

Approved by EQAC, April 8, 2015

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, October 8, 2014
TIME: 6:00 P.M.
PLACE: Herrity Building, Room 941 and Room 106, 12055 Government
Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	George Lamb (At-Large)
Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mt. Vernon)	Alex Robbins (Providence)
Matthew Baker (Student Member)	David Smith (Braddock)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Johna Gagnon (Lee)	Glen White (Mason)
Robert McLaren (At-Large)	

STAFF

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
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**FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT FOR THE
JOINT EQAC/FCPA BOARD MEETING**

William Bouie (Chairman, At-Large)	Kala Quintana (At-Large)
Edward Batten (Lee)	Hal Strickland (Sully)
Mary Cortina (At-Large)	Michael Thompson (Springfield)
Linwood Gorham (Mt. Vernon)	Frank Vajda (Mason)
Ken Quincy (Providence)	Anthony Vellucci (Braddock)

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT FOR THE JOINT
EQAC/FCPA BOARD MEETING**

Debbie Babcock-Daley	Barbara Nugent
Sara Baldwin	Judy Pedersen
Anna Bentley	Justin Roberson
David Bowden	Kristin Sinclair
Todd Brown	Sandy Stallman
Barbara Gorski	Erin Stocksclaeder
Kirk Kincannon	John Stokely
Cindy Messinger	Cindy Walsh

OTHER GUESTS PRESENT FOR THE JOINT MEETING

Craig Carinci
The meeting convened at 6:00 PM.

Joint meeting with the Fairfax County Park Authority Board

Bill Bouie (FCPA) and Stella Koch (EQAC) both welcomed everyone to the meeting and reiterated the mutual benefits for a joint FCPA-EQAC meeting.

Matters discussed:

Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation

- Presentation from John Stokely, Manager, Natural Resources Management and Protection Branch, FCPA.
- He discussed the FY 2014 activities accomplished and FY 2014 activities carried forward to FY 2015.
- His presentation gave an update on the four main themes within the NRMP – inventory and planning; protecting natural capital; managing wild populations and restoring ecosystems; and fostering stewardship and expanding natural capital.
- He also discussed the FY 2015 planned activities and FY 2015 resources strategy.
- Mr. Bouie noted that FCPA has received some funding from its telecom efforts and that funding stream is expected to increase over time.
- Mr. Strickland noted that the capital improvement bonds gave FCPA funds for stewardship, but he indicated that these funds cannot be used to hire the additional staff needed for NRMP implementation.

Potential for Stream Mitigation Funding for Restoration Projects in Parks

- Dave Bowden, Director, Planning and Development Division, FCPA introduced Craig Carinci, Director, Stormwater Planning Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. Mr. Carinci provided a briefing on stream mitigation banking and its potential application for revenue generation through the use of stream restoration projects on county parkland.
- He described the three kinds of banks available for this: Public Mitigation Bank; Public-Private Mitigation Bank; and In-Lieu Fee Program.
- He discussed potential issues and pros and cons with establishing stream mitigation banks.
- For each kind of bank, he presented information about their economics, legal/regulatory approval process, agency concerns and political considerations.
- He also discussed the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load reduction requirements for phosphorus, suspended solids and nitrogen. He estimated that roughly 60 miles of stream restoration would be needed within 15 years for compliance (estimated cost of \$300 million) just to satisfy the current projected phosphorus load reduction requirements associated with our regulated area. He stressed that stream restoration banks would not count toward Bay TMDL requirements for the county, and he noted that there would be significant administrative burdens with the establishment of such banks.
- He then gave an update on completed and ongoing stream restoration projects in the county, noting that there had been 23 projects on nearly four miles of streams that had been completed within the last five years.
- Mr. Carinci noted that there were 14 active projects on FCPA properties, covering a total of 5.2 miles of streams and costing a total of \$29 million.
- Mr. Thompson asked if DPWES was giving a recommendation on the banking concept. Mr. Carinci replied that DPWES was not providing a recommendation on this issue but that the

agency is instead available to support FCPA in the event that it would want to pursue this concept.

- Ms. Koch asked about the geography of sales of stream bank credits. Mr. Carinci noted that stream mitigation credits should be provided within the same watershed/Hydrologic Unit Code area as the impact, and he noted that two HUCs include land within Fairfax County. He expressed his view that developers are likely to pursue efforts in Prince William and Loudoun Counties, as opposed to Fairfax County, due to lower land values and a resulting lower expense for stream restoration credits. He noted that it was his understanding there was approximately 8-10 years of stream banking credits now available in Virginia.
- Mr. Strickland asked about how the watershed management plans were being used to set priorities by DPWES. Mr. Carinci replied that ecologists who manage the county's watershed management plans identify top priorities for each watershed and that projects are selected based on cost and benefit considerations.
- Ms. Koch asked that, since there appeared to be no market for banks at this time, if the county would be moving forward with this concept. Mr. Bowden recognized that consideration and stressed that the focus at this time is the pursuit of projects that can support TMDL implementation requirements. He noted FCPA/DPWES coordination in development of Capital Improvement Project proposals each year.
- Ms. Koch asked about efforts on private properties and whether there may be benefits to pursuing easements with property owners, particularly once the property owners see the potential benefits of restoration efforts. Mr. Bowden noted the considerable amount of time that is needed to get third party easement agreements, but he referenced a project along Colvin Run and highlighted that as an example of a project that is likely to be highly visible.
- Mr. Weisman asked how Prince William County is doing, in light of its two-year effort to develop a stream mitigation bank within the county. Mr. Carinci noted that the county had put much of its banking strategy on putting streams within conservation easements, without restoration efforts. Mr. Strickland noted that FCPA is interested not only in stream restoration but also in riparian area restoration. Mr. Carinci noted that stream restoration projects include treatment for control of invasive species, as well as incorporation of wetland areas and vernal pools into the design.
- Dr. Zaragoza asked about public outreach and communications about the restoration projects. Mr. Carinci noted requirements associated with the county's MS4 permit and project implementation needs relating to this permit. With respect to publicity, he noted that a website had been established to identify projects, with cross-links to watershed plan projects.
- Ms. Cortina asked if the county was looking at the Comprehensive Plan as it relates to impacts to Resource Protection Areas. She expressed concern in particular about transportation project impacts to Resource Protection Areas. Mr. Kaplan noted Comprehensive Plan policy supporting protection of RPAs as well as Environmental Quality Corridors; he questioned the suggestion that the Plan was in conflict with the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance. He did note, though, that the Bay Ordinance identifies public road projects as an exempt use and that the EQC policy in the Plan recognizes an ability to provide for road crossings where there are no alternatives; Ms. Cortina continued to raise concerns about transportation project impacts.

Update on FCPA Needs Assessment

- Presentation from Sandy Stallman, Manager, Park Planning Branch, FCPA and Anna Bentley, Needs Assessment Project Manager, FCPA
- Ms. Bentley described the “Parks Count” as the ongoing Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment study. She noted that this is a multi-phase study that relies on input, research, and analysis (with a need for statistical validity), with a five- to 10-year horizon.
- FCPA anticipates completing the study by the end of 2015 and is using a consultant team for project support. The last study was completed in 2004.
- The objectives for the study are to: engage park users and non-users; determine countywide park needs; update current service level standards; create a long term capital improvement plan for renovations, new facilities and land acquisition; and guide capital funding allocation to county park resources that meet community needs.
- For the current study, FCPA plans to distribute 15,000 surveys in January 2015, through the U.S. Mail. FCPA is asking for help to encourage recipients to complete the survey.
- Ms. Bentley also noted a “meeting in a box” component to the program website through which input can be provided.
- In response to a question about outreach, Ms. Bentley noted that a mass e-mail was sent to homeowner associations, civic associations and boards/authorities/commissions and that there has also been publicity through Facebook.
- Mr. Strickland stressed his interest in serious dialogue regarding natural capital as it relates to the extensive amount of tree canopy/forest on park lands. He stressed a need to take care of this natural capital through investments in it.
- Mr. Wilber noted that the county’s demographics are shifting, and he suggested that FCPA should consider additional ways to incorporate the needs of non-responsive demographic cohorts. He highlighted under-served populations and residents who do not speak English. Ms. Stallman noted the availability of information at county facilities and libraries. Ms. Bentley stressed that underserved populations are of paramount importance to FCPA. She noted that outreach has, so far, been limited to English but that FCPA is looking at outreach efforts in Spanish and perhaps other languages as well.

Update on Invasive Management Area Program

- Erin Stocksclaeder, IMA Coordinator, gave a presentation describing the program as well as IMA volunteer accomplishments for FY 14 and the current year to date.
- She provided an update on the “Take Back the Forest” program, through which there were 78 volunteer workdays provided by 831 volunteers in only 60 calendar days in April and May.
- She described Non-Native Invasive Assessment Prioritization (NNIAP) efforts through which funding prioritization decisions are made. She noted the use of online GIS to facilitate data entry, noting that over 6,000 acres had been surveyed during 2015 and over 15,000 acres had been surveyed to date.
- She described efforts to contract for herbicide support, noting results from calendar years 2013 and 2014 and identifying goals for calendar year 2015.
- She described the recent IMA program funding history, including funding through the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) of \$100,000 in funding as part of FY14 budget and \$150,000 in funding at FY15 carryover budget. She also noted a \$10,000 grant from REI during calendar year 2014 for activities in 2015 and miscellaneous donations through Park Foundation to IMA from friends groups and other IMA supporters.

- Ms. Stocksclaeder noted that FCPA recently hired an exempt employee to follow up on the status of herbicide effectiveness.
- She said that the IMA program is eight years old and stressed that it is heading in the right direction but that this is a long-term effort. She indicated that much of the program's success is about educating the students and adults who come out to participate in the program.

Motions made:

- None.

Follow-up actions:

- None.

Dinner with the Fairfax County Park Authority Board

At 7:00 PM. the Fairfax County Park Authority Board treated EQAC to dinner, which was held in room 941 of the Herrity Building (Park Authority Board Room). At 7:30 PM, the Park Authority Board remained in room 941 and EQAC adjourned to rooms 106 and 107 for its business meeting.

2014 Annual Report on the Environment—Chapter/section reviews

Climate Change and Energy chapter:

- Larry Zaragoza described editorial changes made to the chapter.

Motions made:

- Larry – approve revised chapter
- Rich – seconded

Vote:

- Approval – unanimous; no abstentions.

Follow-up actions:

- None.

Water Resources chapter:

- Stella Koch provided an overview of changes to her proposed comments and recommendations. She discussed the following in her review:
 - Public communication on the county's stream projects (it was suggested that DPWES be invited to a future meeting to provide a briefing on this).
 - The need for incremental increases in the Stormwater Service District rate—desirability of a “slow build” through which the fee would increase in \$0.25 increments, and DPWES support for this idea. EQAC interest in getting DPWES guidance on how stormwater needs are assessed.
 - Stream quality monitoring.
 - Water quality improvements documented in Gunston Cove.
 - Publication of five-year monitoring data by the United States Geological Survey.

- Data suggesting that streams are “not worse” and her view that streams are now better managed and better understood.
- Rich Weisman referenced the Fairfax County Public Schools Spotlight section, noting the reporting of stormwater collaboration in that section. He highlighted the need to look into adding signage at schools where stormwater projects were being pursued.

Motions made:

- Stella Koch – approve comments and recommendations as presented.
- Larry Zaragoza – seconded.

Vote:

- Approval – unanimous, with no abstentions.

Follow-up actions:

- None.

Light Pollution section:

- Frank Crandall reviewed his proposed revisions to this section from last year’s section.

Motions made:

- Frank Crandall – approve chapter as presented.
- Larry Zaragoza – seconded.

Vote:

- Approval – unanimous with no abstentions

Follow-up actions:

- None.

Scorecard section:

- Direction for Noel Kaplan to e-mail the draft Scorecard section to all members and for him to move forward with the Scorecard as presented unless he hears otherwise.

Stewardship section:

- Unanimous agreement to include air quality (Clean Air Alerts) information in this section; retain remainder as presented.

Cover:

- Matthew Baker described the photos that he incorporated into the cover design.
- He agreed to add a list of species that have been included. It was noted that all of the photos were taken in Matthew’s yard and at Hidden Pond Park.

Chairman's Letter:

- Linda Burchfiel recommended that the dashboard concept be included in the Climate Change and Energy chapter; it was suggested that someone be invited to discuss the dashboard idea with EQAC.
- Rich Weisman suggested that the letter emphasize EQAC recommendations about funding needs (stormwater, Environmental Improvement Program and Natural Resource Management Plan implementation). There was general support for this idea.
- Rich Weisman added his support for an energy strategy item from the Climate Change and Energy chapter. He also expressed support for the Wildlife Management recommendations, particularly in light of the hiring of a new Wildlife Management Specialist.
- George Lamb suggested that the letter emphasize EQAC solid waste recommendations, particularly in regard to single-stream recycling. Kambiz Agazi noted that this topic was discussed at the September 30 Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee meeting and that there would be follow-up at the February 3 Environmental Committee meeting.
- Clyde Wilber suggested that EQAC emphasize funding of other environmental areas that support "quality of life" issues. He also made note of the regulatory mandates that drive much of our spending decisions. It was agreed that EQAC would ask Susan Datta for guidance, at the November EQAC meeting, on how the county parses out our environmental funding needs when considering the broader suite of needs in the county.
- George Lamb supported the county's Fairfax Forward and stormwater efforts and stressed that the county needs to continue moving forward in those areas.
- Clyde Wilber noted the "Healthy Fairfax" initiative. Stella Koch discussed a recent presentation where the concept of "free-range kids" was discussed. Larry Zaragoza suggested a tie-in with other activities of boards, authorities and commissions, like the Trails and Sidewalks Committee and Transportation Advisory Committee. Stella Koch suggested that the Healthy Fairfax idea be considered for next year and that there could perhaps be a separate piece in next year's report on health and the environment. Noel Kaplan noted that discussions at the staff level were continuing in regard to the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax and that there may be more information available at some point in the future.
- Larry Zaragoza suggested that climate change adaptation planning be added to the recommendation about climate change.
- It was agreed that the Chairman's letter would highlight the following:
 - Funding needs, and particularly funding of the Stormwater Service District, EIP projects and NRMP implementation.
 - The need to develop and implement programs addressing climate change, including an energy strategy and adaptation planning.
 - Concerns about implications of single stream recycling as articulated in Solid Waste recommendation #4.

Other Items

- Noel Kaplan asked EQAC for guidance on how it wanted to capture the EIP project selection process. There was a consensus in support of a new appendix that would carry forward (and credit) a summary section from the Fairfax County Sustainability Initiatives document. Rich Weisman suggested that the Chairman's letter should refer to this new section.
- Noel Kaplan provided guidance on how he planned to proceed with the introduction, table of contents, and appendices addressing EQAC resolutions/positions, the Environmental Excellence Awards and acronyms/abbreviations.

- Noel Kaplan noted that he needed to wrap up all work on the report in advance of October 27, when the report needed to go to the Print Shop. He noted that numerous authors still needed to provide him with their materials for editing and formatting. He agreed to e-mail a status report to all EQAC members identifying what still needs to be provided.

Approval of the Minutes of the May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, and September 10, 2014 EQAC Meetings

Consideration of the minutes was deferred until draft meeting minutes are completed.

EQAC Representative to the Tree Commission

- Noel Kaplan stressed that this position remained vacant and that there was some urgency about the need to appoint an EQAC representative. There were no volunteers, although Larry Zaragoza indicated that he may consider this further.

Chairman's Items

- None.

Council Member Items

Matters discussed:

- Larry Zaragoza noted a request from Supervisor McKay for EQAC to look into the issue of fall cankerworm control. This item was scheduled for EQAC's December 10 meeting. Noel Kaplan was asked to forward a link to the related county website to all members. He was also asked to find out if the Fairfax County Park Authority has any thoughts about this issue, along with any related Park Authority's policy.
- Alex Robbins suggested an EQAC field trip to see a stormwater restoration project. After some discussion, it was agreed that council members should pursue this on their own.
- George Lamb noted that several residents want to discuss with EQAC deer management efforts and related recent developments (e.g., new practices, archery).
- David Smith noted a message Noel Kaplan relayed about the "Hackathon," which is a brainstorming event focusing on developing solutions to overcoming hurdles. He discussed the format of this event, which will be held on October 25.
- Linda Burchfiel asked about the potential to fund EIP projects through savings generated from energy projects. EQAC agreed to ask Susan Datta in November about a dedicated source of funding for EIP projects.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: As described.

Staff Items

Matters discussed:

- Noel Kaplan noted that the annual public hearing will be held on January 21, 2015 in rooms 2 and 3 in the Government Center.
- The November 12 meeting will include a briefing on the FY 2016 budget process from Susan Data and a discussion of PACE financing.
- Noel Kaplan will compile a list of potential items for future EQAC meetings, including several ideas for field trips.
- Noel Kaplan noted that Michael Sanio has resigned from EQAC but is interested in staying on the EQAC contact list. He noted that a similar request was made several years ago by Angela Greenberg, EQAC's former Springfield District member. He indicated that he had been including Ms. Greenberg on EQAC distributions where appropriate and that he intended to do the same with Mr. Sanio. He stressed that he would not include former members on any circulation of draft documents. He asked if it was OK to proceed as he had outlined, and there was a consensus in support.
- Noel Kaplan noted forthcoming meetings of the Planning Commission Environment Committee.
- Kambiz Agazi noted that the Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee would next meet on February 3, 2015.
- Kambiz Agazi distributed hard copies of the Sustainability Initiative document to those interested EQAC members.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: None.

Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M.