

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**DATE:** Wednesday, December 14, 2011  
**TIME:** 7:15 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Conference Room, Hidden Oaks Nature Center

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Patricia Greenberg (Hunter Mill)
George Lamb (Vice Chairman, At-Large)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
Johna Gagnon (Lee)	Glen White (Mason)
Angela Greenberg (Springfield)	Larry Zaragoza (Mount Vernon)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Marie Flanigan (Providence)
Frank Divita (Braddock)	Kat Pfleeger (Student Member)

**STAFF**

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
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**GUESTS**

None

The meeting convened at 7:20 P.M.

**Establishment of search committee for EQAC officers for 2012**

Matters discussed:

- George Lamb will step down as Vice Chairman. He will form a committee to recommend candidates for Chairman and Vice Chairman for 2012. Rich Weisman and Glen White volunteered to serve on the committee; the committee composition was accepted by consensus.

Follow-up actions:

- The committee will report its recommendations to EQAC at the January 17, 2012 meeting.

**December 6 presentation of the Annual Report on the Environment to the Board of Supervisors—summary and follow-up actions**

Matters discussed:

- Stella Koch gave a report on the presentation. She stated that Supervisor Gross asked the County Executive what it would take to create a fund for Environmental Improvement Program projects (similar to a current fund for information technology projects).
- Noel Kaplan provided an overview of questions and comments from Board members. In addition to the request from Supervisor Gross, Noel noted the following:
  - Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Gross complimented the report format.
  - Supervisor Smyth commended EQAC for the numerous data “tidbits” that were included in the report.
  - Supervisor Smyth commended EQAC for the “who to call” matrix.
  - Supervisor McKay commended EQAC for its deer management recommendations.
  - Chairman Bulova expressed appreciation for a comment in the Water Resources chapter regarding the need for dredging of ponds.
  - The Board voted to accept the report and refer it to staff for response.
- Noel noted that the staff response process was under way and that a response document, similar to documents from past years, was anticipated in early spring.
- Noel noted that Stella had requested that the “who to call” matrix be distributed separately to all Board members. He noted that he had received feedback on the matrix from the Office of Public Affairs and that some tweaks may be needed before this can be distributed to the Board.
- Bob McLaren referenced Supervisor Herrity’s motion at the December 6 Board meeting regarding signs in highway rights-of-way. He asked if Supervisor Gross had sought an amendment to the motion in regard to the amount of a bond for campaign signs.

Motions made:

- George Lamb moved that, if the Board’s motion regarding this issue was consistent with EQAC’s recommendations regarding sign enforcement, a letter be sent to the Board to thank it for taking this action. Bob McLaren seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- Approval by unanimous vote.

Follow-up actions:

- Noel will provide a copy of the summary of the Board discussion on the sign issue to all EQAC members.
- Stella will draft a letter that would thank the Board of Supervisors for taking action on the sign issue. The draft letter would be circulated for EQAC member review prior to transmittal.

**Discussion with the Department of Planning and Zoning on airport noise disclosure near Dulles Airport.**

Matters discussed:

- Noel noted that EQAC had included the following comment in its Annual Report: “Pending research on legal authority, consideration should be given to requiring disclosure of airport noise exposure for new residential development within the DNL 60 dBA contour of Dulles Airport.” He noted that EQAC had requested discussion of this issue, and he gave a presentation focusing on the planning and zoning context (i.e., regulations and policies addressing residential land use near Dulles Airport), Loudoun County’s approach to the disclosure issue and existing and potential land uses in Fairfax County near the airport.
- Noel’s presentation included discussions of the following:
  - Overview of terms/jargon, including the following:
    - Decibel (dB): A logarithmic scale describing noise. Sound energy doubles with every three decibel increase, while the subjective perception of “loudness” doubles for every 10 decibel increase
    - “A-weighted” scale (dBA): A decibel presentation that emphasizes certain noise frequencies in order to approximate sound levels perceived by humans.
    - DNL (also expressed as Ldn): A 24-hour average sound level adjusted to account for the more intrusive nature of noise during nighttime hours— During the 10:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. time period, a 10 decibel “penalty” is added to the actual noise level
    - Noise contour: A line on a map representing a specific level of noise.
  - Planning and zoning history of the area in Fairfax County near the airport.
  - The mid-1990s policy review of land use and airport noise near Dulles Airport, in light of revised noise projections resulting from a phasing out of noisier “Stage 2” aircraft, and the resulting amendments adopted in 1997.
  - Overview of Loudoun County’s related policies and requirements.
  - Existing land use conditions near Dulles Airport, including existing residential development, vacant properties near the airport and underutilized residentially-zoned properties near the airport.
  - Noel concluded with his views on EQAC’s comment, noting that he had not coordinated either his presentation or his views with anyone else on staff and that they therefore reflected his personal thoughts rather than a broader staff perspective.
- Some members of EQAC suggested a Fairfax County website for potential homebuyers with information about zoning (e.g., overlay districts) and other information that they should be aware of when they’re purchasing property. There was a general consensus, though, that this was not an EQAC issue and that no follow-up actions were needed.

**Identification of issues for future EQAC consideration.**

Matters discussed:

- Stella asked Noel to contact the authors of the National Academy of Sciences report regarding uranium mining in Virginia to invite them to EQAC's January 17 meeting. She also requested that one or more people be invited who could speak to Virginia's regulations.
  - Stella asked that the January meeting start at 6:00 P.M. in order to accommodate the discussion regarding uranium mining. There was general agreement with this suggestion. Bob McLaren said he will be unable to attend the January meeting/public hearing. He described different types of mining and indicated that he would try to identify a set of questions that EQAC should ask.
  - Noel noted scheduled agenda items (January: public hearing; February: Air quality planning; March: Joint meeting with the Environmental Coordinating Committee, GIS demonstration; April: Joint meeting with Fairfax City's Environmental Sustainability Committee.)
  - Noel noted that the issue regarding prevention of clearing and grading within conservation easements had been deferred from the December meeting and had not been rescheduled.
  - Other issues identified for future agendas included the following (where applicable, the person making the request is noted):
    - Naturally-occurring asbestos (April or May)
    - Alternate on-site sewage disposal facilities (Stella Koch) (April or May)
    - The watershed planning presentation given by Craig Carinci, DPWES-Stormwater, on November 30 (Stella Koch) (spring)
    - The Residential Energy Education and Outreach program (Rich Weisman) (March—at the joint EQAC/Environmental Coordinating Committee meeting)
    - Schools issues, including environmental outreach efforts, green building efforts for capital projects, recycling in schools and how the schools handle information that is provided to them each year regarding the EQAC student member selection process (June, with identification of agenda items in April)
    - Recycling and waste management (Angela Greenberg), including the following issues:
      - Barriers that may be reducing the amounts of material that can be recycled productively (Larry Zaragoza);
      - Innovations in the industry and market changes (Angela Greenberg);
      - Update on single streaming (George Lamb);
      - Update on the mini-bin pilot program (Kambiz Agazi);
      - A discussion regarding whether businesses should be asked to recycle all of their primary waste streams; and
      - Food composting
- Stella suggested that representatives of both private sector waste management interests and county staff be invited to this meeting; there was general agreement with this suggestion.
- Alternate on-site sewage disposal facilities (Stella Koch) (April or May)

- Noel noted that there were many other issues that had been identified in the past as possible agenda items. Stella asked him to circulate a list of all scheduled and unscheduled items to EQAC members.

Follow-up actions:

- Noel will provide an EQAC meeting calendar and list of all unscheduled potential agenda topics to all EQAC members.

**Approval of EQAC meeting minutes**

Matters discussed:

- The September 15, October 12 and November 9 EQAC meeting minutes

Motions made:

- Rich Weisman moved approval of the September 15 and October 12 minutes as submitted. Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- Approval by unanimous vote.

Follow-up actions:

- Per standard practice, Noel will post the approved minutes on the EQAC website and send an e-mail to Board members' offices to apprise them of the approval of the minutes and the key agenda items discussed.
- Approval of the November 9 minutes will be considered at a future meeting.

**Chairman's Items**

Matters discussed:

- The November 30 public meeting regarding the watershed management planning process.
- A Northern Virginia Regional Commission meeting on district energy at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, D.C.
- A discussion between Stella and Michelle Brickner regarding the conservation easement issue that was deferred to a future EQAC meeting.
- A Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority presentation on historical/battlefield sites.

**Council member items**

Matters discussed:

- Johna Gagnon noted the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's annual legislative day in Richmond. She indicated that uranium mining is on the list of priorities.
- Larry Zaragoza noted that he attended a meeting with representatives of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments at which a proposal for the replacement of the Mirant power plant in Alexandria was discussed, with a focus on renewable energy sources.

- George Lamb noted the January 14 Green Breakfast, at which Dan Schwartz of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District will discuss soils. He indicated that the next Green Breakfast would be held in the spring and that Elaine Tholen of the Fairfax County Public Schools had been invited.
- Rich Weisman congratulated George and Johna on their reelection to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board.
- Rich described a U.S. Geological Survey monthly lecture series. He noted that the next lecture would be February 1—the topic will be satellite imagery.
- Bob McLaren noted that the U.S. Geological Survey had created a CD with information about all of the agency's monitoring stations in the United States. He cited this as a good source of information.

Follow-up actions:

- Larry will provide Noel with a Web link to the COG briefing regarding the Mirant plan replacement.
- Bob will provide Noel with notes regarding his thoughts pertaining to uranium mining; Noel will circulate these notes to council members.

**Staff items**

Matters discussed:

- Noel reviewed efforts that were being pursued in preparation for the January 17 public hearing. He indicated that, in his introductory comments at the public hearing, he would promise the scheduling of a follow-up public hearing if the Cable channel 16 connection to the South County site was to be severed.
- Noel asked if the flyer for the public hearing was acceptable. There was a consensus in support. Noel asked members to post the flyers.
- Noel reviewed publicity efforts for the public hearing. There was support for these efforts.
- Noel noted that the next meeting of the Planning Commission's Environment Committee on the green building policy was scheduled for December 15, with a possible follow-up meeting on January 26.
- Noel noted that the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust is working with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the Fairfax County Park Authority and other groups to host a screening of "Green Fire," a documentary on the life of Aldo Leopold. He indicated that he would let EQAC know once this has been scheduled.
- Noel noted that comments on the draft Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan were due on Friday.
- Noel reviewed upcoming agendas.
- Kambiz Agazi noted that the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee would be held on January 31. The agenda is being developed.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M. Stella wished everyone a happy holiday season.