

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

DATE: March 9, 2016

TIME: 5:00 PM – 9:05 PM

**LOCATION: Conference Rooms 4 and 5, 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)	A
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	P	Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	A
Johna Gagnon (Lee)	P	Richard Healy (Mason)	P
George Lamb (At-Large)	P	Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	A
Renee Grebe (At-Large)	P	Paul Pitera (Braddock)	A
Alex Robbins (Providence)	P	Katrina White (Student Member)	P
Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	A	Rich Weisman (Sully)	P

*Note: P indicates present, and A indicates absent

Staff Attendance

Kambiz Agazi, Noel Kaplan, Pamela Gratton, Charles Forbes, Susan Hafeli, Jessica Lavender, Dave Molchany, Denise James

Visitor Attendance

David Kepler, Drew Sunderland, Meghan Trossen, Jean Wright

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

Joint Meeting with Fairfax County’s Environmental Coordinating Committee (5:00 – 7:00)

1. Welcome and introductions

Noel is planning to post all presentations on the EQAC web site, presuming that he gets permission to post the files.

2. Discussion of the County Executive’s proposed FY 2017 budget: David Molchany, Deputy County Executive, and Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator

Dave provided an update on the county’s advertised budget and noted a handout to EQAC with a brief summary of the FY 2017 advertised budget plan. He said the county will advertise a 4 cent

increase, leading to an approximate \$300 increase for the average homeowner in Fairfax County. He also noted the proposed 25-cent increase in the Stormwater Service District rate.

Dave said the budget includes \$535,000 for environmental initiatives including \$150,000 for invasive management. He noted that several LOBs presentation covered “green” initiatives. Further, he mentioned a budget item for a protected bike lane in Tysons and reviewed the other environmental initiatives that would be funded.

Johna asked if the Fairfax County public schools budget included environmental initiatives. Dave noted that FCPS decides what to do with its funding and that these decisions are independent of the county budget process. He did reference, though, FCPS environmental initiatives.

Stella noted two additional funding recommendations from the 2015 Annual Report on the Environment: (1) Funding for an Assistant Wildlife Management Specialist position; and (2) funding for an additional Ecologist position in the Park Authority. Kambiz advised EQAC to wait for the staff responses to the 2015 Annual Report recommendations.

Johna stated that she was pleased to see that environmental initiatives are becoming ingrained in the county’s budget thinking. Dave highlighted the benefits of the Fairfax County Sustainability Initiatives document in this regard.

Linda expressed her support for the proposed energy projects.

3. Overview of the Tysons Partnership’s Sustainability Council and related activities— Meghan Trossen, Director of Programs, and Drew Sunderland, Communications Director (both with Tysons Partnership)

Meghan and Drew gave an update on the Tysons Partnership goals and recent activities. They provided slides which will be posted on EQAC’s website. Drew noted the major emphasis within Tysons on development around the 4 new Silver Line metro stations. He made reference to the recent addition of Capitol Bikeshare, which he referred to as the “last mile solution”. They have an ongoing transportation demand management study looking at the use of private shuttle services (e.g., for hotels), including use of outside experts who are coordinating with the county. They are also looking at a Tysons-specific trip planner, leveraging one previously-developed for Arlington County.

They have created a council within the partnership organized around the topic of sustainability practices. The council is networking about best practices used by companies in the Tysons area such as Freddie Mac and MITRE. They are planning outreach events organized around Earth Day, including a Tysons Sustainability Summit on April 28 (registration information to be provided separately).

Meghan and Drew circulated copies of a booklet highlighting efforts at Tysons and of the Partnership, noting that this booklet would be available from the Partnership’s website.

Questions included topics related to communications of past success stories, the use of LEED certifications, use of solar energy, and affordable housing. Regarding solar, Drew noted a lack of incentives at the state level (for example, as distinguished from D.C.).

4. Briefing on the Solid Waste program

Pamela and Charlie gave a presentation about the county solid waste management program. Pamela said that the presentation repeats some information previously presented to EQAC. She noted the I-66 transfer station and the I-95 energy/resource recovery facility, and described how solid waste companies who operate in the county (about 25 companies) are required to get a certificate and post a bond with the county. She said that the solid waste management program is self-funded, and is an integrated system.

Pamela discussed recycling requirements in the county, noting the county's 48% recycling rate in 2014, amounting to more than 500,000 tons of materials. Recycled materials go to privately-owned facilities – 2 in Manassas and 2 in Maryland. Yard waste collection efforts were described and discussed further.

A separate presentation was provided that discussed composting and a pilot project for composting from county government facilities to be hosted at the I-95 facility (planned for summer 2016).

Charlie described efforts related to glass recycling. He noted the bottom-line reality that nobody in VA is buying post-consumer glass, and that manufacturers only will buy glass from bottle-bill states (e.g., RI and ME). The county is starting to explore a proof-of-concept using a specialized machine to recycle glass. It will be hosted at the I-66 facility (targeting summer 2016; the concept is for the public to bring glass to I-66 and potentially place it into the machine). Output from the machine is to be reused as sand and aggregate. Discussions concerned questions related to the economics and environmental sustainability of alternative approaches for glass recycling and the merits and drawbacks of single-stream recycling. Charlie noted potentially-incremental benefits for increased use of glass recycling.

A follow-up action was identified: Pamela and Charlie will consider input from tonight's discussion topics and then will continue and update the discussion with EQAC at a later date (potentially late summer 2016).

5. Discussion of energy issues:

- Update on the development of an energy consumption Web page for county government facilities
- Energy Action Fairfax/green business certification/energy outreach to businesses
- Energy website update

Susan and Jessica gave a series of presentations on the energy landing page, energy data, Energy Action Fairfax, and green business partners. The energy data pages are organized in 3 phases, and cover the period from 2006 – 2014. Phase 1 (overview of county government electricity and natural gas use) is available on the county's web site, and they are currently exploring the

components of Phase 2 (data for certain building categories, and information on agency energy improvements); they are tentatively targeting completion by the end of the year. They surveyed all county departments to collect energy use data as provided on the website. The available data are consumption-based; the data lead to many questions, some of which might be looked at in future phases.

Kambiz noted that these types of data are intended to help the BOS and other users understand consumption. He noted its value in supporting continued funding of the Capital Improvement Program. Further, he noted a plan to update the data annually, likely toward the end of March (i.e., to add 2015 data). The county is looking to increase use of “Energy Cap” for tracking data; this will help with standardization and provide increased functionality.

The county is working internally on updating the Energy Action Fairfax (EAF) web pages. Jessica will use a “base presentation” on EAF and tailor it to audiences. EAF is being viewed as a mechanism through which efforts that can save both energy and money can be highlighted. For example, for home lighting, side-by-side comparisons of incandescent vs CFL vs. LED lighting are provided; also, information is distilled from the Department of Energy website. The county is targeting having updated pages in the next few weeks. Another example topic is “phantom loads,” for example, electronic tooth brush chargers or air fresheners. Suggestions were made to add a capability for users to provide input about use of EAF materials such as feedback from past home energy audit events, and outreach through Supervisors offices.

The Green Business Partners program was not able to be launched last year, but county staff is trying to get it started by Earth Day. It will be a voluntary no-cost program to recognize areas like waste and water management (a recognition program, but not certification). The program is being viewed as providing a learning opportunity, highlighting energy saving efforts of each partner. A logo for the initiative has been developed. Staff’s objective is to have at least 20 partners by the time the website goes live.

6. Update on the review of the Board of Supervisors’ Environmental Excellence 20-Year Vision Plan

Noel noted the October 6, 2015 direction from the Board of Supervisors to update the Board’s Environmental Excellence 20-Year Vision Plan and staff’s development of a proposed process and timeline for the review. He noted that staff’s proposed process would be presented to the Board of Supervisors’ Environmental Committee at a still unscheduled committee meeting sometime in May. He indicated that a specific role for EQAC was being envisioned in this review but that it would be premature to say anything more beyond that. He indicated that more information would be provided at EQAC’s April meeting.

7. Additional Items?

None.

8. Confirmation of the next ECC/EQAC joint meeting: September 14, 2016

EQAC Business Meeting; approximate 7:55 PM start time

2. Development of an EQAC position on the FY 2017 Fairfax County budget

Kambiz noted that county funding is currently available for both the FCPA ecologist position and the FCPD assistant wildlife management specialist position. Stella requested that EQAC be briefed on the organizational concerns associated with the wildlife management position and overall program. This was tentatively scheduled for the May EQAC meeting.

Rich made a motion that EQAC supports the county exec's advertised budget which includes the quarter penny for stormwater and continued support of the EIP. Linda seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

3. Discussion of the annual report preparation process

Noel noted that Ken had provided summary level comments about the process used to put together the ARE. Stella noted that a new supervisor (Storck) had made a request for a previous year report. Stella wants the ARE to have enough content for it to "make sense" and noted the need for an appropriate balance. Stella noted an audience of both old and new members of the BOS as well as their staff members, who may cycle in and out of the process.

Noel spoke about efforts to streamline the summary report, which has grown longer over the past few years. He expressed a concern that it was losing effectiveness.

It was agreed that a small committee will follow up on Ken's input. Stella requested that this work group be asked to report on its discussions at each meeting. It was agreed that Stella and Ken would participate on the work group and that Noel would send out a request for additional volunteers for this committee. Noel indicated that the process to prepare the 2015 Annual Report would get under way in April, with the identification of EQAC chapter authors, and that he would proceed with the development of a preliminary information request list.

4. Discussion of preparation of meeting minutes

Noel noted that Clyde had coordinated with Ken on the preparation of a proposed process and template for EQAC meeting minutes. Noel noted that he had suggested a number of changes and that his suggestions had been included in the members' meeting folders. EQAC discussed the input but agreed to hold off on further discussions until Clyde and Ken are able to participate in the discussion.

5. Approval of meeting minutes

EQAC voted on three sets of minutes, with results provided in the table below.

Draft minutes	Motion made by	Seconded	Result	Abstain
August 2015	Johna	George	Passed unanimously	Stella, Rich, Renee
October 2015	Rich	Rick	Passed unanimously	Johna and Renee
February 2016	Linda	Renee	Passed unanimously	Johna

6. Chairman’s items

Stella described a request from FCPA to support the “Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award”. Stella noted a personal interest in this matter but EQAC members generally expressed a preference to constrain its focus on advising the BOS and not addressing such types of requests. Noel indicated that he would inform Park Authority staff of this decision.

Stella also made note of the Alice Ferguson stream cleanup.

7. Council member items

George noted the upcoming Green Breakfast.

George recommended that the GIS section of the Annual Report be pulled out of the Land Use and Transportation chapter.

Johna noted the annual Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District seedling sale.

8. Staff items

Noel noted a need to reschedule the October meeting due to a conflict with the Jewish holidays. EQAC agreed to hold the meeting on October 13 if a meeting site was available; October 5 would be a backup date.

Noel noted that student member application packages had been sent to all county high schools and had been posted on the EQAC website. He noted an April 29 deadline for applications. He indicated that he’d ask for volunteers at the April EQAC meeting for the student member committee. Rich and Katrina volunteered to serve on the committee.

Noel noted that Larry Zaragoza had called him to let him know that he would not be able to attend tonight’s meeting but that he hoped to present at the April meeting his and Linda’s thoughts regarding items that should be included in a climate change and energy policy.

Kambiz described the pollinator garden (aka “bee meadow”) that would be established on approximately one acre on the Government Center grounds.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.