

Approved by EQAC, February 10, 2016

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

DATE: December 9, 2015

TIME: 7:20-9:15 PM

**LOCATION: Hidden Oaks Nature Center
7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Kenneth Lanfear (Hunter Mill)
Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon)	Paul Pitera (Braddock)
Johna Gagnon (Lee)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
George Lamb (At-Large)	Katrina White (Student Member)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Alex Robbins (Providence)
Richard J. Healy (Mason)	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)

STAFF

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
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VISITORS

Karen Bencala (Senior Water Resources Planner, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin)
Tyler Jones
Claudette Lewis
John Schaefer
Joyce Schaefer
Ahmad Siddiqui
Ahmar Siddiqui

The meeting convened at 7:20 P.M.

Briefing from Karin Bencala on drinking water source water protection efforts and issues

Issues addressed:

- Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin was established under interstate compact by Act of Congress in 1940; signatories: WV, DC, MD, PA, & VA; charged to find ways to control & reduce water pollution in the Potomac & tributaries; no regulatory authority
- Coordinates between agencies & levels of government; assessments of water problems from a watershed perspective-not limited by political jurisdictions; technical services; information & education to the public
- Focus areas: drinking water & water resources; water quality; aquatic life; communication & education; ICPRB & the Chesapeake Bay
- ICPRB does risk assessment by estimating travel times to intakes, identifying contaminant & proximity, handling of spill; hotline available 24/7
- Participates in training & exercises for minor & routine spills as well as significant events & known risks
- Potomac River Basin Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership: members and structure described; efforts include: identify regional priorities, promote communication, coordinate approach for high quality drinking water
- Activities: track research & regulations, invite experts, hold workshops, comment on rules & regulations, education, reach out to agriculture community with management recommendation; reach out to DOTs about road salts, considering stakeholder group
- Challenges: large land area; diffuse problems; how to engage upstream/small/groundwater utilities
- Forest Protection objectives: Determine water quality changes near the utility intakes by preserving varying degrees of existing forested lands; assess the impact of water quality changes on treatment costs; develop recommendations for source water protection activities
- Overview of cryptosporidium study
- Emerging contaminants of concern—Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule noted; Rich Weisman noted that there is a list of 30 contaminants that must be monitored and that this list is revised every five years
- 2014 annual report, list of 2015 activities and plans for 2016
- Vulnerability assessment being performed through COG for DC area drinking water plants
- Questions & discussion held by EQAC members throughout the presentation
 - Is there a map identifying where potential contaminant sources are located upstream of intakes? COG and member utilities are updating an inventory—will include the entirety of the basin emphasizing critical areas (drainages with 24-hour or less travel time + 1,000 foot buffers around those drainages); Virginia requirement noted re: sources within five miles of intakes; suggestion from Johna Gagnon to reach out to local emergency planning committees.

- Concerns about source water implications of runoff from highway road salt applications and airport deicing operations (implications to water treatment by utilities); discussion of idea of certification for road salt applicators
- What's the most effective source water protection strategy? Protection of forests highlighted.
- Can the locations of the 77 drinking water intakes in the basin be shared publicly? Not on a map, but a list could be provided.
- Can ICPRB's efforts highlighting the benefits of forest cover as it relates to treatment costs result in funding to purchase open space? Not sure—the issue would be who would pay for this, as it would be difficult for utilities to pursue this. Stella Koch noted RPA buffer area requirements; Paul Pitera noted that these requirements only apply in localities with tidal areas and do not apply to the west of these localities.
- Concern about wastewater treatment plant discharges during low flow periods. Benefits of UOSA discharges noted, but this was recognized as an exceptional facility, and concerns were raised about more typical wastewater treatment plants. Ms. Bencala indicated that wastewater treatment facilities are well suited to handle pollutants. She added that flows from these plants are predictable, as opposed to the more unpredictable issues of storm flows and sewage overflows

Motions made: None

Follow-up actions:

- Noel Kaplan to forward Ms. Bencala's presentation info to all EQAC members per Stella Koch's request
- Johna Gagnon to provide Ms. Bencala with LEPC contact information
- Noel Kaplan to ask VDOT to address its road salt practices during its upcoming discussion with EQAC

Establishment of a nominating committee for EQAC officers for CY 2016

Review of future meeting agendas

Issues addressed:

- George Lamb & Rich Weisman volunteered to be the nominating committee

Motions made: None

Follow-up actions:

- Nominating committee will report at the January meeting with recommendation for 2016 Chair & Vice-chair

Chairman's items

Issues addressed:

- Stella Koch reported she is communicating with Chairman's office about recognizing Bob McLaren when he finishes his term the end of January, completing 27 years 1-1/2 months serving on EQAC; he is the longest serving EQAC representative to date; reported he will be at January EQAC meeting; EQAC will recognize in business meeting after the public hearing
- Stella Koch received a call from Steve Larsen in Mount Vernon District about sea level rise; he is appointed by Supervisor Hyland to a task force to look at the flooding & quality of life at Belle Haven; Larry Zaragoza provided his perspective, noting an effort underway by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study sea wall options. He added that Mr. Larsen was surprised to see the issue addressed in the ARE & was pleased that someone is looking at the issue
- Commented about infill & trees: McLean area has large amount of infill with clear cutting; Supervisor Foust and Deputy County Executive Robert Stalzer will be meeting with residents who have complained about enforcement of tree canopy requirements.
- Conversation with Sierra Club representatives regarding the idea of adding language to the Comprehensive Plan to address sustainability. She has asked the Sierra Club representatives to review the Climate Change & Energy chapter of the Annual Report and to identify more specifically what they are interested in achieving. Linda Burchfiel suggested that there be an off-line conversation with the Sierra Club about this issue.

Motions made: None

Follow-up actions:

- Stella will bring a card & cake for Bob McLaren to the January EQAC business meeting
- Steve Larsen should be invited to a future EQAC meeting to discuss the sea level rise issue with the council [*note: Mr. Larsen testified at EQAC's January 12, 2016 public hearing.*]

Council member items

Issues addressed:

- Larry Zaragoza noted a recent discussion with Eric Goplerud of Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions; Dr. Goplerud is very frustrated in number of areas including what he says is limited progress by the county in establishing the energy dashboard & insufficient purchases of hybrid vehicle. Larry Zaragoza indicated that he will talk to Eric to understand more what he is thinking & wanting; he expressed his view that there is a need to think more strategically about greenhouse gas emissions.

- Kambiz Agazi briefly explained how the county purchases vehicles & decisions used to determine best vehicle for needs whether that is hybrid or not. Stella Koch indicated that the purchase of hybrids shouldn't be the issue but performance should be.
- Kambiz Agazi & Larry Zaragoza discussed county greenhouse gas emissions and efforts at COG to collect locality-specific data. Larry Zaragoza expressed interest in seeing the COG data for Fairfax County.
- Ken Lanfear reported that he is working on critiquing the Annual Report summary report, looking at both individual sections and the overall approach that is being taken. He will be ready to discuss this in February; Noel Kaplan indicated that he may look at one particular chapter in the summary report and coordinate his thoughts with Ken Lanfear
- Johna Gagnon noted the annual Soil and Water Conservation District meeting and indicated that the legislative packet for the 47 districts included sea level rise
- Rich Weisman noted that he works for EPA in its Drinking Water Program & briefly described his day job relating to the earlier presentation on source water protection
- George Lamb reported the Governor will release his proposed state budget on December 17; he reported 78% of farmers don't believe in climate change
- George Lamb asked where in the Annual Report the road salt issue would be addressed. Stella Koch suggested that it should go in the Water Resources chapter. Kambiz Agazi commented that less road salt could be used if vehicles used snow tires

Motions made: None

Follow-up actions:

- Kambiz Agazi will communicate to COG EQAC's interest in a future briefing (spring/summer 2016) on COG's greenhouse gas emissions inventory efforts for both government operational emissions and community-wide emissions from Fairfax County. COG's forthcoming report on greenhouse gas emissions inventory efforts will be distributed to EQAC members when it is available.

Staff items

Issues addressed:

- Upcoming agendas:
 - January
 - TUESDAY January 12 at the Fairfax County Government Center in Conference Rooms 2-3, EQAC members should arrive for the Public Hearing NO LATER THAN 7:20 for the prompt start at 7:30 PM
 - Ad is on EQAC's web page; the notice will be sent to hundreds through EQAC contact list including all supervisors' offices; already have 4 people signed up to speak

- February (to be held at the Government Center):
 - VDOT discussion (the issue of road salt will be added to the previously identified list of issues)
 - GIS demonstration
 - Ken Lanfear's discussion of the Annual Report had been identified for this agenda, but it was decided that this discussion would be moved back to the March EQAC business meeting
- March (to be held at the Government Center, rooms 4 & 5 @ 5:00 PM):
 - Joint meeting with ECC
 - Business meeting after ECC meeting: ARE report discussion
- ARE presentation to the Board of Supervisors on November 17
 - Stella Koch commented this years ARE presentation went very smoothly
 - Summary of the presentation was emailed to the council
 - 2 homework assignments received from supervisors
 - Supervisor McKay pointed out the Wildlife chapter provides a number of recommendations supporting lethal means of deer management. He asked that EQAC be made aware of any technological advances related to more humane approaches
 - Supervisor Hudgins discussed lighting of trails; she asked if there are lighting structures that can help communities that need to provide critical lighting along trails that are also community-friendly in terms of not producing adverse impact.
- No Planning Commission Environmental Committee meetings remaining this year—the next meeting is scheduled for January 21
- Kambiz Agazi reported that the Sierra Club had questions about the Sustainability issue; he suggested that EQAC share Fairfax County's Sustainability Initiatives report with the people who raised these questions, in that the report provides considerable information about county policies.

Motions made: None

Follow-up actions:

- Ken Lanfear will have ARE report ready to present at the March EQAC business meeting after the joint meeting with ECC
- Follow-up assignments from the Annual Report presentation: EQAC agreed that the issues of concern (alternative approaches to deer management and trail lighting approaches that would not produce adverse impacts to neighboring residences) would need to be addressed within the 2016 Annual Report and that both issues would need to be referred to Frank Crandall. It was also suggested that the Wildlife Management Specialist be invited to a future meeting to discuss the deer management concern.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.