

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, April 8, 2015
TIME: 7:15 P.M.
PLACE: Hidden Oaks Nature Center

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Rick Healy (Mason)
Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chair, Mt.Vernon)	George Lamb (At-Large)
Matthew Baker (Student Member)	Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Paul Pitera (Braddock)
Johna Gagnon (Lee)	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Alex Robbins (Providence)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
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STAFF

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
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GUESTS

Susan Hafeli

The meeting convened at 7:15 P.M.

For the benefit of new members, each member introduced himself/herself.

Johna Gagnon offered to assume authorship of the Hazardous Materials chapter of the Annual Report on the Environment and to fill EQAC's position on the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee. There was a consensus supporting Ms. Gagnon's offers.

Climate change/energy efforts in the community: Emissions reductions in the utility sector

Matters discussed:

- Briefing from Susan Hafeli, Senior Utility Analyst, Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services.
- Energy use as the county's primary source of greenhouse gas emissions—Residential and commercial electricity use accounts for 76.4% of the county's stationary GHG emissions.

- Slowing residential demand for energy (more effective building codes; appliance standards).
- Impacts of cold winter weather on electrical and gas utility demand.
- Electricity sector emissions are declining because of Dominion Virginia Power's switch from coal to natural gas, which began in 2005, and because demand dropped as well.
- Washington Gas Light, Columbia Gas and the Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC) are all reducing energy-related emissions.
- Dominion use of more renewables, including off-shore wind; solar (focus on Dominion-owned solar as opposed to solar owned by others).
- State law provision establishing that Dominion is the county's electricity provider.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: None.

Climate change/energy efforts in the community: regional efforts and county support

Matters discussed:

- Presentation from Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator.
- Multi-sector working group at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.
 - History behind this effort.
 - Management.
 - Support from other COG committees.
 - Public input.
 - Mission and outcomes.
 - Process.
 - Strategy development for the energy/built environment, transportation, and land use sectors—county staff participation on each sector-specific group; Board of Supervisors representation on higher level oversight committees.
 - Consultant support for analyses and sector-specific strategy development.
 - Schedule.
- Voluntary actions taken by Fairfax County include support for tree canopy and using Transportation Demand Management to reduce growth in Vehicle Miles Traveled.
- EQAC member interest in Fairfax County's share of regional greenhouse gas emissions.
- EQAC member discussion regarding the merits of numerous small steps vs. public perceptions of measures with limited benefits—need to demonstrate that efforts will have meaningful results.
- Concerns about futility of some efforts (e.g., burning of oil shale from Canadian tar sands regardless of the status of the Keystone pipeline).
- Need for engagement of everyone and a societal ethic stressing the need to achieve a common end.
- Need for engagement of industry and the public on the Multi-sector working group effort.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: None.

Approval of EQAC budget testimony

Matters discussed:

- EQAC's authorization in March for Stella Koch to prepare testimony on the FY 2016 Advertised Budget Plan.
- Consideration of a draft memorandum to the Board of Supervisors consistent with the March EQAC direction.

Motions made:

- Clyde Wilber moved approval of the memorandum as drafted. The motion was seconded by Larry Zaragoza.

Record of the vote:

- The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of members present.

Follow-up actions:

- The approved memorandum will be signed and transmitted to the Board of Supervisors.
- Stella Koch will testify at the public hearing.

Appointment of a student member selection committee

Matters discussed:

- Paul Pitera, Matthew Baker and Clyde Wilber were named to the committee

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions:

- The committee will review all student member applications and will present its recommendations at the June EQAC meeting.

2015 Environmental Excellence Awards

Matters discussed:

- Briefing from Noel Kaplan regarding the nomination materials and process, along with publicity efforts.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions:

- A review committee will need to be established at the next EQAC meeting. Linda Burchfiel volunteered to serve on the committee.

Identification of an EQAC representative for the Tree Commission

Matters discussed:

- Rick Healy volunteered to serve.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: None.

Scheduling of EQAC agenda items and site visits

Matters discussed:

- Upcoming meeting agenda items.
- Tour of the Noman M. Cole, Jr. Pollution Control Plant at the May EQAC meeting.
- Request to invite Dr. Chris Jones to the May meeting for a briefing on the Gunston Cove Study and the impacts of the treatment plant on the ecological recovery of the cove.
- Recommendation for EQAC members to view the history exhibit at the Noman Cole facility in advance of the tour in May.
- EQAC consideration of the issue of Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds—Larry Zaragoza agreed to discuss this issue off-line with Joe Lahait, County Debt Manager, Department of Management and Budget, and to report back to EQAC.
- Movement of the joint meeting with the Environmental Coordinating Committee to the June meeting; inclusion on that agenda of discussions of the energy dashboard and climate change adaptation.
- Offer from Glenda Booth, Chairman, Fairfax County Wetlands Board, to brief EQAC on the Wetlands Board and what it does.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions:

- EQAC members agreed to consider additional agenda items for the joint meeting in June.

2015 Annual Report on the Environment kickoff: Identification of chapter authors and report production time line

Matters discussed:

- Chapters will, where applicable, be authored by same members as last year, with Johna Gagnon assuming authorship of the Hazardous Materials chapter.
- Visual Pollution section again has no author.
- Ken Lanfear will be the content editor; Rick Healy will give consideration to serving as the copy editor.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions:

- In an effort to better “front-load” EQAC’s review (in order to provide ample time for editing and collective reviews and in order to reduce the intensity of the demands on Noel Kaplan’s workload in October), chapter/section authors will need to identify, at the May meeting, review time frames (July, August and September) for their respective chapters/sections.

Approval of meeting minutes

Matters discussed:

- Consideration of the draft minutes of the October 8, 2014 EQAC meeting.
- One minor correction to the draft that was submitted

Motions made:

- Larry Zaragoza moved approval of the minutes as revised. The motion was seconded by Linda Burchfiel.

Record of the vote:

- The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of members present. The following members abstained: Johna Gagnon; Rick Healy; Ken Lanfear; Bob McLaren; and Paul Pitera.

Follow-up actions:

- The approved minutes will be posted to EQAC’s website, and an e-mail will be sent to all Board of Supervisors’ offices to advise them of the availability of the minutes on-line.

Chairman's items

No items

Council member items

Matters discussed:

- May 9 Green Breakfast with Representative Connolly: Congressional efforts supporting sustainability.
- The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's annual seedling sale.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: None.

Staff items

Matters discussed:

- May 12 public hearing on the proposed revisions to the Noise Ordinance.
- Relation between the now-proposed Noise Ordinance revisions and EQAC's comments from August 2014.
- Consideration of whether or not EQAC should provide follow-up correspondence to its August 2014 comments. After considerable discussion, EQAC decided against pursuing any follow-up correspondence.
- Upcoming meetings of the Planning Commission's Environment Committee and Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.