

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

DATE: July 13, 2016

TIME: 7:15 PM – 10:15 PM

**LOCATION: Hidden Oaks Nature Center
7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA**

EQAC Member Attendance

Name	Present Absent*	Name	Present Absent*
Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	P	Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon)	A
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	P	Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	A
William Furlong (Student Member)	A	Johna Gagnon (Lee)	P
Renee Grebe (At-Large)	P	Richard Healy (Mason)	P
George Lamb (At-Large)	A	Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P
Paul Pitera (Braddock)	P	Alex Robbins (Providence)	A
Rich Weisman (Sully)	P	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	A

*Note: P indicates present, and A indicates absent

Staff Attendance

Kambiz Agazi, Noel Kaplan

Visitor Attendance

Scott Cameron, Bill Cleveland, Zachary Fountain, Denise James

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

Discussion with Fairfax County Department of Transportation staff on the Department's bicycle program

Adam Lind, Bike Program Coordinator for Fairfax County (took over for Charlie Strunk), provided EQAC with a PowerPoint presentation about bicycling activities in the county. His presentation covered the following types of items related to bicycling in Fairfax County: planning and implementation; bike parking; major initiatives (I-66 trail, Capital Bikeshare, and new transit facilities); and next steps. For example, he noted county plans to put in a shared use path along the entire length of Rt. 50 and as part of the Rt. 7 widening project.

VDOT summer repaving is a major way that the county implements parts of its bicycling plan. This includes efforts to install road diets. He noted that Lawyers Road had a 70% reduction in crashes after they put in the road diet. The county works with VDOT soon after they announce their summer repaving plans to identify potential opportunities to improve bicycling facilities.

Adam provided information about the I-66 trail and noted the ongoing work to coordinate on it with VDOT. Adam said that VDOT received about 500 e-mails noting support for such a trail. Adam discussed the design that is being worked on for the trail. Fairfax County Parkway is the only intersection without grade separation in the plans. The tie-in to the W&OD Trail will be at Gallows Road, with about a half-mile to the connection. Adam noted an innovative design at the intersection with Rt. 28.

Another major initiative is for use of Capital Bikeshare, starting in Reston and Tysons. Virginia Tech has done some studies about environmental benefits related to Capitol Bikeshare in DC and Arlington in terms of air pollution reductions and reduction in vehicle use. Adam will forward those reports to Noel for sharing with EQAC.

Adam noted that VDOT follows the county master plan for bicycling. He said there a need to periodically update the county's master bike plan, with the updates being on a 5-year cycle. He noted the rapid pace of change at which bicycle planning is taking place. Adam said the plan is about 10% built but there are concerns about connectedness. Adam noted the following: 2 years ago there were 53 miles of bike lanes, 1 year ago there were 85 miles, and he expects this year it will be about 100 miles. He estimated that he expects "exponential growth" in bicycling facilities in the near future, with the plan approximately 25-30% completed within the next 5 years.

Adam noted another new initiative about new transit facilities, which are to complement work at Metro stations.

Adam noted an issue with VDOT not providing maintenance for flexi-posts associated with protected bike lanes.

Ken Lanfear described a social aspect where many low income residents rely heavily on bicycling, and their need for safe transportation.

Consideration of approval of an EQAC position paper addressing a regional trail system for the I-66 corridor

Rich briefed his fellow EQAC members on a position paper he drafted regarding EQAC's support for a regional trail system. EQAC members suggested that he revise the draft by switching the portions that describe the position with that for the background. They also suggested expanding the first paragraph to note ongoing work by FCDOT with VDOT to implement the plan for an I-66 trail and to thank FCDOT for supporting the trail.

Rich made a motion to approve the paper (with the suggested edits) and Linda seconded it. It was approved by unanimous vote.

Discussion of development of EQAC legislative proposals for the 2017 General Assembly

Noel gave examples of previous legislative proposals and discussed the process used in the past by EQAC. Stella discussed last year's proffer law and requested a presentation be given to EQAC. Johna suggested this issue be tabled until there is further experience with its

implementation. Noel indicated that he would contact the County Attorney's Office to find out if a briefing could be provided to EQAC on the proffer law.

Stella requested a sense of the council for re-submitting EQAC's past statement in support of retention of the Board of Supervisors' previous position on disposable bags. The council was generally in favor of doing that.

Linda Burchfiel indicated that she may draft a legislative proposal about energy efficiency for consideration at EQAC's August meeting.

2016 Annual Report on the Environment

FCPS Spotlight – Rich provided an overview of the updates to this write up. He noted that the summary report write up should be the same as in the long version.

Rich moved approval of the section as presented. Ken seconded. Unanimous approval.

Air Quality – Rich provided an overview of the updates to this write up. Noel and Ken questioned the placement of information about Greenhouse Gases (page 126) and Transportation (page 140). Rich noted that he was OK with moving that information to those other chapters. Noel to send this information to the other authors and request they use it in their chapters. Rich moved approval of the chapter as discussed. Ken seconded. Unanimous approval.

Visual Pollution – Rich moved approval of the section as presented. Ken seconded. Unanimous approval.

Noise – Linda has not yet received all the data she is expecting (only from MWAA so far). She included a recommendation to make the data more useful and accessible. Linda to change her recommendation to make it less conditional and to delete the reference to the Noise Working Group unless it would be clear that this Working Group would be addressing the noise monitoring issue in a manner directly relevant to the recommendation.

Linda moved approval subject to further revision per additional information and subject to revision of the recommendation as discussed. Ken seconded. Unanimous approval.

Hazardous Materials – Johna provided an overview of the updates to this write up. Ken asked about the placement of information about household hazardous wastes. Johna to revise the summary section to include the breadth of the longer chapter and to present a revised draft of the summary in August.

Johna moved approval of the detailed chapter as presented, allowing for minor tweaks (e.g., removing "CY" as suggested by Rick). Rick seconded. Unanimous approval.

Ken noted a plan to prepare another "post-mortem" of the ARE for consideration by the council.

Approval of meeting minutes

June 8 meeting minutes were voted on. Renee moved approval as presented. Rick seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Chairman's items

Stella noted the national award the FCPA received about stewardship. She will draft a brief note to offer EQAC's congratulations for the award.

Council member items

Rich anticipates that he will miss the next two meetings.

Paul asked if a personal summary of EQAC activities that was sent by a council member to his/her supervisor would be subject to disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Kambiz and Noel suggested that it might be; Noel agreed to review the question with the County Attorney's Office.

Renee to miss the September meeting.

Staff items

The August agenda is set including a briefing on Solid Waste. Noel will check with the County Attorney's Office about when to schedule a discussion about the proffer law.

Regarding the joint EQAC-ECC meeting in September, there was tentative discussion to cover budget planning and an update on public comments about the vision document. Noel to check on the timing for a discussion about the budget item to determine if a later date for this briefing might be preferable. Noel asked if there would be interest in reducing the time for the joint meeting (to one hour) in light of a lengthy business meeting agenda—there was general support expressed for this idea.

Public meetings are coming up soon (July 20, 27 and 28) on the update of the Board of Supervisors' 20-Year Environmental Vision document.

The new student member started his appointment but was not available to attend tonight's meeting.

Noel will be out of the office between July 29 and August 5.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.