

Approved by EQAC October 9, 2013

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (EQAC)
MINUTES**

DATE: August 14, 2013

TIME: 7:15-9:45 PM

LOCATION: Hidden Oaks Nature Center,

MEMBERS PRESENT

George Lamb (At-Large)	Glen White (Mason)
Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Johna Gagnon (Lee)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Jeff Allcroft (Springfield)
Frank Divita (Braddock)	Michael Sanio (Hunter Mill)
Hana Burkly (Student Member)	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
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STAFF

Bernard Suchicital	Mary Ann Welton
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GUESTS

Garrick Augustus	Noel Mikkelsen
Jeremy Everitts	Shelley Mikkelsen
Bernadette LeMasters	

Wildlife Management: Briefing from the Fairfax County Police Department

Presentation from Jeremy Everitts, Environmental Technician, Wildlife Section

Matters Discussed:

- Since 2010, the citizen sharpshooter and archery and Police sharpshooter programs are growing significantly in number of events and participants
- Presented details on Archery program for deer management
 - September 7, 2013- February 15, 2014
 - New to Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority sites this year
 - Participants must meet skill qualifications
 - Archery is 2/3 of annual deer harvest
- Current estimates show approximately 40,000 deer in Fairfax Co at 100 deer per square mile: healthy population would be 15 per square mile
- Overview of 4-poster Pilot Study to control deer ticks that is being evaluated in several states

- Two years into 3½ year study in two areas
- Feeding sites administer insecticide and pink dye
- Every four months sharpshooters kill a sample of deer in the study areas and evaluate the attached ticks on the deer with the pink dye
- Permethrin insecticide (used in 10% concentration) is prohibited in VA, the study got special permit

Motions Made:

- None

Follow-up actions:

- None

Briefing on an energy dashboard concept for the Government Center and other energy management initiatives: Facilities Management Department

Briefing from Garrick Augustus, Energy Manager

Matters Discussed:

- New gas purchasing contract saves \$15 million over 3 years for the county and public schools
- Currently monitoring Government Center building but goal is to monitor all county-owned buildings
- Dashboard data gathering has been in operation for a few months. Will be able to compare like periods from year to year as more data is monitored
- Monitors gas, water and electricity in hourly or half hour increments
- Presented overview of energy improvement projects
- Current cost of instrumenting Government Center and developing dashboard is \$20K with a desire to complete the detailed instrumentation of an additional \$50K. Is asking to use some of the realized savings money to instrument other government buildings
- Energy manager is developing energy audits of all 200 buildings over 3 years (\$10K for one audit commercially)
- Larry Zaragoza recommended offering a home energy audit

Motions Made:

- None

Follow-up actions:

- None

Consideration of possible legislative initiatives/positions for the 2014 legislative session

Matters Discussed:

Frank Divita reviewed 3 proposals for legislative positions

1. "Plastic bags" is an issue that has been recommended last year.
2. Uranium Mining Ban also recommended last year
3. Community Net Metering: Solar Panel or any renewable energy
 - o Linda Burchfiel explained the newly passed legislation on farm renewable energy
 - o There was discussion regarding solar power tax credits; the community net-metering item was revised to recognize tax credits for renewable energy.

Motions Made:

Frank Divita: Accept all three [with community net-metering as revised]. Seconded by Johna Gagnon.

Record of Vote: Unanimous in favor

Follow-up Action: Noel Kaplan will transmit EQAC's recommendations to the County Executive's Office. *[Note: A revised community net metering proposal was considered and approved at EQAC's September 11 meeting. While the August 14 version was transmitted to the County Executive's Office shortly after the meeting, it was supplanted by the September 11 version, which was also transmitted to the County Executive's Office.]*

Report of the Environment Excellence Awards Committee

Matters Discussed:

- Robert McLaren, Glen White, and Linda Burchfiel were on the selection committee.
- Robert McLaren announced the proposed awardees with two awardees in two of the four categories. The recommendations for awards are as follows:

County Resident:

- Alan Ford
 - o An impressive list of support for environmental efforts, going back a number of years and continuing to this date.

Organization:

- Herndon Environmental Network

- Most of the community-based Herndon Environmental Network events number in the 15-20 people range, their efforts such as the recycle awareness project is influencing the entire area.

Business:

- Burgundy Farm Country Day School,
 - In adding to the school, they are going well beyond what is require for stormwater management. This includes rain gardens, tree plantings, plus they will be using these stormwater management techniques are teaching aids to their students.
- Potomac Vegetable Farms
 - They are maintaining a farm instead of selling some very expensive real estate. They have spread the word about fresh farm produce and how to farm through their CSA, their “farm school,” plus training high school and college interns

County Employee: Two teachers go well beyond their duties as a teacher. As a result, they have inspired their students in environmental activities

- Sean Duffy
- Randall G. Miller

- Glen White added that the list of nominees for awards is growing and the individual accomplishments are impressive. It was very hard to determine a single winner in each category as indicated in the committee recommendation for two awards in two of the four categories (An option first applied by EQAC during the committee review process in 2010). In light of that fact and a desire to recognize remarkable environmental service without diluting the significance of the awards that are given, he introduced the idea of designating specific non-awardees as honorable mention that would be identified in a letter to the candidate. The issue was discussed and tabled.

Motions Made:

- (1) Bob McLaren made a motion to accept the committee recommendation *[it is not clear who seconded the motion]*;
- (2) Johna Gagnon moved for acceptance of two of the nominees for honorable mention, subject to a review by Noel Kaplan and Kambiz Agazi to ensure that this is within EQAC’s authority. Michael Sanio seconded the motion. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn in favor of further discussion at the September 11 EQAC meeting.

Record of Vote: (1) Unanimous in favor.

Follow-up actions:

- Noel Kaplan will notify the winners and their nominators. The presentation will be held at the September 24 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, at 10:45 AM.

Consideration of a resolution regarding environmental issues associated with the Pleasant Valley Road/ Braddock Road intersection project

Matters Discussed:

- George Lamb reviewed the draft memorandum to the Board of Supervisors, noting the recommendation for a Board of Supervisors public hearing. He discussed two components of the proposed memorandum:
 - First part: ecological considerations; particularly concerns about implications of construction of a new traffic circle to a globally rare upland swamp area
 - Second part: transportation considerations; recommending a policy of not turning rural roads into major commuter roads. The idea is that roads that are planned to be rural roads should remain rural roads and let the traffic rely on the planned major highways for inter-community traffic.
- There was extensive discussion of the proposed memorandum. Key issues of concern included:
 - The applicability of the rural road issue to EQAC mission.
 - The site-specific nature of the proposed memorandum and the relationship of this concern to EQAC's charter.
 - Alternative language to multiple paragraphs of the draft letter were discussed and dismissed.
 - There was also a suggestion that George Lamb and Johna Gagnon work on a revision to the memorandum in light of the discussion; this suggestion was not pursued.

Motions Made

- George Lamb made motion that the proposed letter be accepted as drafted. Linda Burchfiel seconded the motion.

- Record of Vote

For

1. George Lamb (At-Large)
2. Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon)
3. Robert McLaren (At-Large)
4. Jeff Allcroft (Springfield)
5. Michael Sanio (Hunter Mill)
6. Hana Burkly (Student Member)

Against

1. Johna Gagnon (Lee)
2. Glen White (Mason)
3. Frank Divita (Braddock)

Abstention

1. Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)
2. Frank Crandall (Dranesville)

Tally

- 6 for
 - 3 against
 - 2 abstentions
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- The motion passed.

Follow-up Action:

- Noel Kaplan will transmit EQAC's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. *[Note: After the meeting, Mr. Kaplan reviewed the meeting recording, which generated a number of procedural concerns. He reviewed these issues with the Chairman of EQAC and the Clerk's Office. EQAC revisited this issue at its September 11 meeting and refined the memorandum per that discussion, thereby supplanting what was approved at the August 14 meeting.]*

Approval of meeting minutes for May 8 and July 10, 2013

Matters Discussed: The draft minutes for each meeting

Motions Made: Frank Divita: motion to accept both sets of minutes. George Lamb seconded the motion.

Record of Vote: Unanimous with Bob McLaren abstaining

Chairman's Items

Matters Discussed:

- Costco installed a storm water management system in new construction on Richmond Highway in the Hybla Valley Area

Motions Made: None

Follow up actions: None

Council Member Items

Matters Discussed: None

Motions Made: None

Staff Items

Matters Discussed:

- Mary Ann: Encourage everyone to write their chapters (message from Noel)
- Listed scheduled meetings and open action items

Motions Made: None

Adjournment

Motions Made

Johna Gagnon made a motion to adjourn. *[It is not clear who seconded the motion.]*

Record of Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 9:45PM.