

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, December 11, 2013
TIME: 7:15 P.M.
PLACE: Hidden Oaks Nature Center

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
George Lamb (At-Large)	Glen White (Mason)
Alex Robbins (Providence)	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mt. Vernon)	Frank Crandall (Dranesville)
Jeff Allcroft (Springfield)	Johna Gagnon (Lee)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Hana Burkly (Student Member)	Michael Sanio (Hunter Mill)

STAFF

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
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GUESTS

Delma Borque	Tom Grizzard
Maya Dhavale	Marisa Izaguirre
Tom Fleury	Phil Keipper
Randy Gaines	Fred Selden

This summary addresses items from the December 11, 2013 meeting of EQAC. No votes were taken at the meeting.

**Funding of Monitoring Efforts by the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory:
Discussion with Dr. Thomas J. Grizzard, Director, OWML**

Matters discussed:

- Presentation by Dr. Tom Grizzard about historical efforts to monitor for synthetic organic chemicals (SOCs) at 8 locations in the Occoquan Watershed; noted that none of these SOC were found at concentrations of concern for the water supply.

- SOC monitoring effort funding by Fairfax County has been steady at \$50,000 per year for past several years.
- Discussion included considerations as to whether the parameters being monitored continue to make sense in light of changes in land use in the watershed and in light of emerging contaminants of concern (e.g., endocrine-disrupting compounds and/or pharmaceuticals or personal care products).
- Discussion also included funding concerns and whether current funding is aligned with monitoring needs
- Dr. Grizzard suggested further discussion between EQAC and OWML staff regarding the development of proposed changes to the program; he indicated that the first step would be development of a proposed work program for this discussion, and he offered to prepare such a proposal.
- Dr. Grizzard noted a year 2000 report by the Occoquan New Millennium Task Force where EQAC had a contribution; he recommended this report for a good overview of watershed conditions and issues.
- Dr. Grizzard noted the innovative water supply approach in the Occoquan watershed through which reclaimed water is being used as a drinking water supply. He encouraged all interested parties to visit the Upper Occoquan Service Authority's advanced wastewater treatment facility.

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions:

- Dr. Grizzard agreed to provide a draft work program to EQAC that could set the stage for an updating of the SOC monitoring program and a review of the funding needed to support such an effort.
- Stella suggested that Fairfax Water be invited to a follow up meeting about this and other topics.

Green Building Policy as it Applies to Hotels: Discussion with Representatives from Cityline Partners and Hilton Worldwide

Matters discussed:

- Discussion about market considerations in the Tysons area related to zoning for construction of new hotels, and historical considerations about the green building policy from the Tysons Task Force.
- Tom Fleury (Cityline Partners), Phil Keipper (Hilton Worldwide) and Randy Gaines (Hilton Worldwide) described their concerns about the LEED[®] Silver guidelines in the green building policy for Tysons, and noted the in-house program they use related to building sustainability ("LightStay") as well as certification of every Hilton hotel through the International Organization for Standardization's standards ISO 9001 and 14001. Mr. Gaines expressed his view that these ISO standards include components focusing on similar design and construction-related sustainability efforts that have been included in

the LEED-NC rating system and that the ISO standards could therefore be considered as an effective alternative to LEED.

- Proffer enforcement mechanisms, including the green building escrow approach.
- County staff noted the availability of an “equivalency” provision in the Tysons plan, and described how that provision can be applied to consider alternatives to LEED during the zoning process; staff was amenable to looking at equivalent alternatives to LEED for hotels in the Tysons area, but not amenable to looking at equivalency for a system that was purely operational rather than oriented toward design and construction.
- County staff noted that other hotels (including major brands) have constructed hotels that achieved LEED Silver certification (or higher), including those with a design template approved under the LEED Volume program.

Motions made:

- None.

Follow-up actions:

- Hilton representatives to coordinate with county staff about use of the “equivalency” provision in the Tysons plan.

Annual Report on the Environment: Discussion of the Report Preparation Process and Possible Changes

Matters discussed:

- EQAC staff liaison discussed the difficulties encountered in recent years with the process used to prepare the Annual Report on the Environment (ARE), including the increased burden during the September-October timeframe.
- DPZ Director noted potential opportunity to “skip a year” for the ARE and use that time to reassess process used to prepare ARE.
- EQAC members discussed several considerations related to ARE preparation including holding follow up meetings with individual members of the BOS and other potential users of the report. The diminished benefit of the “scorecard” section was discussed, as was the benefit of seeking agency/organization updates each year.
- The development of a structured list of questions that could be discussed with each board member.
- Suggestions were made to increase the use of social media for providing relevant information to a broader public audience.
- Discussion about the process through which any EQAC suggestions for changes to the ARE process would be communicated to the Board of Supervisors.

Motions made:

- None.

Follow-up actions:

- EQAC members to draft questions related to preparation and use of the ARE (for EQAC discussion in January), and hold follow up meetings with individual members of the BOS

and other potential users of the report, such as planning commissioners, supervisor staff, Park Authority board members, Tree Commissioners and county staff who typically respond to ARE recommendations.

- Potential questions could include topics such as about environmental issues in their district; uses for the ARE; if there was a different way that the information could be presented to be more helpful; anything missing from the ARE; and role for the public.

Preparation for the January 13, 2014 public hearing

Matters discussed:

- Reviewed logistics and publicity for the upcoming public hearing.
- EQAC staff liaison has forwarded the flyer about the public hearing to various interest groups and will also forward a soft copy to EQAC members.

Motions made:

- None.

Follow-up actions:

- Public hearing to take place on January 13, 2014.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

EQAC did not make any votes about approving minutes from the April 10, October 9, or November 13 meetings.

Chairman's Items

- None.

Council Member Items

- Rich Weisman provided information that he learned at a recent Green Infrastructure event at his work place about an Arlington County effort called "StormwaterWise Landscaping" where residents can be reimbursed up to 50% of the cost for LID-type projects. A web link to Arlington's program (<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/Sustainability/page87826.aspx>) was provided to the EQAC staff liaison.
- George Lamb noted the Green Breakfast on January 11 with a focus on climate change.

Staff Items

- Noted the summary of comments provided by members of the BOS during the presentation of the 2013 ARE.
- Noted a request by the Unitarian Universalist church to speak this Friday about climate change; will forward a response declining the invite.

- Noted a request from a person in Mason Neck about ash depositing on his boat; will refer to the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services as well as the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.
- BOS Transportation Committee meeting postponed to December 17; meeting to include a consideration of the issue EQAC addressed in its recent letter to the BOS (transportation funding).
- Status of EQAC input on legislative initiatives – disposable bags carried forward; community net metering recommendation not included explicitly but incorporated more broadly in a position to support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (including expanding the availability of net metering programs); uranium mining net metering not incorporated.
- January 28, 2014 BOS public hearing on the Stormwater Ordinance.
- Noted upcoming meetings on EQAC's meetings calendar.
- Discussed process for Environmental Excellence awards; will use same process as last year.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.