

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, February 13, 2013
TIME: 7:15 P.M.
PLACE: Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale, VA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Johna Gagnon (Lee)
Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mt. Vernon)	Michael Sanio (Hunter Mill)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Talia Schmitt (Student Member)
Frank Divita (Braddock)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
	Glen White (Mason)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jeff Allcroft (Springfield)	George Lamb (At Large)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)

STAFF

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
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GUESTS

Steve Aitcheson	Joyce Doughty
Craig Carinci	Pamela Gratton
Justin Dennis	Chris Lohmann
Lesley Dennis	William Whitesell
Maya Dhavale	Danielle Wynne

The meeting of the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Stella Koch at 7:15 pm.

Briefing on the Solid Waste Management Program

Matters discussed:

- PowerPoint presentation by Joyce Doughty, Director, Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, and Pamela Gratton, Manager, Solid Waste Collection and Recycling, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

- The breadth/scope of the solid waste program was noted (including refuse collections, recycling, pollution prevention/community engagement, renewable energy production, environmentally-sound refuse disposal and emergency response)
- The county's contract with Covanta on the waste-to-energy facility expires in 2016 (though Covanta has a right to remain on the site until 2031); an extension will be considered
- Meanwhile, other approaches are being evaluated—A Request for Expressions of Interest for alternative approaches for handling waste stream (possibly to include organic waste) has been issued; responses are expected in March 2013
- Green Energy Triangle project under consideration. Already existing are: landfill gas to energy, waste to energy, water reuse and reuse and recycling
- Green Energy Triangle project could include: solar, wind, and geothermal power, as well as heat recovery from biosolids processing, waste steam recovery, and educational opportunities
- Recycling currently uses single stream, also collects yard waste-- The county's recycling rate is 47% (well above the state mandate of 25%)
- Nonresidential properties required to recycle paper and cardboard
- Special services including Electric Sundays, shredding, outreach and education
- The ServiceSource contract for Electric Sundays was noted
- Will consider expanding commercial requirements and recycling outreach to the business community, development of public-private partnership recycling processing facility in county, and alternatives for disposal of additional items
- There was a discussion of enforcement of recycling requirements
- There was a discussion of recycling at Fairfax County Public Schools
- There was a discussion of commercial composting of food wastes and associated challenges

Motions made:

- none

Follow-up actions:

- none

Briefing on the stormwater program and implementation of watershed management plans

Matters discussed:

- PowerPoint presentation by Craig Carinci, Director, Stormwater Planning Division, DPWES—the presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the county's stormwater program.
- Policy drivers were identified as the MS4 permit, Total Maximum Daily Loads, maintenance, public safety/emergency response and dam regulations
- Program updates: conveyance systems; dam safety and facility rehabilitation; emergency and flood response; operations; stormwater regulations; and streams and water quality

- Completed projects over the last couple of years were noted-included stream restoration, pond retrofits and low impact development
- Status of watershed management plan projects and policy recommendations; prioritization of project implementation
- Program challenges
- Program funding
- Potential impacts of new development on stream restoration projects
- Publicity for volunteer cleanup/watershed projects

Motions made:

- none

Follow-up actions:

- none

Briefing on Fairfax County's bacteria monitoring program

Matters discussed:

- PowerPoint presentation by Danielle Wynne, Ecologist III, Stormwater Planning Division, DPWES
- History of bacteria monitoring in Fairfax County
- Relationship to the forthcoming MS4 permit revision and TMDLs, and related changes proposed to the monitoring program
- Staff recommends revising the monitoring program to focus on identifying pollutants and their sources.
- Implementation of enhanced dry and/or wet weather screening programs
- Four Mile Run as pilot study for future permit compliance

Motions made:

- none

Follow-up actions:

- none

EQAC resolution on county assumption of sign enforcement authority in highway rights-of-way

Matters discussed:

- A draft resolution prepared by Rich Weisman

Motions made:

- Rich Weisman moved acceptance of the resolution be accepted, Linda Burchfiel seconded.

Record of the vote:

- Unanimous approval by all members present; no abstentions.

Follow-up actions:

- Noel Kaplan will transmit the approved resolution to the Board of Supervisors. Per EQAC's request, he will send a copy to Ned Foster, a former member of EQAC, for his information.

Approval of the minutes of the January 7, 2013 meeting, including the public hearing summary

Motions made:

- Johna Gagnon moved approval of the minutes as presented. Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- Unanimous approval by all members present; no abstentions.

Follow-up actions:

- Noel Kaplan will transmit the public hearing summary to the Board of Supervisors. Per standard practice, the approved minutes will be posted to the EQAC website with an e-mail notification to Board member offices.

Discussion of issues raised at the January 7, 2013 public hearing

Matters discussed:

- A bullet point summary, prepared by Noel Kaplan, of issues raised at the public hearing
- One time-sensitive item identified in Noel's summary: a request for Fairfax County's participation in this year's Litter Enforcement Month, sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation and to be held in April.
- The need for EQAC to schedule agenda items for the next several months, based on the list of public hearing issues, follow-up issues from the presentation to the Board of Supervisors of the Annual Report on the Environment and other items previously identified.

Motions made:

- none

Follow-up actions:

- With respect to the Litter Enforcement Month, Noel Kaplan will get information from the Alice Ferguson Foundation regarding what would be involved with participation in this program. He will pass this information along to Glen White and Stella Koch. If needed, Glen will discuss this program with Supervisor Gross and the possible need for a motion relating to this matter at a Board of Supervisors meeting.

- Noel Kaplan will compile a list of issues previously identified as possible future meeting agenda items for consideration by EQAC at the March 13 meeting.

Discussion of issues raised at the January 7, 2013 public hearing: Policy regarding LEED Silver or equivalent in Tysons Corner as it applies to hotels

Matters discussed:

- Discussion led by Maya Dhavale, Senior Environmental Planner, Department of Planning and Zoning
- Comprehensive Plan policy guidance pertaining to LEED[®] Silver or equivalent for development in Tysons Corner, and the application of this policy to hotels
- Typical green building proffer enforcement mechanisms, including the posting of escrows (typically \$2/square foot) tied to attainment of a specific green building commitment. An alternate approach (demonstration of progress toward achieving a higher level of green building rating) was noted, as was the concept of a graduated escrow release (i.e., a portion of the escrow would be returned if the project came close to, but did not attain, the referenced level of the green building rating).
- Concerns raised about the cost of LEED
- Concerns raised about the difficulty a developer is having in finding hotel builders who will agree to pursuing LEED Silver certification
- The broader context of Plan guidance for Tysons—high development expectations along with high planned development intensities
- U.S. Green Building Council information regarding LEED certifications for hotels
- The U.S. Green Building Council's volume program and its application by hotel chains, including Marriott.
- The Hilton hotel chain's "LightStay[™]" program, which reduces energy/resource use associated with hotel operations
- A design and construction emphasis in green building policy and commitments sought during the zoning process as opposed to longer-term operational considerations; whether enforceable operational commitments could possibly be incorporated during the zoning process
- The LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations and Maintenance rating system

Motions made:

- none

Follow-up actions:

- Staff was asked to contact Phil Keipper for more information about Hilton's green building construction practices (as opposed to operational efforts)
- EQAC agreed, in setting future meeting agendas, to include an agenda item for which Phil Keipper and Tom Fleury would be invited in order to explore further the following two questions: (1) What building design and construction options are there to achieve an

equivalent to LEED Silver for hotels? (2) Is it possible to capture longer-term green operational practices for hotels into commitments offered through the rezoning process?

- Staff agreed to get more information about Marriott's participation in the LEED volume program.

Preparation for the March 13, 2013 joint meeting with the Environmental Coordinating Committee

Matters discussed:

- The agenda for the joint meeting

Motions made:

- none

Follow-up actions:

- The following items were identified:
 - Transit-oriented development design and connectivity to transit stations
 - The proposed FY 2014 budget as it would affect county environmental efforts (including a discussion of multi-year budget planning)
 - The Environmental Improvement Program project selection process and projects proposed for funding in FY 2014 (including a broader discussion of the EIP).
- Noel Kaplan was asked to forward to EQAC information about the proposed FY 2014 budget once it was presented on February 26. He was also asked to provide EQAC members with EQAC's position on the FY 2013 budget.

Chairman's items

There were no Chairman's items.

Council member items

Matters discussed:

- Potential proposed modifications to stormwater regulations by the Environmental Protection Agency per the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System—a draft could be released as early as this summer (Frank Divita)
- The possibility of having an EQAC committee consider the LEED issue; associated considerations, including open meeting/Freedom of Information Act requirements (Glen White, with a broader follow-up discussion)

Motions made:

- none

Follow-up actions:

- none

Staff Items

Matters discussed:

- A new electric vehicle charging code adopted by Boulder County, Colorado (Kambiz Agazi)
- The Passive House standard (Kambiz Agazi)
- Materials for the student member selection process for the July 2013-June 2014 term (Noel Kaplan)
- The application form and publicity/outreach efforts for the 2013 Environmental Excellence Awards (Noel Kaplan and Kambiz Agazi)
- The Planning Commission Environment Committee's March 7 meeting (Noel Kaplan)
- Need for a volunteer for minutes for the March 13 meeting (Noel Kaplan)
- Pizza at the March 13 meeting (Noel Kaplan)

Motions made:

- none

Follow-up actions:

- The student member selection and Environmental Excellence Award materials were accepted by EQAC.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 P.M.