

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

June 18, 2019

3:00 P.M.

Government Center Conference Room 11

Board of Supervisors Members Present:

Board Chair Sharon Bulova

Committee Chair Penelope A. Gross, Mason District

Supervisor John Cook, Braddock District

Supervisor John Foust, Dranesville District

Supervisor Pat Herrity, Springfield District

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Hunter Mill District

Supervisor Jeff McKay, Lee District

Supervisor Kathy Smith, Sully District

Supervisor Linda Smyth, Providence District

Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District

Others Present:

Renee Grebe, Audubon Naturalist Society

Meg Mall, FACS

Bob Kitchen, Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action

Norbert Pink, Sierra Club

Debra Jacobson, Sierra Club

Bill Hafler, CCL

Judy Fraser, ESC City of Fairfax

Peter Shogren, FMD, Energy Division

Chris McGough, DPMM

Flint Webb, Fairfax Federation

June 18, 2019 Meeting Agenda:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/meeting-materials/2019/june18-environmental-agenda.pdf>

June 18, 2019 Meeting Materials:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/board-supervisors-environmental-committee-meeting-june-18-2019>

The following is a summary of the discussion from the June 18, 2019 meeting.

Today's meeting was called to order at 2:59 pm.

Item I Opening Remarks

After a brief introduction from Supervisor Gross, Committee Chair, the Environmental Committee accepted the minutes of April 2, 2019 into the record.

Chairman Gross introduced Kambiz Agazi, Environmental and Energy Coordinator, who began with general announcements.

Kambiz announced that the two additional staff positions that were approved by the Board to support the Community-Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) had been advertised and the positions would likely be filled in August 2019.

The County's Solar Power Purchase Agreement Request for Proposal (RFP) had been made available to the public. A pre-proposal conference was held on June 17, 2019. Approximately 15 vendors attended. One vendor commented that the RFP was likely one of the largest of its kind in the nation. Kambiz thanked DPMM staff Pat Wilkerson and Lee Ann Pender and County Attorney staff Emily Smith and Joanna Faust for making the RFP possible.

Kambiz anticipated that the commercial property assessed clean energy (C-PACE) RFP for program administrative support would be released by the end of June.

The County Executive issued a memo in response to the Green Initiative Board Matter brought forward on February 5, 2019 by Supervisors Storck, Foust and McKay. The Board received both a Fairfax Green Initiatives Implementation Matrix and Completed Actions Matrix prior to the committee meeting.

On June 17, 2019, Fairfax County became one of five Virginia jurisdictions to receive a SolSmart Silver designation. Contingent on approval, a zoning ordinance amendment was set to go before the Board on June 25, which would make it possible for Fairfax County to be the first Virginia locality to be designated Gold.

Chairman Gross noted that the Solarize NOVA campaign has had 327 contracts since September of 2014 for more than 2.5 megawatts of solar with a construction value in excess of \$7 million.

Board Discussion:

Foust: Good news coming out of the environmental shop. On the memo about the Board Matter, specifically the energy savings performance contracts, I thought there was more direction from the Board about that. The state offers a free look at what the potential might be for local governments to use energy savings performance contracts. We get great financial payback from the projects that we are funding, but we also want to look at the environmental payback. I can't tell you how much I appreciate how much you've accomplished in a short period of time, especially with the RFP.

Agazi: I'm happy to look into the feasibility of the state DMME energy savings performance contracts – and what the state has to offer and provide an update at a future meeting.

Gross: The Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter was only presented in February and we've only had four months. There was a lot of work done already on it. There are lots of things out there that would benefit from additional work. We didn't anticipate that all the work would be done right away. Also, if you could put all of that plus the Carryover projects update in a work plan - especially as we do CECAP and other things - we can schedule that for either a memo or conversation at the committee meeting in October.

Agazi: There will be another memo coming to the Board providing an update for the FY2018 Operational Energy Strategy Carryover projects that were funded.

McKay: Thank you to staff for the tremendous amount of work they've done. Although the budget was just passed, is there any update on the positions for the Environmental and Energy group?

Bryan Hill, County Executive: With regards to the positions, we are actively searching now. We will be bringing them on as quickly as possible. There will be an update regarding the director's position forthcoming. The two positions that Kambiz talked about should be onboard this summer.

Item II Solid Waste Update

The second item on the agenda was a presentation on Solid Waste from John Kellas, Deputy Director of Solid Waste Management, DPWES and Eric Forbes, Director, Engineering and Environmental Compliance, Solid Waste Management Program. The presentation was on recycling, yard waste, and solid waste, summarizing the current state of the solid waste management program in the county, and issues to consider moving forward.

John thanked the Chairman and the Committee and introduced Eric, who would be providing an overview on the solid waste business.

Eric thanked the Chairman for the privilege of presenting. He first discussed the county's recycling rate and referenced the chart on slide 3 of his presentation, "Recycling Rate 1999-2018," which demonstrated that the community has been pretty stable in terms of recycling and what is handled as municipal waste. In 2018, the recycling rate in the county was 49%. Staff provided a further break down of that chart and compiled information on what is being recycled in the community. Eric referenced the pie chart on slide 4 of his presentation, which showed that yard waste made up 40 % of recycled materials in 2018. Single stream, or residential curbside collected materials, made up 15%. The 'other' category on the chart referred to a county program that collect fats, oils, grease, paint, and electronics.

In March 2019, staff did an analysis of what was going in the blue bins in the sanitary districts. The materials collected were mixed paper (27%), cardboard (22%), plastics #1, 2 and 5 (10%), metals (1%) and trash/glass (34%). Trash and crushed glass are considered contamination and are transferred to the landfill. Staff would like to get the level of contamination lower.

In an effort to reduce the percentage of trash in the recycling stream, staff does a lot of recycling-focused outreach and participates in speaking events like SpringFest and Fall for Fairfax. For example, to reduce contamination, staff produces outreach material on proper disposal of the "Filthy Five," (plastic bags; shredded paper; hangers, cords, hoses; takeout containers and cups; and dirty diapers). Staff also does a lot of outreach for the glass recycling program, through

Facebook, Twitter, GoRecycle, and other web pages. Staff provide outreach material at events, post infographics on SWMP Trucks, and make announcements through media outlets. The Fairfax County website also has a dedicated page as a resource providing information on what is recyclable.

Gross: Just out of curiosity, what are we supposed to do with mattresses and box springs? I think many people assume that you can put it on the curb, and it will be picked up.

Forbes: They are accepted at our I-95 and I-66 facilities for disposal. Private haulers will only pick up a mattress if a special pick-up is scheduled.

Eric then discussed system economics. Slide 9 of his presentation showed how the cost of recycling has increased considerably from 2018-2019. The slide also showed the cost per ton of yard waste and solid waste in FY2019. One issue with yard waste that Eric discussed is that waste is collected in plastic bags, which are not compostable, and contribute to microplastics in the environment.

Eric presented on the pros and cons of the county ending curbside recycling and yard waste pickup in its sanitary districts. Benefits would include decreased system-wide collection costs, traffic and vehicle emissions. Drawbacks would include a loss of recyclable resources, free landscape materials for residents, and faster consumption of landfill space (ash). Studies have shown that should changes be made to curbside yard waste collection, there might be a small uptick in grass recycling, however a majority of people would continue to bag their yard waste and place it at the curb for pickup. As it stands, if plastic bags are taken out of the equation, yard waste is 100% recyclable. The county currently recycles yard waste into leaf and wood mulch, and allows residents free use of this mulch for landscaping projects. Should curbside collection be eliminated, yard waste would be sent to the Covanta facility, and the county would no longer be able to provide this service.

The following are staff's conclusions and recommendations: Regarding yard waste, staff recommends that the county stay the course. The Solid Waste Management Program is going to continue its glass program development by adding more drop-off locations for residents. The glass program has had a lot of media attention and many inquiries from materials recovery facilities. The county has also had requests for its cullet (pea-sized glass). The county continues to get requests to join the glass collection program in the area. Staff would also like to

focus on yard waste collection for composting and see if plastic bags could be eliminated from the collection cycle and replaced with paper collection bags.

Eric ended his presentation by commenting on the problems private haulers are facing in the community, especially with on-time pickup of curbside waste. This issue is not specific to the region; it's a national issue. There is a worker shortage across the country, as not that many people are willing to drive waste trucks. As sanitary districts are added, the county will have to be mindful of how to fill the resources needed. Contracting could fulfill this need.

Board Discussion:

Gross: Most of these issues are not new. We've heard from constituents, who heard on the news and read in the paper about China's recycling ban and all the things involved in maintaining the environment.

Smith: I appreciate the information, but I still have questions. And yes, I did go A-Z on the website to look at what could be recycled, and I brought my questions with me. We all want to feel good about recycling. That's why you're getting so many hits on the website. I remember when we didn't recycle and I remember when we did and you could put in #1 and 2 plastics and other pieces, so I looked at the website to see what to do with these. I have a nice piece of cardboard with a little plastic on it; I have a water bottle with a lid on it. I heard if the water bottle has a lid on it, it becomes trash and it's not recyclable. I have the lid from my milk carton. We're providing some information to people if you want to get rid of a mattress or other things that are easy to find. But I look at this and how I live my life every day and what most of my recyclables are and I don't know the answer to these questions.

The other piece is the issue with glass. Because a number of months ago, we had a constituent who was out at the landfill and he saw stuff that was recyclable being put in the trash and we got an answer about that. And then you start hearing things: If there's broken glass in the recycling, it becomes trash. I would like to have a little more clarity, which I think would help my constituents. We had a great presentation at Northern Virginia Regional Commission about waste. People are not going to go to I-66 or I-95 for their glass. I just want to know what to tell my constituents. What do I tell myself? Am I just going to put my glass in the trash?

We shouldn't have any more plastic bags for yard waste. A lot of communities have already switched to paper bags. I remember a year or a year and a half ago when we did this, there were trash haulers that were telling communities to use paper. I see my neighbors using paper. I use paper. It lasts fine; it's better for the environment.

Gross: Thank you, Supervisor Smith. You've identified some of the daily things of 'what do we do with this?' I've always felt strange taking the cap off the bottle so that I could throw the cap in the trash and the bottle in the recycling. Someone told me that's how to do it years ago. Let's see if we can answer some of Supervisor Smith's questions.

Randy Bartlett, Director, DPWES: I will take on the glass and Eric can address the plastics.

The glass market right now is in turmoil. Things are really changing dramatically. I go back to a comment that Mr. Cook mentioned when we were working on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. We need to think 20 years out and work our way back to know what we need to do today. When I think about recycling 20 years ago, we had newspaper and glass and filled up the warehouses and didn't know where to put the newspapers. We said we thought recycling wouldn't last and we needed to bring it to an end. But we stayed the course and we found the paper markets came in, and then came the plastics and we found the plastic markets.

I think that what we've done with glass at the I-95 landfill - we found a process that can deal with the glass first, then a market for the glass before we went about changing the collection - it was pretty unique, what we did with the crusher. We've had companies coming in looking for higher end uses of our glass. So, the market is starting to show up, now that we have the material.

As far as single stream, right now it's not working well. A great short-term commodities solution would be to remove glass from the single stream. But once we get it out of the single stream, we'll never get it back in; this may confuse people.

Our recommendation to the Board is to leave glass in the single stream for now. What we're seeing from the MRFs [Material Recovery Facilities] is that they are starting to find ways to get the glass out. We can dispose of it cheaper at I-95 with the glass crusher machine. I think the MRFs will find the technology. So, when

we look to the future, there is good potential that they will find the technology to remove the glass.

At the same time, we are starting to provide opportunities for the purple bins. We got the purple bins at I-95 and I-66. We did not have them ready to go for alternate locations, but we're working on that. We have some on order to get one out at a winery. We expect to have more out later this month. We will try to get them scattered throughout the community so that they're much easier for people, but before we get them out, we wanted to have a place to dispose of it and process it. You will see more purple bins and more solutions to keep glass in the single stream.

Gross: Thank you, Randy. What about the cap on Kathy's water bottle?

Smith: I just have one follow-up question: How are we going to find out collection locations for people to take their glass?

Bartlett: We are working right now on the locations. We will have them at county facilities. When we've had these collection facilities out before, they've been abused. People will dump their trash, their mattresses and their box springs. You see it at non-profit collections for food and clothes. We want to get the purple bins in a place that will be monitored and seen, not next to a trash can. We also want to make sure they won't take up too much space in a parking lot.

Gross: And that's where you will increase the level of public outreach and education?

Kellas: Just one thing I'd like to add: We were catching up with equipment and were a victim of success. We put out the first two purple bins as a test and worked with other jurisdictions to do proof of concept. It caught on so fast that we had several requests for a container and didn't have enough containers. We tried it with surplus equipment, so we ordered more equipment.

We would like to come out and survey all the district offices. They are government facilities that have police stations, are well-lit, and have people moving around them 24 hours a day. We will contact each individual office. We're trying to prime the pump for businesses and restaurants.

Gross: What is your time frame? Is it sometime this fall? This summer?

Kellas: It depends on each office. We have to work with each office - Do they have room for a roll-off box or a front-end container? We started ordering the smaller containers. That's the one thing we didn't imagine; we were thinking large. We plan to do 4-8 small containers. We will also do a couple of roll-offs. Our timeframe is the next three to four weeks.

Gross: Have you checked with [Department of] Zoning? It would be very bad to have a purple can at a district office and have a community complaint.

Hill: We will provide you a schedule in the next couple of weeks to tie in with zoning. Once we give you the schedule, we will move forward.

Gross: Good idea. It's an exciting idea, we just have to make sure we don't have an oops.

Herrity: It is a complicated subject. Looking in the corner of this room at the collection bins, I see bottles, I see paper, and I see waste. This is an aluminum can, the most recyclable thing there is, and I don't know where to put it. But I would probably put it with bottles, and I know it will go to single stream place and get separated. Glass still has me confounded. For years, all the glass we put in single stream cans was going to the landfill. People thought they were being recycled. We're actually paying more at \$49/ton, then putting it straight into the collection for the landfill. I have to congratulate John Kellas on Big Blue. Fantastic idea, fantastic product. I also went to a MRF and they haven't figured out how to get glass out of the stream. It contaminates the recyclables and costs more to dispose of. I'm all for the program to get the purple bins out.

Bartlett: There will be quite a few people that do use the purple bins; there will be a lot of people that won't use the purple bins. There will be glass that goes to the incinerator and comes out as ash. The cost of recycling is higher now. We are going to give them a place to dispose of the glass with a cost of recycling that is much cheaper. The MRFs are pretty intelligent and will figure out how to get out the glass. A lot of solutions which we don't have today will happen tomorrow. Big Blue has provided a place to make the material usable and reduce the disposal cost.

Gross: So, this is an international problem. There is no magic bullet to deal with glass?

Bartlett: Not that we have found. We will keep looking.

Herrity: As you transition into future technologies, incineration is one way to go. Where are we at looking into this? We've come a long way. Our MRFs are on the outdated side. What about the conversion of enclosed containers for biofuel and chemical products to significantly reduce the waste stream? I know we had an RFI three years ago. Technology wasn't out there then, but it is starting to be out there now. What are we doing to look at future technologies, putting the glass piece aside?

Kellas: We did the original RFI three years ago and then did a follow-up one a year ago, corresponding with the renewal of Covanta. And there were some conversion technology renewal responses in there, but it's a big lift. We're looking at some of that right now and the total carbon footprint and the environmental impacts of what we're doing now. That technology is coming online and emerging. We're looking at that and reviewing the submissions with a consultant. It's certainly something we'll keep in mind for the future, going forward.

Herrity: And last, I want to thank you. I think you've done good work with ADS in getting a consent agreement and getting them back. I know you had a meeting with Republic, so thank you for your efforts there. We've been getting a lot of calls. Thank you for your efforts.

Cook: We appreciate the information. We did a board matter a while ago, asking for information about what to do with recycling. I guess the website was designed to answer that question. But two points: The vast amount of people are not going to go spend the time Kathy spent to go through the website letter by letter. We still have simple questions unanswered. What we really need is a one-pager that we can email to people and they can put on their refrigerator, so they can look at it and know. So, when they're cleaning up after dinner, they don't sit there and say, "Let's pull up the website and see what to do with this recycling." You have to make it simple enough that people want to do it. I'm still not exactly clear about some of the principle elements. I know this is more public relations or public affairs than it is DPWES but work with Tony [Castrilli, Director, Office of Public Affairs], and make a clear message to the public.

Secondly, I still wish we would do more with hazardous materials, lightbulbs and batteries. For all that stuff we say, "Don't put in your trash." We say, "Take it to

I-66 or I-95.” We pretend that a million people are doing it, but that stuff gets put in the trash. We’re making some progress on prescription drugs. This stuff we know we really need to separate out. We have to have some ability for people to do it conveniently. That’s worth spending some money on and ultimately, I appreciate the focus on the future. I agree, just because of what is a market shift right now, we shouldn’t stop doing what we’re doing. Ultimately our goal should be 75% recycling, even if it does involve some expenditure. That’s the right place to be, it’s where people want to be. Local government is solely responsible for solid waste. It ought to be our top environmental priority.

Gross: John mentioned a sheet that tells you what to recycle - we’ve had that for years. It’s probably changed over time. A good example is a grocery bag that says, ‘please recycle.’ That exists. People that get county trash collection get that information on an annual basis.

There is a cost to recycling hazardous waste at collection events. Those are very expensive. It might be helpful at some point to get that information updated. We haven’t seen that for a while. They were popular; the cars were lined up like crazy, but there is a real cost to that. It would be helpful to have that budgetary information.

Would any staff like to respond to what John was saying?

Hill: I do. How about if we take it in a different fashion and we provide some updates on what we believe we should go forward with. Tony Castrilli as well as the Board can give us something that Supervisor Cook has asked for and get on someone’s refrigerator. Let us just try to put something together that allows everybody to be somewhat happy and start recycling the way we ought to recycle.

Gross: Cathy, did I see your hand?

Hudgins: I’m going to take my glass to I-66.

Gross: Okay. Jeff?

McKay: Most of my questions have been answered. I just have two and I want to be clear on them. One, with the districts on the map you showed, are we wanting or not wanting communities to consider expansions to the sanitary districts? As a county, do we have a position on the future expansion of these?

Kellas: During this problem with [private hauler] staffing, we are getting an unprecedented number of requests on how to get into the sanitary district process. If we were overtaken by too many requests, we would want to let you know that. We've always tried to accommodate them. But the system has been around for years. To double our capacity, we would have to look at it carefully. It would be taxing on us.

McKay: So, in other words, we're not changing our position right now because of what's going on in the private sector in terms of our districts? All of the rules are the same; the petition process is the same. We are really not encouraging or discouraging, you're just saying be aware of the fact that if all of these did come in, we would have a problem?

Kellas: Yes.

McKay: Okay. And the second question, and I assume the answer is, "Stay the course," but everyone here has talked about recycling in terms of residential. On the commercial side, is the same answer applicable, which is "stay the course," on required cardboard and mixed paper recycling, the extent to which we require, or consider requiring, commercial properties to recycle?

Kellas: That system is pretty stable. We haven't had a lot of pushback from the commercial sector. They developed systems where they deliver goods to a national chain and they have a network where they backhaul the cardboard and the pallets.

McKay: That's good to hear.

Gross: How about the schools? I know that has always been a conversation item about how many schools do or do not recycle and how much they are going to recycle and how they recycle within the classrooms. I don't believe there is a policy where every school does the same thing. Dan and I are on the Joint Environmental Task Force between the Board and Schools. We're just getting started. That would be one thing to be on the agenda. Do we know right now what the situation is with schools?

Bartlett: We're continuing to work with Schools and Operations for salt, snow removal, and stormwater. We'll continue to look for opportunities to support them.

Gross: I know at one point at the former JEB Stuart High School, some of the students and teachers wanted to recycle and I was able to get a contractor who was willing to provide 30 totes from that particular business that have been in use for 10-15 years. They couldn't get anything to put the recycling in, which is why I was able to do something for that. It was a bit of a challenge.

Storck: We were talking about yard waste and I know the Board considered changing the rules on that, and I'd like to know where the Board is on that. I'm interested in pursuing that more vigorously now. I think it is time. Particularly when most of the surrounding districts are already requiring that yard waste not be in plastic bags. I think it's time that we take another look at that and move that forward. I know it's a big education curve, so the sooner we start it, the sooner we get people to acknowledge it and change habits before we have to enforce it in a more material way. I think Fairfax has done fairly well giving a lead time and working with people to get greater rates of compliance. You spoke about the 20-year vision on how to change habits over time. I didn't realize that yard waste was 40% of our recycling. That's huge. Theoretically, with the stroke of a pen and a lot of education, we could change that so that it's all recyclable, instead of the situation we're in now with microplastics where we know it's harmful to the environment. I think we need to be moving that forward more aggressively.

Gross: We need to work with the industry on bringing the cost of the paper bags down because they are very expensive, comparatively.

Smyth: Looking at the recycling page, I would not have thought about shredded paper not being recyclable. We're not supposed to recycle shredded paper?

Kellas: Could I briefly explain this?

Gross: Yes, could you explain that, John? It is recyclable, you just can't put it in the recycle bin.

Kellas: This is part of the outreach and the confusion of getting everything on one page. We do a lot of community events where people walk up and we have time to explore this.

Shredded paper is very recyclable when it is with other recycled paper. But if it's in the curbside program, you're going to put it in a plastic bag. Once something is in a plastic bag, it goes in the bypass. If you don't put it in a plastic bag, it's like releasing chicken feathers in the recycling plant. The material in the single stream process is set up for is this (holds up whole piece of paper). So, a shredded piece of paper is contamination and it gets all over the plant. It's so hard to communicate that shredded paper is very recyclable when a shredding company comes to your area. They bail it as a pure bail of shredded paper and sell it as shredded paper.

Gross: Thank you. Certainly, the shredding events that we do, and that some private businesses do, are the most popular event you can do. We get asked at the beginning of each year when the shredding events are. They're looking for it months in advance. You can sit in line for a very long time because hundreds of people will come out. The idea was for security purposes, but people bring everything.

Are there any more questions on this particular item? The recommendation was to stay the course, continue the glass program and development, look at organic recycling, and increase the level of public outreach and education.

Hudgins: Sorry to go back to the conversation, but some of our government facilities have changed their recycling and the question is, what happens with those? For example: we had recycling at our location, but it's not there now. It's rolled into the larger county program.

Gross: So, you used to have recycling and now you don't?

Hudgins: No.

Gross: That doesn't sound right.

Kellas: We should have recycling there, 100%. I'll look into that.

Goldie Harrison, Hunter Mill Aide: If I may, they used to come in and take it out.

Kellas: It drifted into working inside the building and cleaning the containers and we had to get out of that part of the practice.

Gross: Yes, sometimes we have to remind the cleaning crews about the recycling bins. We need to move on.

Herrity: I encourage that if we are going to do anything about plastic bags that it come before the Board.

Gross: That would be a long-term effort that would be a change in policy. And it would have to come before the Board, absolutely.

Smith: I guess I'm frustrated with that answer, because we were on the cusp of doing this before. The haulers had been notified. I don't want this to take another six months for us to say we're going to do this. I think it needs to be truncated. The next meeting of this committee is October. I would love to see a more streamlined way to say we are getting rid of plastic bags because we don't want microplastics in the environment. If there is any way to truncate it, I would love it.

Gross: I can certainly understand your approach, but I also know the push back I have gotten from folks about this and there will have to be a good deal more effort. It's a little bit like the native plants issue that we addressed a number of years ago, where we said we would not allow invasives, we're going to require native plants to be planted. Suddenly we realized that it takes at least three years for the nursery stock to be able to do that. So, I think in some cases, we need to be a little more deliberate here, because you can buy a box of 50 to 100 plastic bags and you can only get five to ten paper bags in one pack. The industry is not going to be prepared for the amount of change for a community of more than a million people. Yes, we need to be deliberate, but I think we need to be careful not to move too fast because the amount of materials is not available. I think what we have is that organics recycling, plastic vs. paper, is on our list to continue to move forward. But I'm concerned that October is not enough time to get that education out to the community.

John? Can you give us a sense of the industry's approach? Because if you're going to change the policy on this, you have to have the stuff to be able to do so and sometimes we find that we go too fast and industry can't catch up.

Bartlett: The recommendation we would make is that we do a lot of outreach, pushing people towards paper bags. And then we bring it back to the Board in the “off season,” so we’re not doing it in the middle of the yard waste season, which lasts from March to November. We would start next season, if you wish to do that at that time. But we will do a lot of marketing, advertising, and education during this time.

Gross: It will also feed into the budget process, because there will be additional costs for outreach. We’re going to move on to the Community-Wide Energy and Climate and Action Plan update. Kambiz Agazi will be presenting this.

Item III

Community-Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) Update

The second topic on the agenda was a presentation from Kambiz Agazi, Environmental and Energy Coordinator.

Kambiz provided an update to his Community-Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) presentation at the April 2 Environmental Committee meeting. The April 2 presentation on a CECAP was largely conceptual; the June update was intended to provide an abbreviated timeline for the CECAP planning process, as well as more detail on the structure and roles of participants. Kambiz asked for an endorsement on the timeline, structure and participant list following the presentation.

Kambiz reintroduced a slide from April, which discussed conceptual timelines. He then provided an updated timeline with a shorter Plan Initiation Phase, cut down from twelve months to seven. However, there are two major assumptions under this timeline: Fairfax County would need to use an existing MWCOG rider clause to secure a consultant for the planning process, and the Board would need to approve a FY2019 Carryover request to fund the CECAP.

Staff developed a community-driven structure for the CECAP, with three layers of participation, as the CECAP will be a community-driven, voluntary plan. These layers include district-level Focus Groups, an Energy and Climate Task Force, and community-wide outreach. Focus Groups will ensure that district-level priorities and concerns are incorporated in the CECAP. Staff envision that the Focus Groups will consist of 9-10 members, with a team lead, who will serve as a representative

on the Task Force. Staff will work very closely with Board member offices to establish these Focus Groups, providing recommendations to fill those positions. While the Task Force will be the decision-making body of the CECAP, the Focus Groups will also be giving opinions and voicing concerns.

All of the decisions throughout the CECAP planning process will be made at the Task Force level, which will be supported by county staff. There will be regular meetings. County staff and the consultant will be presenting information and the Task Force will be making decisions based on that information. Staff wanted to limit the size of the Task Force, because if it gets too large, it will be difficult to make decisions.

Kambiz presented a list of potential members for the Task Force, which he asked the Committee to endorse. This list included cross-sector subject matter experts, and was as diverse as possible to incorporate a diverse set of ideas. Staff will be looking for one representative per organization on the list. Members 13-21 on the list would be the district representative teams leads.

Finally, Kambiz presented on proposed community-wide outreach, which will allow everyone living and working in Fairfax County to have an opportunity to participate in the CECAP. The Strategic Planning process has already created some great tools that will be borrowed in this process. Outreach will include identifying focused neighborhoods and working with associations and community leaders - Supervisor Gross defined this as “inreach.” Inreach and outreach are important to include the under-represented in the planning process.

The FY2019 Carryover request for CECAP is estimated at \$750,000. This would allow for the development of a long-form technical report, online interactive tools, outreach, and an update to the MWCOG greenhouse gas inventory for Fairfax County.

Staff envision the planning process will take 12-18 months, depending on the level of community interaction. The Task Force will have approved the plan before it goes before the Board. Staff will be updating the Environmental Committee on a regular basis (quarterly) or more frequently via memos, if needed.

The endorsements for the Initiation Phase and Task Force membership were put forward to the Environmental Committee, as was a commitment to honor a request

for an FY2019 Carryover item, and to develop Focus Group member lists. These items are necessary to meet the revised schedule.

Board Discussion:

Gross: We do not take votes at our committees, and the Carryover item request has been put into consideration. Is there any objection to these next steps?

Herrity: I would make sure that the fiscal impact of this is taken into consideration all the way through.

Bulova: Good timeline. I appreciate looking over the Task Force membership. This does a good job of capturing the stakeholders who we would like to have at the table. I was looking for the faith community to be represented in the Focus Groups. I realize that this is a sampling. There is more reflected in the Task Force membership that should also be reflected in the Focus Group membership as well. I think this is a good job.

Gross: And also, on the membership on page 9, when you look at these particular organizations, diversity doesn't jump out at you, as far as ethnic and social diversity. So, I think that rather than going into various community groups, we need to make sure as these particular organizations are asked, they keep in mind that we are looking for diversity in these memberships.

Bulova: Actually, we should be paying attention to that as we look at known individuals and make sure that diversity is reflected in the membership.

Smyth: Just a couple questions about the Task Force membership: We have utilities listed and yet, the Fairfax Water Authority is listed under Authorities and Commissions. They strike me as a utility. Why would we have them as an Authority?

Gross: They are a slightly different group because they are an Authority. Yes, they are a utility, but they also have Authority status.

Smyth: So is the Park Authority, and they're listed as Government.

Gross: We could pick it all apart.

Smyth: I know. We have a lot of Boards, Authorities, and Commissions, like Sidewalks and Trails. Is that something we would want to consider in here? You're right, we can always pick things apart, but you're going to have to justify why this particular suggestion falls under this particular category.

Bulova: Hopefully this is exclusive, and if we find other organizations that we want to have reflected in here, we can.

Gross: There may be others. Do we want to have Fairfax Area Better Biking?

Bryan Hill, County Executive: How about I interject by saying this is a living document. If anyone on this board thinks that we missed an entity, please let us know, and we will add them to the queue. This is all about strategically putting us into the future.

McKay: A couple quick things. First, I want to thank Kambiz for bringing this forward. We put a fire under this, and you came back and gave us a couple tools you needed to match that timeline and what our expectation is, so I support that. My question is, in the MWCOG procurement element of the contract, I would like to get an affirmative answer that using that does not decrease the level of flexibility or innovation of the responses, or the competitiveness of it. I just want to make sure that in doing this quickly we're not tying our hands in any way, going through the procurement process, by having to select someone that may not have the broader experience nationwide or the background of creativity we're looking for.

Cathy Muse, Director, DPMM: Supervisor McKay, the contract was awarded to only two contractors, so we would definitely be limited to using those two contractors. The contract has three task areas that cover the tasks that Kambiz has outlined. The tasks are pretty well defined. The contract has no pricing, so we would have to negotiate the pricing for the tasks. There is no way to definitively compare it to the way they've priced those tasks for other jurisdictions without specifically asking. So, there are some shortcomings to doing it this way, but that is the expediency. If we solicit, it will take six months.

McKay: We're comfortable that the two, without talking about contracting, that they have the depth of experience, creativity, and nationwide exposure and we're not shortchanging ourselves by selecting one of those two that have been vetted? We're comfortable that they have the qualifications for this?

Hill: Supervisor McKay, I believe with the expertise from our staff that we believe that if they did not do what we need them to do, we wouldn't move forward and we would revert back to a different process. I'm hopeful that you trust us, and I do know you trust us, but if they do not come to us with what we're looking for, we will go a different avenue.

McKay: Okay. Let's make sure that this opportunity is the best thing for us. And lastly, on this chart (membership list), one glaring omission is that there is no one from the state. Within the Task Force, I think it would be helpful to have someone from the state level.

Agazi: Noted.

Gross: Good catch!

Foust: I wanted to note on this list, there is not a representative for the Chairman. You may want to add a 34th member. When the \$750,000 should get approved in September (hopefully), are there steps after that? You will have the consultant. Do you have to come back to us? Is there a delay? Were you going to come back to us for the contact and would this delay you for two months?

Muse: We have a policy that we report any contracts over \$100,000 to the Board, and we will do that by NIP. We will not have to wait for a Board Meeting to do that.

Foust: Thank you, okay. That's what I would have expected. The Board had established a lot of guidance for this Task Force. We're not starting from "Is climate change a problem?"

Gross: That was a given.

Foust: I hope this process includes some direction to the Task Force based on the positions this Board has taken. It's not a clean slate of coming back and telling us it's not an issue or there's nothing we can do. We've already gotten past that point.

Hill: I believe the reason why we're here today is due to the Board's guidance and moving us forward. So, this Task Force will have all guidance from this Board, moving forward into the next stage. I think what you've just stated will happen in

an expeditious fashion and we will continue to apprise the Board in every way we possibly can as we move forward with that.

Foust: Thank you.

Gross: We truncated this considerably from the last meeting. At least 6 months of wasted time.

Storck: Can you talk about what you've seen in the other counties or municipalities that have set up a CECAP and the composition of the membership?

Agazi: County staff researched 8 jurisdictions around the country and interviewed 3 and the one takeaway was that there is no CECAP blueprint. Every jurisdiction did things a little differently. We have been consulting with MWCOG and the two contractors contracted through MWCOG that we're looking to use, and they have also affirmed that there is no CECAP blueprint.

From a Fairfax County staff perspective, it's different from what, say, Montgomery County is doing today. I'm looking at a Task Force that will be operating for up to 18 months. These are going to be dedicated individuals. They're going to need to be representing organizations or state agencies with a vested interest in and a background in energy and climate issues. Since this is a decision-making Task Force, they will be provided with technical information and they will need to make decisions based on the technical information provided. So, the makeup of this Task Force is more on the organizational, authoritative, and professional side, but we wanted everyone living and working in Fairfax County to participate in the planning process. That's why we will have eight countywide quadrant meetings that we're going to hold, following a similar process as the Strategic Plan, where we quadrant off the county and we go out to the general community. We'll also have the Focus Groups - those don't need to be professionals in the field, they can be county residents, small business owners or just someone that has a concern. Hopefully we'll capture a lot of concerns and ideas. But the reason why our Task Force has that representation is because I felt that the length of this planning process might be longer than other CECAP processes may have been and we might lose some individuals.

Storck: You make some excellent points, Kambiz. I was not sure if this approach was the right approach, but I think it makes sense for Fairfax County and how we typically do things, and in that sense, I support and endorse it.

The only part of this I'm wondering if we're missing, because part of this is visibility and buy-in, is what we see happening in the corporate world and the Fortune 500 world. A number of those organizations want to be leaders - that's part of their branding. Could we look for some higher leadership to be a part of this process? I would recognize that maybe an organization's CEO may not be part of this process for 18 months, that may be unlikely, but if the organization wants to brand or associate itself with being part of the planetwide problem, I hope the design opens itself up for this to be considered. In the end, it's about marketing and getting their buy-in and follow through.

Hill: I think those are excellent suggestions and questions. As we went through the Strategic Plan, we were able to spin off to the business community as well. So, I think the process that we're using with the eight engagements allows us to spin off into that realm again. But I'm going to ask the Board to help us to identify companies that you want us to actively engage and seek, so we can move it forward. And if they're willing to help us, we'll move them forward without process. Again, I go out and talk a lot, and I've been asking individual companies to work with us with a myriad of things and they've been very receptive to it, but it would be helpful to get your input, from this Board, for companies that really want to go forward with what we're trying to do here in the county. It gives us more credibility.

Storck: In the end, I think it does come back to us and I appreciate that openness. I would like to see us look for folks that are willing to help be leaders in driving this process.

Gross: Remember, it's the Board of Supervisors that is driving this process. That's the leadership - the Board of Supervisors. We can bring in others, but I would not want to see some private industry trying to usurp what the Board is doing with the leadership.

Storck: I think we have a basic disagreement over what this is about. This is about the community overall, not just the Board. This is about getting the community to buy into something that they may agree with, but we can't get them to do these things on their own. We're not going to have the hammer, if you will, for most of this. We're going to try to persuade them, get them to own it and as part of that ownership, get others to own it and challenge and compete with others to do better. There's no doubt that the Board is the point in this, but I think we need the private

sector to deeply embrace this and that means some corporate leaders shoulder the burden.

Gross: As the County Executive said, we need to help staff find those corporate industry people, if they are out there. Again, I don't want to lose sight that the Board of Supervisor endorsed all of this, and they are in the driver's seat. And yes, we want it to be a community process, but the whole idea came through this Board.

Bulova: When I was first elected Chairman, I pulled together a Private Sector Environmental Task Force and Penny, you were a member of that. As I'm looking over this list, many of these organizations that are on this list were around the table and were very much a part and playing a leadership role in energy efficiency. The Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce is on here, so I expect that we will have a member or two who will be able to serve in a leadership role. But also, Dominion, Washington Gas, NOVEC - these are all partners that have played a major role on the Private Sector Energy Task Force. I expect that we will be able to populate this Task Force with business leaders, corporate leaders, and community leaders, who will play a major role.

Gross: We have the next steps that staff has asked for the Board to endorse. I didn't hear any objection to endorsing those next steps, so you have your direction.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 8. If there is no other business to come before the Committee, we are adjourned at 4:36 PM.