledderman, Mr. Stuart A. Freudberg, Mr. Felix Garcia, The Honorable John H. (Jack) Gibbons, Ms. Jodie Gidley, Mr. William S. Greenleaf, The Honorable Penelope A. Gross, Mr. David A. Heacock, Mr. Robert F. Hemphill, Jr., Ms. Ann F. Jennings, Mr. Michael L. Lipford, The Honorable Robert E. Martínez, Mr. Tyrone W. Murray, The Honorable Ralph Northam, Mr. R. Paul Orentas, The Honorable Kenneth R. Plum, Mr. Oliver A. Pollard, III, Mr. Michael J. Quillen, The Honorable Ron Rordam, Mr. Harrison B. Rue, Jagadish Shukla, Ph.D., Mr. Bruce Smart, Mr. William A. "Skip" Stiles, Dr. Lydia W. Thomas, Mr. Michael Townes, The Honorable Frank W. Wagner, and Mr. Stephen A. Walz

Those not in attendance were: The Honorable R. Creigh Deeds, Mr. Dale A. Gardner, The Honorable Patrick O. Gottschalk, Roger Mann, Ph.D., and The Honorable Joe T. May.

III. **Discussion of Findings**

Chairman Bryant reported that a considerable amount of time had been spent reviewing discussions and presentations trying to capture ideas that would be generally accepted. He noted that the document before the Commission reflects what is in the Executive Order as well as comments made by Governor Kaine when he gave the Commission its charge.

Commission members discussed various topics, additions, and deletions to the proposed findings. These comments are reflected in revised Proposed Findings – Discussion Document found at www.deq.virginia.gov/info/climatemeetings.html.

IV. Adoption of Interim Report

Chairman Bryant presented the Interim Report for discussion and adoption.

Commission members expressed concern that there was no reference in the report to the numerous public comments heard by the Commission. Chairman Bryant stated that the public comments were captured in all of the Commission's meeting minutes. It was suggested that a reference to public comments be inserted into the interim report and that a link to the minutes also be included.

The Chairman Bryant requested a motion to adopt the Interim Report with the recommendations as noted. The motion was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Discussion: Cross-Cutting Recommendations

Chairman Bryant had asked Commission members to bring proposals to the meeting for cross-cutting recommendations. The following items were suggested by Commission members. Secretary Bryant said that staff would work with Commissioners to refine these proposals for consideration at the Commission's next meeting.

- A more aggressive GHG reduction goal; consistent with IPCC 35% from 2000 levels.
- The need for an infrastructure that will monitor impacts.
- A statewide review of regulatory and non-regulatory authority of state agencies and local governments to implement recommendations.
- Consider the impact of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles on the need for new electricity generation and smart meters.
- Incentives to purchase residential solar power.
- Improve collaboration of clean technology energy research among Virginia universities.
- Immediate action by Governor on recommendations with which he concurs and has the authority to direct action be taken.
- Support nuclear power and engineering.
- The trajectory of GHG emission reduction should consider the capital turnover constraints and the availability of cost-effective new technology.
- Grow a low GHG economy by requiring new facilities to be GHG efficient.
- Provide credits for landowners for reforestation and maintenance of forestland to provide carbon sinks.
- Promotion of green industry: green jobs, education, and training, making Virginia a Center for Excellence.
- Build public support for legislation through outreach and education.
- Set Interim goals for 2015 so progress can be measured. Build in process to revisit so that new goals can be established.
- Formalize use of PDCs in interactions with local governments. Requiring local governments to develop regional plans (cost implementation).

- Formalize climate change in local comprehensive plan processes.
- Be proactive in influencing Congressional legislation.
- Give local governments authority to address climate change, mitigation, and adaptation in development of comprehensive plans, infrastructure investments, and land use policies.
- Add climate change-related technology research and development as a technology cluster investment area for the Center for Innovative Technology.
- Give particular consideration and recognition to those items that will create jobs and will promote economic development in the Commonwealth.
- Enhance existing programs rather than creating new ones.
- Add climate change as a component of the State Water Control Law.
- Institutionalize and continue the activities of the Commission after Executive Order expires.
- Look at efforts or solutions that will have co-benefits such as land and energy conservation that can be measured on a Virginia-specific level.
- Establish a public benefit fund to aid in the installation of energy conservation and efficiency practices.
- Compare effect of cap-and trade to a carbon pricing mechanism.

VI. **Cost Effectiveness of Potential Strategies**

Chairman Bryant stated that assessing the cost effectiveness of potential recommendations will be no small issue. He suggested that, instead of getting into the nitty-gritty cost issues on each recommendation, the Commission look at cost effectiveness of potential strategies, specifically measuring it in terms of cost per ton of GHG emissions avoided. He indicated that in climate action plans that have been reviewed from other states, this methodology is one that is commonly used. Chairman Bryant said that staff will work with other state agencies and Commission members to assist in this assessment.

Chairman Bryant indicated that cost effectiveness will not be the only factor that will be reviewed. He stated that while a particular strategy may not be cost effective, it may have other significant benefits that would make it worthwhile.

Mr. Walz shared with the Commission that he has been in discussion with staff from The Nichols Center of Duke University, Virginia Tech's Modeling Simulation Initiative, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, each of whom has done significant work in this area. He indicated that the Commission may receive assistance from these organizations through this process.

Commission members suggested the following considerations that might be included in the process of determining the cost effectiveness of potential strategies: (i) the need to identify the consumer – who will be affected the most; (ii) the need to create a balance when collecting information; (iii) looking at cost effectiveness as it pertains to implementation and adaptation versus the cost of doing nothing; (v) comparison cost analysis and recommendations with what other states have done; and (vi) looking at cost per human, not just cost per ton.

VII. **Public Comment**

Chairman Bryant opened the floor for public comment.

- Larry Land, Director of Policy Development with the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo), stated the high cost of energy will force many changes in local government operations. He indicated that this is one of the chief reasons why VACo will be devoting its attention to ways of improving energy efficiency and “green building design.” He commented that because local governments are most accessible to the places where people live, the land use regulations should remain at the local level.
- Lowell Smith asked the Commission to be hard-nosed and realistic and re-evaluate the proposed policy assumption in the Final Draft Emissions Inventory Report.
- Burton Marshall commented that in order for Virginia to meet its energy needs, it needs a diversified strategy to include investment in conservation, renewable energy, traditional generation, and transmission. He stated that Virginia needs a reliable energy that is available when the sun does not shine, the winds do not blow, and the rivers do not run full. He indicated that Virginia needs to make stronger investments in traditional generation development, like advanced nuclear, clean coal, and natural gas, in order to ensure reliable, affordable electric power. Mr. Marshall encouraged the Commission to support balanced energy in its final recommendations.
- Kelly Taylor, property owner in Louisa County, stated that Virginia needs a balanced energy portfolio. She commented that we are looking at a position, statewide, where we have used up all the base load energy we have. She stated that while renewables are important, clean energy from base load power will benefit citizens the most and that climate change affects all of us.

VIII. **Adjournment**

Chairman Bryant thanked everyone for coming. He adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.