Maryland Green Purchasing Committee Meeting

Thursday February 11, 2021, 10:00 A.M.
Virtually Held

Purpose: Quarterly Meeting of the Maryland Green Purchasing Committee (GPC)

Attendees:

Ellington Churchill, DGS (Chair)
Nancy Kopp, Treasurer
Emily Soontornsaratool, DGS
Kshirajaa Ramesh, DGS
Joe Consoli, DBM
Dinesh Gandhi, MDE
Bob Gleason, DGS
Megan Granato, DNR
Mike Haifley, DGS
Shaconda Haynie, DGS
Tom Hickey, USM
Shareda Holifield, MDE
Joanna Kille, State Treasurer
Eddie Lukemire, MDOT
Ryan McAlpine, MDOT
Heather Mohney, MDH
Dorothy Morrison, MDOT
Jane Noble, MDE
Carissa Ralbovsky, DBM
Tim Shepherd, MDE
Matthew Smith, DGS
David St. Jean, DGS
Nicole Copeland, MCE
Gregg Kalifut, BISM
Julia Kalloz, Baltimore City DGS
Richard Keller, Baltimore County
Anthony Jefferson, Small Business Owner

Minutes:

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Secretary Churchill welcomed Committee members and attendees. Emily Soontornsaratool briefly went over virtual meeting logistics.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- The Committee approved the November 12, 2020 meeting minutes.

III. Special Presentation on Zero-Emission Electric Vehicles (ZEVs)

A. Overview of ZEVs – Tim Shepherd (MDE) presented on the current markets and trends surrounding electric vehicles (EVs) and charging infrastructure.

- Treasurer Kopp asked whether EVs are cheaper upfront or over the lifecycle of the vehicle. Tim answered that studies show EVs are cheaper over their lifecycle.

- Bob Gleason (DGS) is interested in learning more about EV batteries, their lifespan, and any associated costs. Tim responded that EV batteries typically come with an 8-10 year manufacturer's warranty. David St. Jean (DGS) added that frequent charging from a Level 3 charging station can damage battery life over time; manufacturers recommend charging mainly on Level 2 chargers.
- Megan Granato (DNR) asked whether all chargers have a slower charging speed after an EV is 80% charged. Tim said that this is specific to Level 3 chargers. After a vehicle reaches 80% charge on a Level 3 charger, it can be charged using a Level 2 charger as the speed of charge will be the same as a Level 3 charger.

B. DBM ZEV Fleet Activities - Joe Consoli (DBM) provided an overview of DBM's efforts to support State fleet electrification.

- Secretary Churchill asked what vehicles in the State fleet are eligible for transition to EVs. Joe responded that the State is currently focused on sedans and SUVs for electrification. However, as the market for EVs expand and new EV types come online, the number of eligible vehicle types will also increase.
- Treasurer Kopp asked whether agencies have to provide justification on why an EV was not purchased. Joe said agencies need to provide justification; the most commonly cited reason for forgoing an EV was range anxiety. Range anxiety can be alleviated through educational opportunities and increased familiarity with EVs through use.

C. DGS Strategy for Statewide ZEV Infrastructure – overview provided by Emily Soontornsaratool (DGS).

- Tom Hickey (USM) asked whether State EV charging stations will be able to identify who is charging. Joe answered that this is possible for "smart" EV charging stations.

IV. Recent Activities - Update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool and Kshirajaa Ramesh

A. Agency Reporting Information Session

- 60 Agency Reporting designees attended.
- Resources and tools provided to agencies to support their green purchasing data submission.

B. New Website Content and Resources

- 5 new webpages added to the Committee's website.
- 9 new tools published and added to the website.

C. Agency Outreach Sessions:

- 8 Sessions completed; 4 remaining.
- Major themes of the sessions include:
  - Need for increased awareness of the Committee.
  - Improved top-down support of agency-level green purchasing.
  - Need to bridge the gap between sustainability and procurement at the agency-level.
  - Need to green credit card purchases.
- Next Steps include:
  - Develop a Green Purchasing newsletter.
  - Improve messaging strategy to leadership.
  - Update Best Practices Manual.
  - Work with Comptroller on P-Card guidance.

V. Office of State Procurement Update – provided by Matthew Smith

A. Food Service Ware

- BPM020339 - Disposable & Compostable Food Service Ware IFB was posted on eMMA January 19; due date for bids is February 19.
- Pre-bid conference held on Jan. 27 with 5 vendors in attendance.
- Total of 98 different products requested, 20 of which new additions requiring green certifications.

B. Janitorial Services

- Kshirajaa Ramesh will work with lead procurement officer to include janitorial services specification into upcoming contracts.

C. Vehicles

- Contract award is in progress.
- Additional EVs added to contract.

VI. Legislative Updates – provided by Emily Soontornsaratool

- 20 bills being currently tracked by the Committee, ranging from recycling to EVs.

VII. Specifications – updated provided by Kshirajaa Ramesh

- Finalized specification for Janitorial Services was presented to the Committee and approved for publication.
- 3 Specifications have been drafted and are undergoing review. These specifications are for: Janitorial Supplies, Landscape Services and Supplies, Pest Management Services.

VIII. Upcoming Activities – Update provided by Emily Soontornsaratool and Kshirajaa Ramesh

- The Committee will host a webinar on February 24, 2021: "Saving Money by Buying Green." The webinar and its associated factsheet were developed with The Responsible Purchasing Network. This webinar and factsheet meet the Committee's FY21 goal of supporting the State budget.
- Procurement Academy courses now available for Agency Procurement Officers. "Procurement Considerations" module includes Green Purchasing and GOSBA presentations. A total of 5 sessions will be conducted in 2021. The first session was conducted on February 9, 2021.

IX. Member Announcements

- Eddie Lukemire (MDOT) noted that Secretary Churchill's memo to agencies regarding the "Saving Money by Buying Green" webinar and factsheet was well-received by agency leadership.

X. Open Discussion/New Business: no new updates.

XI. The next meeting will be held virtually on May 13, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kshirajaa Ramesh
Staff, MD Green Purchasing Committee

Emily Soontornsaratool
Designee, MD Green Purchasing Committee