

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

DATE: April 13, 2016

TIME: 7:15 PM – 10:15 PM

**LOCATION: Conference Rooms 2 and 3, Fairfax County Government Center,
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA**

EQAC Member Attendance

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

*Note: P indicates present, and A indicates absent

Staff Attendance

Kambiz Agazi, Noel Kaplan

Visitor Attendance

Gregory Bacon, Michael Burton, Karen Campblin, Keith Cline, Tom Conry, Denise James, Jim McGlone, Matthew Miller

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Geographic Information System (GIS) demonstration

Tom Conry, Manager of the Geographic Information Systems Branch of the county's Department of Information Technology, introduced Matthew Miller and Gregory Bacon. Matthew Miller provided a demonstration of the Virtual Fairfax application, while Gregory Bacon gave a Prezi presentation on the county's multispectral and LiDAR data applications (posted on https://prezi.com/xo3nrhffjyhg/fairfax-county-multispectral-and-lidar-data-applications/?utm_campaign=share&utm_medium=copy.htm).

There was a discussion regarding information that could be added to/integrated with the GIS, static vs. interactive data and public accessibility to this information. Information such as wetlands, tree canopy, pollutant loads and water flows were discussed within this context. George suggested devoting a chapter in the Annual Report on the Environment

to technology, pulling this information out of the Land Use and Transportation chapter. There was general support for this suggestion. Clyde suggested that each chapter author should think of what GIS information could be useful to support his/her chapter

2. Discussion of tree conservation on residential infill projects

Keith Cline, Director, Urban Forest Management Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, identified a number of challenges to tree preservation efforts on residential infill redevelopment projects involving the replacement of older houses with much larger houses; he reviewed the requirements of the county's Tree Conservation Ordinance as they relate to this issue. Stella raised concerns about how stormwater management requirements for infill projects are being applied and whether they are driving tree clearing. She asked if there were any groups looking at developing solutions to this problem. Keith Cline noted his participation on a Chesapeake Bay Program panel addressing nutrient reduction credits for tree preservation in urban areas, and he offered to share with EQAC information about this effort.

Decision – Stella suggested that there was a need for EQAC to develop a resolution regarding stormwater management requirements for residential infill projects and how these requirements may affect tree clearing, and she offered to prepare a draft for consideration at EQAC's May meeting.

3. Sea level rise/climate change adaptation—Direction for future discussion

Noel noted that this item had been identified by EQAC for discussion at this meeting and referenced the staff response to a related recommendation in EQAC's most recent Annual Report on the Environment. He asked EQAC for guidance on next steps in light of the staff response, and he provided guidance on the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors considerations of the Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program and Fairfax Forward work program in the event that EQAC would want to pursue a Zoning Ordinance and/or Comprehensive Plan amendment, respectively. He stressed, though, that if EQAC would not want to recommend any such items at this time, it could still request that the Board of Supervisors add work program items in the future.

Decision – EQAC should put a short term resolution together to the BOS to add sea level rise adaptation-related items to the Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program and Fairfax Forward work program; Larry agreed to prepare a draft for consideration at the May meeting.

4. Update on the review of the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Excellence 20-Year Vision Plan

Noel provided an overview of staff's proposed process for the updating of this document, noting the proposed staff organizational structure for the effort, a proposed public meeting on the issue early in the process, a highly visible Web presence for the effort and targeted outreach to numerous organizations. Stella asked about EQAC's role in the

review—Noel noted that check-ins with EQAC were being proposed at key points in the process, and Kambiz noted that there would be a different role envisioned for EQAC compared with the other groups on the targeted outreach list. Noel noted that more information would be available after a staff presentation on May 24 to the Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee.

5. Discussion of the annual report preparation process

Ken provided his perspectives on the report; he expressed his view that the report is too long and takes a great deal of effort to produce. He suggested an alternative structure through which portions of the report that are left unchanged from year to year would be kept together within each chapter (effectively a historical section that wouldn't change) and that the focus would be on changes from year to year. Stella asked other chapter authors to consider this and to provide their ideas for change to Ken or Noel for consideration at a future meeting. It was recognized that major formatting changes could not occur within the middle of this year's Annual Report preparation process, but it was also suggested that there may be opportunities to consider some transitional changes this year. Clarification was sought on the question of how far back the historical discussions should go—it was suggested that the historical information presented should have a connection to current information and/or recommendations and that historical information out of this context would not be important to present.

6. 2016 Annual Report on the Environment kickoff: Identification of chapter authors and report production time line

Noel reviewed several documents he had provided to kickoff this year's Annual Report preparation process. He asked for EQAC members to sign up for chapter authorship responsibilities, to approve his prototype information request e-mail, to approve his proposed production schedule and to review the draft information request list he had prepared and offer revisions within the next nine days.

Decisions: EQAC agreed by consensus with the production schedule, leading to a December 6 presentation to the Board of Supervisors. EQAC also agreed by consensus with the prototype information request e-mail. It was agreed that chapter/section authorships would carry forward from last year's report, with Renee assuming authorship of the Ecological Resources chapter and with Ken authoring a new chapter on technology. EQAC members agreed to review and respond to the information request list by April 22 and to limit their information requests to items that are not otherwise available on a website and that will be used in their respective chapters/sections of the report.

7. Appointment of a student member selection committee

Rich and Katrina had both previously volunteered to serve on this committee. Additional volunteers were sought—Paul volunteered.

Decision: Rich, Paul and Katrina will serve on committee and will report back to EQAC with their recommendations at the June 8 EQAC meeting.

8. 2016 Environmental Excellence Awards

Noel noted that nominations are now being accepted, with a May 31 deadline. He also noted that the Board of Supervisors had updated the award criteria such that we can now consider awards for individuals who are not county residents—he referenced a concern about this issue that was identified during last year’s process.

Staff is pursuing outreach efforts consistent with those of past years.

9. Discussion of preparation of meeting minutes – deferred to May

10. Approval of meeting minutes

The minutes of the May 13, 2015, July 8, 2015 and March 9, 2016 meetings were all ready for approval.

Motion/record of the vote/decision: Larry moved approval of each set of minutes, and Rich seconded the motion. The motion carried by a unanimous vote, with Clyde abstaining from the vote on the May 2015 minutes and with Renee abstaining from the vote on both sets of minutes from 2015.

11. Chairman’s items - none

12. Council member items

Clyde expressed concern about lead after finding that the Virginia Department of Health had identified a couple of zip codes in the county as being high-risk areas based on blood levels in children; he asked if anyone in the county is watching this. Noel indicated that he’d follow-up with Clyde on this question.

George thanked Ken for agreeing to author an Annual Report chapter addressing technology.

Larry noted that he and Linda had been tasked by EQAC with the development of recommendations regarding what a county policy addressing climate change and energy should entail. He noted his review of recent comments from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and expressed interest in having a related discussion with Kambiz about the county’s response. He identified a number of possible general categories that could be identified as areas of focus in a policy and indicated that he should have items for EQAC consideration over the next couple of months. He suggested that EQAC should let people know of this effort in order to get feedback. Stella asked EQAC members to provide any thoughts they may have on this issue to Larry.

13. Staff items

Noel noted that the Planning Commission Environment Committee meeting that had been scheduled for April 20 has been postponed until May 18. He noted that the Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee would meet next on May 24 at 1:00 P.M.

Noel noted that he would not be able to attend EQAC's June 8 meeting but that he would provide for DPZ staff support for that meeting. He indicated that there was a small chance that he'd also miss the May 11 meeting but that he would again arrange for a backup.

Noel reviewed future meeting agendas.

14. Adjournment at 10:15