

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**DATE:** Wednesday, August 8, 2012  
**TIME:** 7:15 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale, VA

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Patricia Greenberg (Hunter Mill)
Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mt. Vernon)	George Lamb (At-Large)
Jeff Allcroft (Springfield)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Rich Weisman (Sully)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Talia Schmitt (Student Member)
Frank Divita (Braddock)	Glen White (Mason)
Johna Gagnon (Lee)	

**STAFF**

Noel Kaplan

**GUESTS**

Jim Beals	Conrad Mehan
Owen Beals	Bill Nell
Joyce Doughty	Mark Thomas

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Chairman Koch

**1. Briefing on the South County Energy Triangle**

Joyce Doughty, Director, Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery and Conrad Mehan, Director of Government and Community Relations, EnviroSolutions, Inc. focused on two components of the Green Energy Triangle concept: Ms. Doughty focused on existing and potential future activities on the county-owned property in the Lorton area, while Mr. Mehan discussed opportunities that could be pursued at a privately-owned construction/demolition debris landfill site near the county-owned property.

Ms. Doughty gave a presentation on interim uses being considered for the I-95 Landfill in the Lorton area. She oriented EQAC members to the location of the landfill and discussed the history of the facility, noting that, while the municipal solid waste portion of the landfill has been capped, the incinerator ash portion of the landfill remains active. She noted that Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regulations require post closure care of landfills for 30 years after the cessation of landfilling activities; since the county has one permit for the entire facility, post closure care cannot begin until the ash monofill is also capped, sometime after 2041. She noted that this schedule generates questions regarding the interim use of the property.

Ms. Doughty described a feasibility study that was pursued to evaluate various potential interim uses of the landfill site, noting that the study had considered a broad range of reuse options (including passive and active recreation, biofuel crop production and other crop harvesting, community garden plots and vehicle storage) as well as the opportunities and constraints associated with each option. She stated that renewable energy uses were included in the assessment, noting that such uses could help defray costs. She identified four potentially viable renewable energy sources that were evaluated: photovoltaic solar; wind; geothermal; and landfill gas. She noted that, because of cap liner and foundation issues, the site may not be suited for a wind energy use. She also noted the existing landfill gas collection efforts and indicated that there were not sufficient opportunities for geothermal recovery. She stated that there may be good opportunities to implement solar energy measures on this site, noting that construction of photovoltaic cells could be compatible with the landfill cap. She indicated that there was a potential for the generation of 4.5 megawatts of electricity but cited challenges, including construction costs and a potentially low return in light of currently low energy costs. She noted a net metering possibility for up to 0.5 megawatts of electricity and indicated that an initial project of this magnitude would be viable from an economic standpoint. She indicated that this concept would be included in a request for proposals that would be issued soon. She noted other energy-related efforts that had already been implemented, including the Energy/Resource Recovery Facility, the use at that facility of reclaimed water from the Noman M. Cole, Jr. Pollution Control Plant and landfill gas collection and use.

Stella Koch asked if the Board of Supervisors would need to take any action to move this concept forward. Ms. Doughty responded that such action was not needed, although there may need to be a Planning Commission approval through the "2232" process addressing public facilities. George Lamb asked if there was anything in the works that would expand the net metering opportunity beyond 0.5 megawatts. Ms. Doughty replied that she was not aware of any legislative or regulatory changes under way.

Conrad Mehan provided an overview of the construction/demolition debris landfill in Lorton that is operated by EnviroSolutions, Inc. (ESI). He noted a 2006 agreement with the Fairfax County Park Authority for the Park Authority to take ownership of the land upon closure of the landfill, with ESI to build a small park at the top of the closed landfill. He also noted community interests in regard to the site, including interests in landscaping/reforestation, provision of a nature park with a trail system, and ensuring that

truck traffic to and from the facility would be oriented to the south rather than the north. He indicated that, in 2009, the Park Authority changed its mind in regard to this site; the Park Authority no longer is interested in taking ownership of the land or operating a park on it.

Mr. Mehan continued by noting that the facility operates under a special exception that was approved by the Board of Supervisors and that this SE was conditioned on the cessation of landfilling activities by 2018. He indicated that ESI is interested in operating the facility after 2018 and that the SE will, therefore, need to be amended. As part of this amendment, ESI is interested in establishing alternate uses on the site consistent with community interests; he noted that he has been approached by several people with ideas, all focusing around energy conservation and innovation. ESI has, therefore, developed a proposal to establish a green energy park on this site that would augment other energy innovations within the Lorton area. Included in this green energy park would be 12 wind turbines (three during the first phase in 2018 and 9 more after completion of site closure around 2040). He noted that there would be a constant wind source at the top of the landfill (at an elevation of 500 feet above sea level). He continued by noting other features of the green energy park, including a nine-acre solar structure (to be implemented in 10 years) and a methane gas collection system, with the methane to be piped to a cogeneration facility to provide energy needs of the nearby Lorton Arts facility.

Mr. Mehan noted that another component of the park would be a horticultural park and community garden area, with greenhouses that would be provided with climate control through a geothermal system. In response to a question, he noted that any profits from the generation and sale of energy from the green energy park would be shared with the community.

Mr. Mehan requested EQAC's support for the energy and related educational efforts being proposed. After further discussion, Stella Koch expressed her view that it would be helpful to EQAC if it could receive a more detailed proposal, along with a one or two page paper prefacing the proposal, once the special exception amendment application is filed. Mr. Mehan agreed to provide this information to EQAC. Noel Kaplan agreed to circulate to EQAC a white paper that has already been prepared regarding the green energy triangle concept.

## **2. Briefing on the Chairman's Private Sector Energy Task Force**

Mark Thomas, a Senior Staff Aide to the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, provided an update on the Chairman's Sector Energy Task Force. Mr. Thomas reviewed the history of the County's work going back to the Environmental Agenda of 2004 and the Cool Counties initiative of 2007. He described the impetus behind and composition of the Task Force (including EQAC representation by Stella Koch) and its interaction with county staff as well as the Task Force's mission and work. He indicated that members of the business community generously donated their time and expertise to the project, noting

that the Task Force provided a vehicle for businesses to examine the question of energy use and explore the question of collaboration.

Mr. Thomas presented the draft Task Force recommendations as of the date of the presentation, noting that they may change before finalization. He summarized the recommendations as follows:

- Create an independent Energy Alliance to:
  - Pursue recommendations from the Task Force report
  - Support private sector initiatives by working with the state and county
  - Stimulate pilot projects with the power to focus attention on Fairfax County
  - Build popular support for energy efficiency through education
- The County should partner with the Energy Alliance to build on the Energy Action Fairfax program:
  - Provide public outreach to demonstrate how residents and businesses can save money through energy efficiency
  - Generate support for further initiatives
- Develop incentives to encourage investment in sustainability and energy efficiency improvements, both for new and existing buildings. [The Task Force's Process Subcommittee is studying this and will make recommendations either to the Alliance or Board. The subcommittee is looking for options to lower or remove any "penalties" for investment. Two options have been identified for study and possible implementation:
  - Temporary tax abatement for value of improvements (similar to current solar panel policy)
  - Transferrable development bonus]
- Develop a strategy to partner with the business community to meet regional emissions goals:
  - Reduction from "business-as-usual," as outlined by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee
  - No net new emissions for Tysons Corner
- Relay the Task Force's report on transportation to regional transportation organizations. Highlights of the draft transportation report include:
  - Mixture of solutions – roads and transit
  - Economic impact of congestion
  - Address 'choke points'
  - Explore infrastructure to support alternative fuel vehicles
- Work with the Energy Alliance to facilitate application of sustainability, alternative energy or energy efficiency projects, both at the county and state levels
- Identify demonstration projects to showcase the use of alternative energy and sustainability in the local market. These efforts should be achievable in the near term, within existing regulations. Opportunities include the following:
  - The South County Energy Triangle
  - SAIC Microgrid
  - Geothermal

- As County energy policies continue to evolve, they should seek economic as well as environmental benefits, avoid any increase in the regulatory burden, and be compatible with broader regional initiatives.

Mr. Thomas offered to distribute a Task Force supporting document to EQAC.

Mr. Thomas noted that the recommendations and report would be finalized and transmitted to the Board of Supervisors in fall 2012; he indicated that the county is continuing its collaboration with the private sector in order to begin integrating the Task Force recommendations into policies and new initiatives, including an Energy Alliance. He concluded his presentation with a summary of key lessons from the effort:

- Focus on collaboration rather than regulation
- Education and understanding are critical
- Policies should seek ‘win-win’
- Recognize and support innovation
- Tailor solutions to circumstances
- There should be continued partnership to achieve goals

There was discussion regarding an argument that cars will be carbon neutral by a certain date based on the experiences of the aviation industry. Stella Koch stressed that the transportation part of the report needs to be considered separately from the rest of the report.

In response to a question about the concept of revenue-neutral incentives, Mr. Thomas noted that legislative authority may be needed to pursue some ideas. He also noted that there are only a limited number of county revenue streams and that there therefore may not be as much flexibility in Fairfax County as there may be in other localities with more varied revenue sources.

**3. Consideration of a resolution regarding options for Dulles Toll Road ramp connections to Tysons Corner**

The discussion of a resolution on the Dulles Toll Road ramp was deferred so that additional information could be provided related to a resolution. Additional time is available before this issue comes before the Board of Supervisors. Bob and George will meet with staff from the Fairfax County Department of Transportation and will coordinate on the development of a resolution.

**4. Consideration of a resolution on the Wind Energy Production Tax Credit**

The discussion of a resolution to ask the Board of Supervisors to support the wind energy tax credit was deferred until the September meeting. Noel Kaplan was asked to identify someone who could attend the next EQAC meeting to provide guidance on this issue.

**5. Appointment of EQAC representative to the Tree Commission**

Patricia Greenberg, EQAC's current representative on the Tree Commission, is moving out of the county. Therefore, a new Tree Commission representative is needed. Ms. Greenberg described the committee and its focus. Jeff Allcroft volunteered to represent EQAC on the Tree Commission, and a consensus supported his appointment.

Everyone expressed their gratitude for Ms. Greenberg's contributions and wished her well.

**6. 2012 Annual Report on the Environment**

Noel Kaplan referenced the cover design that was prepared by Talia Schmitt. Other EQAC members commended Ms. Schmitt for her design, and there was a consensus supporting the cover design, with a higher resolution photo of the Government Center stream restoration project. Noel Kaplan agreed to take higher resolution photos of the project and use one for the cover.

Noel Kaplan noted that authors were needed for the Visual Pollution and Urban Forestry sections of the report. Bob McLaren agreed to prepare the Urban Forestry section within his broader Ecological Resources chapter. There were no volunteers for the Visual Pollution section; the council agreed to discuss this further at the September meeting.

Rich Weisman presented the proposed comments for the Air Quality chapter. He was asked to add a note to the first comment that the Board of Supervisors did not act on its recommendation regarding air quality monitors. For comment 2, he was asked to refer to the Health Department's air quality efforts as "limited." For comment 3, there was a request to clarify a reference to "bike detectors."

Jeff Allcroft asked if there was any information from Fairfax County Public Schools regarding radon. It was suggested that someone who could speak to radon issues be invited to a future EQAC meeting.

Rich Weisman moved approval of the chapter with the modifications discussed above. Bob McLaren seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Noel Kaplan requested that chapter authors call to his attention, as soon as possible, any major information gaps for their chapters. He reviewed the remaining time line and noted that he had circulated a style guide for chapter authors to follow.

**7. Approval of the minutes of the June 13, 2012 EQAC meeting – deferred**

**8. Approval of the minutes of the July 11, 2012 EQAC meeting – deferred**

**9. Chairman's items**

Stella Koch requested that one or more staff from the Deer Management program be invited to a future meeting to update the council on the program and speak to the vision of the Wildlife Biologist's role. It was agreed that this briefing should occur in November.

**10. Council member items**

Patricia Greenberg noted that there had been a considerable amount of community concern regarding stormwater management issues generated by proposed renovation/expansion projects at Terraset and Sunrise Valley Elementary Schools. Stella Koch recommended that a resolution be prepared insisting that county building projects incorporate adequate stormwater management efforts and increased water quality controls. It was agreed that this issue would be considered at the September meeting. Rich Weisman suggested that two Fairfax County Public School employees (Elaine Tholen and Steve Nicholson) be copied on the resolution.

**11. Staff items**

Noel Kaplan asked about when EQAC would like to hold its annual public hearing. Stella Koch asked that dates in January be explored.

Noel Kaplan noted that EQAC was scheduled to receive a briefing in September on the development of a new stormwater management ordinance. He indicated that the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, which would give the briefing, had asked if the Tree Commission and Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board could be invited to this briefing. EQAC agreed to extend these invitations and asked that the meeting location be moved to the Government Center complex in order to accommodate a larger turnout. Stella Koch noted that the county had filed suit against the Environmental Protection Agency in regard to the flow TMDL (total maximum daily load) that EPA has proposed for Accotink Creek. She requested a briefing from staff on this lawsuit at some time in the future.

Noel Kaplan noted that EQAC's legislative initiatives had been forwarded to the County Executive's Office and that these items would be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for consideration at a Legislative Committee meeting. He identified the September 18 committee meeting as the most likely for this discussion.

Noel Kaplan reviewed future EQAC meeting agendas and made note of Planning Commission Environment Committee meetings on September 13 and October 4.

**12. Adjournment**—The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 P.M.