

*Approved by EQAC February 9, 2011*

EQAC Meeting Minutes, Jan 12, 2011  
106 Herrity Building

EQAC Members present – Stella Koch, George Lamb, Frank Crandall, Frank Divita, Ned Foster, Marie Flanigan, Rich Weisman, Larry Zaragoza, Kevin Sun

EQAC Members absent - Bob McLaren, Johna Gagnon, Glen White

Staff present – Noel Kaplan, Kambiz Agazi, Tom Conry, Mike Liddle

Meeting opened at 7:15

**Administrative Decisions**

- EQAC Officers - Rich Weisman reported that the nominating committee recommended Stella Koch as Chair, George Lamb as Vice Chair. Rich Weisman nominated them, Linda Burchfiel seconded, voice vote unanimous with no abstentions.
- Stella Koch asked for a review of EQAC committee assignments. Larry Zaragoza indicated that he may be willing to fill the vacant Tree Commission position. Rich Weisman volunteered to work with the staff team developing an Energy Outreach effort (Linda Burchfiel is already tracking the greenhouse gas inventory effort); this effort needs someone with experience writing RFPs.
- EQAC may change the format of its discussions with the Fairfax County Park Authority Board to become more efficient – instead of whole group meeting and discussing all topics, have small subgroups discussing specific issues. Stella Koch noted her periodic coordination with the Chairman of the Park Authority Board and indicated that she'd follow-up.

**Fairfax County Geographic Information System: An Enterprise Tool Available to all Agencies: Demonstration presented by Tom Conry, Manager, Geographic Information Systems and Michael Liddle, GIS Customer Services Supervisor.**

In regard to aerial photography, the county partners with the state, (paying \$102,000 to the state for high resolution (6" pixel resolution) orthophotography as well as stereo imagery—this is a considerable savings from the roughly \$1,000,000 that was spent on contracted flights and creating the orthoimagery just for the county). Photographs updated every 4 yrs. Cameras fixed on underside of plane give vertical imagery; cameras at 45 degree angle on sides of plane give oblique imagery. All 4 sides of buildings are photographed for the oblique imagery (the plane flies perpendicular flight lines to capture all building sides)

- Raster data almost 9 terra bites, Vector data over 76 GB; there are 365,814 addresses in the system.

GIS Environmental data layers

- Chesapeake Bay, elevation and contour, FEMA and county floodplains, easements, parks and park easements, soil layers, sanitary sewer infrastructure, storm water drainage infrastructure, high res multi-spectral satellite imagery to show pervious surfaces, watersheds and subsheds, wetlands

- Rich Weisman asked about application for water distribution system, potable water, with underlying pipes and diameters. However, not available because Fairfax Water doesn't want info made public because of security concerns.
- Larry Zaragoza asked about an application for indentifying where hazardous materials sites are. Fire and Rescue maintains that information, but it is not available in My Neighborhood.

GIS Planimetric data project:

- Roads, sidewalks, buildings, decks and pools, solar panels, driveways, trails, accessory structures and driveways. Can be used to identify encroachments onto park land.
- Police and fire trucks have GIS data through the new CAD/911 system. Each vehicle has a mobile display terminal. Stella suggested the aerial imagery be funded out of General Fund because it helps all depts. Currently funded out of a separate information technology fund and from the county's stormwater management program, costing about \$340,000/year to keep whole program going
- Marie Flanigan asked how building addition information is helping with revenue; it was suggested that the planimetric information could be used for tax purposes, e.g., to show accessory buildings and collect revenue.

Additional GIS discussion:

- Stella asked about digital plan submissions--This had been in the works, but it was cut due to the tight budget. Suggestion to ask James Patteson to discuss this at a future EQAC meeting.
- Other applications were identified, including: Stormwater infrastructure inventory; Reston Master plan special planning study; and environmental mapping.

Virtual Fairfax:

- Mr. Conry provided a demonstration of the site, which is accessible from Fairfax County home page

GIS Outreach – Stella Koch suggested including in Supervisors' newsletters

GIS Future plans – George Lamb asked about next few years

- Keep funding for planimetric and orthophotography
- Work on expanding the My Neighborhood application

**Agenda for future meetings**

- Mr. Kaplan noted EQAC's earlier request for a meeting with legislative staff, possibly in May. EQAC decided that, as an alternative to this meeting, Frank Divita would speak with Sue Mittereder (the county's legislative director) in order to determine if a broader discussion with EQAC would still be of interest.

### **Environmental Excellence Awards**

- Staff begins publicizing in January, with several notices through May.
- Not many business nominees historically. Kambiz Agazi noted that face-to-face conversation is a more successful way to get nominations than e-mails or calls.
- Dulles Regional Chamber has an environmental committee; someone could talk to them to encourage business nominations.

### **November 29 Minutes**

Frank Crandall moved to accept the November 29 minutes as presented; Rich Weisman seconded, and there was unanimous approval, with Marie Flanigan abstaining.

### **Chairman and Member Items**

- Stella Koch – Summaries of several presentations given at the Choose Clean Water conference.
- Larry Zaragoza– Residents in the Mt Vernon District are asking that a local park be made available as a dog park. Though near Dyke Marsh, only small part would be available for off-leash dogs, and dog walkers would police each other.
- Kevin Sun – Fairfax County has become a member of the Collaboration for High Performing Schools and has become more receptive to green building practices.
- Frank Crandall – Several years ago, DPWES agreed to compile data regarding waivers; he feels it would be appropriate to ask DPWES for current data. Noel Kaplan indicated that he'd pursue this.
- Rich Weisman – attended the December Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting. \$600,000 grant for preparedness. Also, a policy question was raised regarding coordination of efforts with other LEPCs and workload implications of this idea.
- Ned Foster – Washington Post story about homeless in Fairfax County. He provided some thoughts about homelessness and implications to the community and stressed the need for Health Department involvement, as opposed to having individuals pursue actions on their own.
- George Lamb – He noted that he attended a recent Green Breakfast meeting at which it was noted that Virginia is now requiring acceptance of alternative on-site sewage disposal systems. He raised concerns about implications to low density areas of the county. Stella Koch asked for information regarding how many properties will be affected and what the impacts could be. It was agreed that EQAC should schedule this as a future agenda item.
- Frank Divita—Offered assistance as a backup to Rich Weisman and Linda Burchfiel on the energy-related committees they're assisting with.
- Frank Divita—Noted a phone application called "Creek Watch" that places local watershed groups on a national map.
- Linda Burchfiel – Kevin Sun distinguished himself with eloquent testimony to the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly on Jan 8.

### **Staff Items**

- Feb meeting at Hidden Oaks.
- March meeting at 5:00 at Herrity Building. This will be the joint meeting with the Environmental Coordinating Committee. EQAC members should identify agenda items. Budget draft will be available prior to this meeting, and EQAC will need to formulate its budget recommendations at the meeting, as this will be the last EQAC meeting prior to the budget hearings in early April.
- Mount Vernon Town Hall meeting on February 5—Does EQAC want to staff a table at this event? There were no volunteers, but Mr. Kaplan asked members to consider if they may want to do this.
- Upcoming agendas of the Planning Commission Environment Committee were reviewed.
- The January 18 Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee meeting was noted.
- Staff is responding to all of the recommendations in EQAC's Annual Report on the Environment and would like to meet with EQAC to discuss two of the recommendations in the Climate Change chapter—the recommendations address energy monitoring in buildings. Rather than have this discussion at an EQAC meeting, EQAC tasked four members (Rich Weisman, Larry Zaragoza, Frank Divita and Linda Burchfiel) to discuss the issue with staff off-line, perhaps following up with a discussion at an EQAC meeting.

### **Future Agendas**

- discussion of budget
- digital plan submissions
- alternative onsite septic
- TMDL and Phase 2 Watershed Plan and MS4 has come through. Penny Gross says County cannot afford to meet those requirements. Stella Koch is interested in getting an update from DPWES Stormwater staff regarding these costs, particularly in light of what she has heard from Anne Arundel County in Maryland, which seems to be moving forward with funding to meet its requirements. Noel Kaplan was asked to line up this discussion for the February 9 EQAC meeting.