

*Approved by EQAC, July 11, 2012*

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 8, 2012  
**TIME:** 7:15 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Conference Room, Hidden Oaks Nature Center

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Angela Greenberg (Springfield)
Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon)	Patricia Greenberg (Hunter Mill)
Frank Divita (Braddock)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Marie Flanigan (Providence)	Kat Pfleegeer (Student Member)
Johna Gagnon (Lee)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
	Glen White (Mason)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	George Lamb (At-Large)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	

**STAFF**

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
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**GUESTS**

Judy Cronauer, Chief, Central Branch, Site Development and Inspections Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
John Friedman, Chief, Site Code Research and Development Branch, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
Traci Goldberg, Manager, Planning, Fairfax Water  
Normand Goulet, Senior Environmental Planner and Occoquan Program Manager, Northern Virginia Regional Commission  
William Neill, Resource Protection and Compliance Services  
Joan Rohlfs, Environmental Resources Program Director, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
Eric Teitelman, Chief, Capital Projects and Operations Division, Fairfax County Department of Transportation

### **Approval of the minutes of the November 9, 2011 meeting**

Matters discussed:

- Draft minutes of the November 9, 2011 meeting, as e-mailed to all members and as including a revision to an earlier draft that had been suggested by Leo Schefer.

Motions made:

- The revised minutes were moved for approval by an EQAC member [*note: It is not clear from written meeting notes or the meeting recording who made this motion*]. The motion was seconded by Larry Zaragoza.

Record of the vote:

- Approval by unanimous vote, with Marie Flanigan abstaining.

Follow-up actions:

- Per standard practice, the approved minutes will be posted to the EQAC website with an e-mail notification to Board member offices.

### **Approval of the minutes of the January 17, 2012 meeting**

Matters discussed:

- Draft minutes of the January 17, 2012 meeting.

Motions made:

- Kat Pflieger moved approval of the January 17, 2012 minutes; Glen White seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- Approval by unanimous vote, with Bob McLaren and Marie Flanigan abstaining.

Follow-up actions:

- Per standard practice, the approved minutes will be posted to the EQAC website with an e-mail notification to Board member offices.

### **Briefing from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on air quality planning**

Matters discussed:

- Presentation from Joan Rohlfs: Metropolitan Washington, DC-MD-VA: Air Quality Update, Issues.
  - Overview of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC).
  - Description of the air quality planning process in the metropolitan Washington, DC area and the role of MWAQC in this process.

- Revisions to atmospheric ozone standards.
- Air quality monitoring in the Washington, DC area.
- Air quality warning system (e.g., Code Red/Orange/etc.) and Clean Air Partners.
- Data and trends regarding ozone exceedance days.
- Ozone nonattainment status.
- Atmospheric ozone and fine particulate (PM 2.5) data and trends.
- PM 2.5: State Implementation Planning and steps to attainment.
- Need for conformity of transportation plans with air quality goals; strategies to keep transportation plans in conformity.
- Sources of emissions of oxides of nitrogen and PM 2.5.
- Regional air quality challenges, including strengthening standards, attainment of ozone standards, low sulfur gasoline/“Tier 3” standards (expected rule addressing strengthened motor vehicle tailpipe standards), hazardous air pollutants such as mercury and air toxics (e.g., implications of strengthened standards to power plants), and near-road monitoring for nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide.
- Low sulfur gasoline and its relation to emissions of oxides of nitrogen.
- Question: Anticipated changes in air quality planning efforts? Greenhouse gas emissions tracking noted.
- Point source emissions as they relate to attainment.
- Ozone transport into the Washington, DC area.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: None.

### **Briefing on the Northern Virginia Regional Water Supply Plan**

Matters discussed:

- Presentation from Traci Goldberg: Regional Water Supply Planning (with support from Normand Goulet)
  - Overview of Fairfax Water and its operations.
  - Public water suppliers in Fairfax County and the Washington metropolitan area.
  - Fairfax Water’s Corbalis and Griffith treatment facilities—locations and capacities
  - Water supply resources in the Potomac River watershed.
  - Potomac River watershed water supply coordination; Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin CO-OP Section; collaboration among the three major regional water supply organizations (supporting roughly 90% of Fairfax County); 20-year plan updated every five years.
  - Little Seneca, Savage and Jennings Randolph reservoirs—releases during drought periods.
  - Washington metropolitan area/Potomac River water supply agreements—Low Flow Allocation Agreement (1978) and the Water Supply Coordination Agreement (1982).
  - Washington metropolitan area regional demand study, 2010-- Current system adequate to support the region through 2030, but the system may have difficulty meeting regional demands by 2040 considering the drought of record.

- Identification of potential alternatives for additional water supplies.
- Virginia's water supply planning regulation.
- Northern Virginia's regional water supply plan—Northern Virginia Regional Commission is the project manager; Final Draft plan submitted to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in November 2011.
- Board of Supervisors public hearing on the regional water supply plan—February 28.
- Question: Are there programs that seek to minimize water use during dry periods? Participation in COG's Wise Water Use program noted.
- Question: Is there higher pricing during low flow periods? Peak use charge noted; not tied to low flow periods.
- Question: Was growth in Tysons considered in the planning effort? 2010 demand study noted; Tysons growth considered.
- Comment: Potomac Gorge is one of the Nature Conservancy's "last best places." Concern about the scientific bases for the low flow agreement of 100 million gallons per day and how low flow over an extended period could damage this resource. It was recognized that this issue was outside the scope of the regional water supply planning requirement; it was noted that the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have studied the issue as part of a broader study.

Motions made:

- During the Chairman's Items section of the meeting, Stella Koch moved that EQAC authorize her to prepare a letter noting that the draft water supply plan does not address the need for water use reduction and that there is a need to look at the ecology of the Potomac River and appropriate flows. She would place these issues within the context of the plan meeting its specific, required needs while identifying broader issues that should be addressed. The draft letter would be circulated to all members who voted on the resolution in order to ensure that the letter would be consistent with the vote. Bob McLaren seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- Approval by unanimous vote of the members present, with Marie Flanigan having left the meeting prior to the vote.

Follow-up actions:

- Stella Koch to draft a letter for circulation to all EQAC members who voted. Following confirmation of consistency with the vote, the letter will be signed and transmitted to the Board of Supervisors.

**Update from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services on public street design standards**

Matters discussed:

- Presentation from Judy Cronauer: Proposed Public Street Widths and Traffic Calming Features (with support from Eric Teitelman).

- Background on Board of Supervisors consideration of public street width standards subsequent to the spring 2011 discussion with EQAC.
- Board request for development of public street standards considering different levels of development (e.g., urban vs. suburban) and for staff to get feedback from several committees, including EQAC.
- Staff development of proposed street widths that vary based on types of public streets and traffic volumes.
- Specific street width and traffic calming concepts identified.
- Identification of next steps, including Board of Supervisors authorization and public hearings.
- Discussion regarding traffic calming techniques.
- Discussion regarding the potential application of pervious surfaces.
- Comment: Benefits of use of smaller fire trucks. Requirements of the state fire code noted in response to this concern.
- Comment: Concern about increased traffic speeds in residential neighborhoods as a result of wider streets.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: None.

### **Preparation for the March 14 joint meeting with the Environmental Coordinating Committee**

Matters discussed:

- Agenda items for the March 14 meeting.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions:

- The following items were identified for the March 14 joint meeting agenda:
  - Proposed FY 2013 budget as it relates to environmental programs.
  - Environmental Improvement Program fund concept.
  - Geographic Information System demonstration.
  - Overview of the county's energy program, including a briefing on the Residential Energy Education and Outreach program.
  - Consideration of a district energy concept for a Tysons Corner zoning proposal.
- EQAC will discuss the FY 2013 budget further during its business meeting, which will be held subsequent to the joint meeting.

**Review of student member search materials for the July 2012-June 2013 term**

Matters discussed:

- Student member application materials and time line

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions:

- Noel Kaplan will transmit the student member application packages to public and private high schools, with an April 27 deadline.
- Noel Kaplan will contact editors of high school newspapers with hopes that they'll publicize the position.
- Noel Kaplan will contact Elaine Tholen, an Environmental Educator with Fairfax County Public Schools, and will explore the possibility of publicizing the position on high school Facebook pages.

**Chairman's items**

Matters discussed:

- The draft regional water supply plan (see the earlier discussion)

Motions made: See the earlier discussion regarding the regional water supply plan.

Follow-up actions: See the earlier discussion regarding the regional water supply plan.

**Council member items**

Matters discussed:

- Patricia Greenberg: Tree Commission update.
- Patricia Greenberg: Copies of the Tree Conservation Ordinance and standards are available.
- Johna Gagnon: Mount Vernon District town meeting.
- Johna Gagnon: Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District seedling sale.
- Johna Gagnon: Fairfax County Park Authority presentation at the March 10 Green Breakfast.
- Larry Zaragoza: Mount Vernon District Visioning Task Force; implementation tracking.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: None.

### **Staff items**

Matters discussed (all from Noel Kaplan):

- Environmental Crimes and Violations Matrix update.
- Area Plans Review retrospective—staff presentation at Board of Supervisors retreat on February 7; support and enthusiasm for replacement of the Area Plans Review process. Community meetings anticipated during the summer. EQAC briefing available if desired. Identification of EQAC points of contact requested.
- Pre-disaster recovery plan—Noel to attend a table-top exercise on February 10 and report back to EQAC.
- Planning Commission Environment Committee—February 23, 7:00 PM, BOS conference room (green building policy).

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions:

- Briefing on the Area Plans Review retrospective requested in the late spring/summer time frame.
- George Lamb, Frank Divita and Bob McLaren identified as points of contact on the plan review process issue.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.