

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, March 9, 2011

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room 106, Herrity Building

MEMBERS PRESENT

George Lamb (Vice Chairman, At-Large)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)
Johna Gagnon (Lee)
Bob McLaren (At-Large)
Larry Zaragoza (Mount Vernon)

Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)
Ned Foster (Springfield)
Patricia Greenberg (Hunter Mill)
Rich Weisman (Sully)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stella Koch (Chairman—At Large)
Marie Flanigan (Providence)
Glen White (Mason)

Frank Divita (Braddock)
Kevin Sun (Student Member)

STAFF/ECC Members

Agazi Kambiz
Chris Costa
Noelle Dominguez
Barbara Hardy
Noel Kaplan
David Molchany
Steve Sinclair
Cindy Walsh

Randy Bartlett
Dave DuVal
Susan Hafeli
Diane Hoffman
Davood Majidian
Fred Selden
Dan Southworth
Lily Whitesell

OTHERS PRESENT

Pam Cutterly

Dann Sklarew

Elizabeth Striano

**JOINT MEETING WITH THE FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL
COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**Discussion of the County Executive's proposed FY 2012 budget - David
Molchany, Deputy County Executive**

- Highlights of the County Executive's presentation to the Board of Supervisors reviewed.
- The context of the multi-year budget challenge was noted:
 - \$180 million dollars in General Fund spending was eliminated between FY 2009 and FY 2011.

- Approximately 500 positions were eliminated during this period.
- Many changes to the county's organizational structure
- For the proposed FY 2012 budget, there would be no program expansions, no real estate tax increases, spending increases only to cover critical requirements, and, for the third consecutive year, no compensation increases for county staff.
- The advertised real estate tax rate would result in \$30 million for the Board of Supervisors to use as it sees fit.
- General Fund Revenue Growth: starting to inch into the black.
- 62.2% revenue from real estate
 - Residential and nonresidential values have gone up again.
 - Vacant land is valued less than it used to be—This is the only area that has not gone up.
 - Real estate tax rate advertised at its current level of \$1.09. Board may reduce that. At the \$1.09 rate, the average increased tax per household would be about \$110.
- Schools would receive 52.5% of the budget—the school transfer would remain the same as the current fiscal year.
- There would be no raises for employees for a third straight year; it is hoped that raises can be provided beyond 2012.
- Some reorganizations are being pursued—will save about \$9.8 million.
- In conclusion, no drastic changes are proposed.
- A question was asked regarding the stormwater service district rate and whether this would increase, in light of increasing needs. Under the advertised budget, the service district would remain at 1.5 cents. Rate increases are anticipated in the future.
- Zoning fees were discussed—Fee increases are being proposed, and it is anticipated that there will be an increasing frequency for fee increases in order to provide for more consistent, small increases rather than sporadic major increases.

Summary of approved of environmental legislation from the 2011 General Assembly, Chris Costa, County Attorney's Office:

- Legislative process summarized (including the state's process and the development and pursuit of the county's legislative program)
- Board of Supervisors' principles reviewed. Importance of these principles to the legislation review process noted
- Two bills of particular environmental interest:
 - Senate Bill 1099—Regulation of stormwater for nutrient offsets—provides a by-right nutrient offset option for land disturbances of less than five acres. The county opposed this—could result in contributions to nutrient reductions far from Fairfax County for disturbances within the county. Relationship to local Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) noted—a local TMDL could result in a prohibition on offsets away from the affected watershed.

- House Bill 1831—Fertilizer controls—labeling requirements for fertilizers; 0% phosphorus content in fertilizers at point of sale will now be required. Staff was pleased with how this bill turned out.
- Discussion of the concept of a charge for the use of plastic bags—this proposal was soundly rejected in committee; any bill perceived as a tax or fee increase faces difficulty. Industry argued against the bill out of concerns for increased cost and job losses. Discussion regarding whether there is a need for EQAC to be more constructive in providing guidance on this issue or if EQAC's past position is sufficient.

Overview of county energy initiatives: status of community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory - Dann Sklarew, George Mason University:

- Collected work 4 years of data as of March 8, 2011.
- GMU goal is to inventory community-wide GHG emissions in the county--not an inventory relating to government operations.
- Comparison by source and sector by municipal and non-municipal sources.
- Following Arlington County's format for creating inventory.
- Looking at stationary and mobile sources.
- Looking at industrial, commercial and residential.
- Stationary - uses were mainly natural gas.
- As a curious side-note, Fairfax County has 66 alpacas--GMU could not determine what the emissions were for these animals.
- Could not include tree loss for parking lot but would be interesting to find this number for future inventories.
- Stationary sources have been flat in scale but with slight increases in some sectors.
- Transportation- residential and non-residential were both reported by types of vehicles. Information obtained from DMV regarding vehicles registered in the county.
- Metrorail was also included. It's a very small number compared to other emissions sources.
- Also included off road vehicle calculations using a system created by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Emissions from state and federal government sources were not included in the inventory.
- Emissions from Dulles Airport were not included.
- Emissions from Fairfax City and Falls Church were not included. Emissions from the Towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton were included.
- Results include the following:
 - Mobile source emissions have increased over time.
 - Commercial emissions are less than a third of the total.
 - Residential and nonresidential transportation is each about 16% of the total countywide emissions.
 - Emissions from county operations resulted in only 4% of the total countywide emissions.

- Emissions from industrial uses are minor in comparison to other sectors.
- Passenger vehicle emissions are about a third of the total.
- The results highlight the need for a community-wide effort if emissions from the county are to be reduced.
- A report is anticipated soon, as well as a related website.
- Offset purchase numbers from Dominion Virginia Power not able to be included; this could have an effect on the results.
- Data from 2010 recently received—given the weather extremes of that year, the 2010 results could suggest what the consequences of climate change may be on GHG emissions.
- The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) is developing national GHG inventory standards but this information has not been released yet.

Overview of county energy initiatives: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee, Susan Hafeli:

- A broad range of energy-related issues are being considered by the committee, including development, county operations, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, education and outreach.
- Efforts pursued during the committee's first year included the following:
 - Development of an energy policy and adoption of the policy by the Board of Supervisors
 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants
 - Greenhouse gas emissions inventory for county operations
 - Procedural memorandum regarding energy use in county facilities
 - Redesign of the environment and energy website to better highlight energy issues
 - Development of a project scope for a MITRE research project per a zoning proffer
- Efforts being pursued this year include:
 - Community-wide greenhouse gas inventory (GMU project)
 - Comprehensive tracking of energy use in county facilities
 - Participation in regional energy planning efforts
 - Development of a menu of energy efficiency and conservation options for application through the zoning process for Tysons Corner applications; support in the development of prototype commitments that could be applied for these cases
- Discussion of the Public Safety Transportation Operations Center and why it uses substantial amounts of energy (information technology-intensive operations; 24-7 operations)

Overview of county energy initiatives: Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant Program, Susan Hafeli:

- Nineteen projects identified, including:
 - Substantial reduction in the number of computer servers (and related energy use) through virtualization and consolidation

- Desktop personal computer management to automatically switch computers to “standby” mode after a certain point of the day and a certain period of non-use
- Energy Education and Outreach program in development—a request for proposals to be issued.
- Purchase of electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging stations for county operations
- Staff noted that more details will be available on the website. EQAC is interested in summarizing this effort for the next Annual Report—need to do this by August.

Overview of county energy initiatives: Chairman Bulova’s Private Sector Energy Task Force, David Molchany:

- Overview of the task force’s composition and initial discussions noted.
- Next meeting (March 31) to focus on county initiatives as well as Arlington County and Loudoun County efforts.
- More information available on the Chairman’s website.

Overview of county energy initiatives: Recent changes to the county’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Web page, Kambiz Agazi:

- Top half of the site is a banner; it currently has a notice for the environmental excellence awards. The rest of the page includes topics, top services, and news and information.
- EQAC members were asked to visit the page and provide feedback regarding its structure.

Overview of county energy initiatives: Social media opportunities, David Molchany:

- An environmentally-focused Facebook page is under development—an April 8 launch is anticipated.
- Overall, almost 13,500 people have visited the county’s Facebook page.
- There are Twitter and I-phone applications
- An energy and environment-oriented program is being developed for posting on YouTube.
- One area of focus in the Energy Education and Outreach RFP will be the use of social media to publicize energy efficiency and conservation opportunities

Overview of county energy initiatives: Electric vehicle charging initiatives

- Due to the length of previous discussions this item was deferred until the April 13, 2011 EQAC meeting.

Scheduling of the next EQAC/ECC joint meeting

- The next meeting was scheduled for 5:00 PM, July 13, 2011 in room 232 of the Government Center.

EQAC BUSINESS MEETING

Development of EQAC budget testimony for the FY 2012 county budget

Key items of interest identified during the discussion:

- The Fairfax County Park Authority's Invasives Management Area (IMA) program—general support for the proposed \$70,000 in Environmental Improvement Program funding and full-time staffing of this program
- A second position that has been created for natural resources but that has not been funded.
- Air quality monitoring in Fairfax County.
- The Stormwater Service District rate.

2 positions created for natural resources only one position funded.

Statement of support for the funding to have letter by March 29.

Support EIP at proposed funding level.

Support the IMA position funding.

EQAC supports all environmental area positions within the county budget proposal.

Air quality employees, state had one, county had four. Once state ran out of funding from Federal government grant, they only required one county employee for monitoring air quality.

Support the penny and a half so that they do not reduce it.

Support the creation of the naturalist position that supports the IMA position.

Motion (Bob McLaren, seconded by Ned Foster):

Authorize the Chairman and Vice Chairman to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors to express EQAC support for the advertised FY 2012 budget as it relates to environmental areas, calling out the following specifically: support for the 1.5 cent Stormwater Service District tax rate; support for a naturalist position and related funding for the IMA program; and funding for the Environmental Improvement Program.

Record of the vote:

Unanimous vote in support.

Follow-up action:

George Lamb will draft the letter with information to be provided from Kambiz Agazi and Noel Kaplan. The draft letter will be circulated to all members present for the vote prior to transmittal.

EQAC representation on other committees

- In response to an inquiry received at the last meeting, Noel Kaplan noted that, based on consultation with the Clerk's Office, EQAC would not be able to share its Tree Commission position among several members. There would need to be one designated representative.
- Nobody volunteered to serve on the Tree Commission.

- The issue was deferred to the April 13, 2011 meeting.

Approval of the minutes of the February 9, 2011 EQAC meeting

Motion (Bob McLaren, seconded by Johna Gagnon):
Approve minutes with correction of typographical errors.

Record of the vote:
Unanimous support.

Chairman's Items

- Fairfax ReLeaf is looking for places to plant trees. VDOT has changed its requirements in regard to plantings within its rights-of-way, and this change has inhibited such efforts. Representatives from VDOT and Fairfax ReLeaf should be brought in to discuss this issue.
- Discussion about planting appropriate species under power lines.

Council Member Items

Cable Television set top boxes

- Linda Burchfiel: Endorsement sought for a Sierra Club letter that will be sent to the Board of Supervisors recommending that the Board ask cable companies to use Energy Star set top cable boxes in order to reduce energy consumption.
- Motion (Bob McLaren, seconded by Linda Burchfiel) :
EQAC to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors endorsing the Sierra Club's letter; the letter would express agreement with the recommendation to the Board. The Sierra Club letter would be attached to the EQAC letter.
- Record of the vote:
Unanimous support.
- Follow-up action:
Linda Burchfiel to draft the letter for the Chairman's signature.

Other items

- Bob McLaren: National Tartan Day on April 2
- Frank Crandall: Green Breakfast program about recycling.
- Larry Zaragoza: Dog park issue in the Mount Vernon District—resolution going forward to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations. Larry feels that dog parks are best management practices, in that people do a better job of dog waste control within these parks than outside of them.
- Patricia Greenberg: Weed Warriors program in Reston on March 26, from 10-12.
- Rich Weisman: Noted meeting with county staff on energy management activities.

- Johna Gagnon: Earth Day events planned for April 22 and at the Government Center on April 16.
- Johna Gagnon: Watershed cleanup day, April 9. Nine locations are available.

Staff items:

- Update of EQAC website to include meeting minutes
- Student member testimonial from Kevin Sun has been provided—will be posted on the website
- Student member committee will need to be appointed in April
- Planning Commission Environment Committee meetings—March 10 (solid waste and recycling issues) and April 14 (green buildings), both at 7:00 PM
- Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee meeting on March 22, 11:00 AM, conference rooms 9 and 10, Government Center
- Future meeting agendas reviewed
- Request for EQAC members to think about the 2011 Annual Report on the Environment—review of information request list will be needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.