

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 9, 2014  
**TIME:** 7:15 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Room 232, Fairfax County Government Center, Fairfax, VA

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)       | Frank Crandall (Dranesville) |
| Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chair, Mt.Vernon) | Alex Robbins (Providence)    |
| Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)             | Clyde Wilber (Springfield)   |
| Hana Burkly (Student Member)           |                              |

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

|                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Johna Gagnon (Lee)          | Robert McLaren (At-Large) |
| George Lamb (At-Large)      | Rich Weisman (Sully)      |
| Michael Sanio (Hunter Mill) | Glen White (Mason)        |

**STAFF**

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Kambiz Agazi | Noel Kaplan |
|--------------|-------------|

**GUESTS**

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Susan Hafeli    | Edwin Roessler |
| Jini Mohanty    | David Rohrer   |
| Carolina Morgan | David Smith    |
| Danny Morgan    | Cindy Walsh    |
| Jerry Peters    | Edina Wilson   |

**Discussion of the Wildlife Biologist Office**

**Issues addressed:**

- Future directions for the Wildlife Biologist position and Animal Services Division of the Police Department, as discussed with David Rohrer, Deputy County Executive, and Edwin Roessler, Chief of Police
- Commitment of the Police Department to the Wildlife Biologist position and the deer management program in general

- Reorganization of Animal Services to elevate the civilian director of Animal Services to a bureau (senior staff) level, with the Wildlife Biologist working within Animal Services
- Invitation to EQAC to have a member serve on the interview panel
- Police Dept. interest in EQAC's recommendations and assistance in recruiting a good candidate
- Recognition by Police Dept. of importance of other wildlife issues aside from deer (e.g., geese, coyotes), with agreement from Stella Koch, who referenced the discussion at EQAC's public hearing of turtles crossing a highway
- Need for the Wildlife Biologist to leverage partners in other agencies
- Support to the Wildlife Biologist from outreach specialists in the Police Dept., who can help with outreach to nonprofits, community groups and other agencies
- Recognition of need for staff support to the Wildlife Biologist; note that there is one person in the broader Animal Services program dedicated to outreach, along with other administrative support that would also be available to the Wildlife Biologist
- Historical focus on public safety considerations (e.g., deer/vehicle collisions)
- Discussion about the need for broader metrics for wildlife management
- Recognition that the changes to the program are a work in progress
- Agreement on the need to anticipate challenges and demands over the long term and to develop the program accordingly
- Agreement that several skills are needed for the new Wildlife Biologist, including technical expertise, management skills and teaching/outreach skills
- Commitment from the Police Department to support the Wildlife Biologist

**Motions made:** None

**Follow-up actions:**

- EQAC to identify a participant on the interview panel for the Wildlife Biologist position

**Draft Fairfax County Sustainability Initiatives document**

**Issues addressed:**

- Background from Kambiz Agazi regarding the development of the document; the document was identified as an annual report on the county's environmental efforts and not as a plan or strategy document.
- Overview of draft
- Identification of the process getting under way by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee to develop energy goals
- Discussion regarding the document's focus on accomplishments as opposed to potential projects that have not been initiated; mechanisms to identify unfunded projects
- The trade-off between broadening the scope of the document to incorporate other efforts that could be considered to be "environmental" vs. expanding the size of the document further

- Suggestion to condense the policy discussion into a one or two page communications tool, such as a brochure, with another suggestion that the policy detail should be retained
- Suggestion that there is a need for a better, catchier title for the document
- The need to add something regarding greenhouse gas emissions inventories (county facilities and community)

**Motions made:** None

**Follow-up actions:**

- Kambiz Agazi to provide EQAC with an update at the joint EQAC/Environmental Coordinating Committee meeting in July on the development of energy goals
- Noel Kaplan was asked to forward the draft report again to all EQAC members.
- EQAC members were invited to forward comments on the draft to staff, with each comment to be addressed.

**Preparation for a joint meeting with the Fairfax County Park Authority Board**

**Issues addressed:**

- Inability to hold the meeting in May due to FCPA Board committee meeting conflicts
- Items for inclusion on the agenda for a future joint meeting in May [*Note: The joint meeting was ultimately scheduled for October 8*]
  - Implementation of the natural resources program and associated staffing
  - Green infrastructure
  - Budget struggles and revenue generation

**Motions made:** None

**Follow-up actions:**

- EQAC members were invited to forward suggested agenda items to Noel Kaplan

**Annual Report on the Environment**

**Issues addressed:**

- Desire to better “front load” the report preparation process through earlier chapter/section reviews
- Desire for EQAC to look at chapters in their totality ahead of the discussions
- Noel Kaplan circulated a document that can be used to identify review “slots” for each Annual Report chapter and section. Ultimately, authors would need to sign up for slots at the July, August and September meetings, and EQAC reviews would proceed accordingly. Some authors identified review slots for their chapters/sections.
- Information available to prepare the 2014 General Assembly appendix

- Agreement for authors of chapters/sections from the 2013 report to carry forward their authorships for the 2014 report, with Alex Robbins authoring the General Assembly appendix
- Acceptance of the report preparation time line

**Motions made:** None

**Follow-up actions:**

- Noel Kaplan will circulate the “slots” document to all members, with authors to sign up for slots at the July, August and September meetings.
- EQAC authors to review draft information request lists and the prototype request e-mail and provide any changes to Noel Kaplan

*[At this time, there was a break in the EQAC meeting to provide members with the opportunity to watch Stella Koch provide testimony at the Board of Supervisors’ budget hearing.]*

**Review of future meeting agendas**

**Issues addressed:**

- Review of a summary of issues/recommendations identified at EQAC’s January 13, 2014 public hearing and compilation of issues identified for possible future meeting agendas
- Staff resource implications of some of the budget testimony recommendations
- Concern by several EQAC members regarding the need for progress on recommendations from the Chairman’s Private Sector Energy Task Force, particularly the formation of an Energy Alliance
- Perspective from Kambiz Agazi on the need for business leadership for the Energy Alliance
- Interest among EQAC members in reaching out to the Economic Advisory Commission and the Chamber of Commerce in regard to the Energy Alliance

**Motions made:** None

**Follow-up actions:**

- Noel Kaplan will seek information regarding the appropriate point of contact for the Economic Advisory Commission
- Stella Koch agreed to coordinate with Mark Thomas (Chairman’s Office) regarding private sector points of contact
- Larry Zaragoza was asked to frame questions regarding the Energy Alliance that EQAC would want to pursue in future discussions
- Kambiz Agazi agreed to circulate to all EQAC members recent correspondence he sent to the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions.
- Chapter authors asked to identify future agenda items relating to their topics

**Identification of an EQAC representative for the Tree Commission**

This item was deferred.

**Chairman's Items**

None

**Council member items**

**Issues addressed:**

- Request to invite Fairfax Water to the May panel discussion on hydraulic fracturing in order to get its perspective on the issue
- Development of a straw EQAC resolution regarding hydraulic fracturing in the George Washington National Forest
- Tree plantings in parking lot islands at the Costco development along Richmond Highway
- A new Web tool identifying areas in the United States that have been subject to spills

**Motions made:** None

**Follow-up actions:**

- Noel Kaplan will invite Fairfax Water to serve on the panel on hydraulic fracturing at EQAC's May meeting.
- Noel Kaplan will send to all EQAC members information about the Web tool addressing chemical spills.

**Staff items**

**Issues addressed:**

- Documents provided to EQAC from Glenda Booth
- E-mails/spam in EQAC's mailbox
- Collection of EQAC member resumes
- Planning Commission public hearing on the green building Policy Plan amendment to be held on May 7
- Planning Commission Environment Committee workshop on electric vehicle charging issues to be held on May 8

**Motions made:** None

**Follow-up actions:**

- Noel Kaplan will send an e-mail to all members asking for their resumes

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM.