

Approved by EQAC, March 9, 2016

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

DATE: February 10, 2016

TIME: 7:25-10:10 PM

LOCATION: Room 232, Fairfax County Government Center

**EQAC Member Attendance**

Name	Present Absent*	Name	Present Absent*
Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	P	Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon)	P
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	P	Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	P
Johna Gagnon (Lee)	A	Richard Healy (Mason)	P
George Lamb (At-Large)	P	Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P
Renee Grebe (At-Large)	P	Paul Pitera (Braddock)	P
Alex Robbins (Providence)	A	Katrina White (Student Member)	P
Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	P	Rich Weisman (Sully)	P

\*Note: P indicates present, A indicates absent

**Staff Attendance**

Kambiz Agazi, Noel Kaplan

**Visitor Attendance**

Joe Gorney

**Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes**

1. Discussion with the Virginia Department of Transportation on a range of design and environmental issues.

VDOT was unable to attend due to the weather events of the previous week. As a result this agenda item was not discussed.

**Decision:** Staff will request VDOT to attend at a later date.

2. Staff follow-up briefings in response to EQAC items of interest
  - a. The Comprehensive Plan as a land use policy document

In response to a request from the Chairman, staff provided a briefing on the county's Comprehensive Plan, stressing its function as a land use policy document as opposed to a strategic document. This included a discussion of the relevant State Code provisions relating to comprehensive plans and how these

requirements are addressed through the county's Plan. There was discussion of regulation vs. policy, how Plan policy is applied, the relationship between the Plan and the Board of Supervisors' environmental vision and the extent to which climate change-related issues are/are not addressed in the Plan.

- b. Overview of the Planning Commission Environment Committee's review of the MITRE building energy technology report.

Discussion included the following:

The MITRE report came about as a result of a proffered commitment from MITRE to provide resources in support of county sustainability initiatives. Two reports have been produced; one dealing with electric vehicle charging infrastructure and the other dealing with building energy technology. Both reports focused on the question of how we should be designing our sites and buildings now to accommodate emerging technologies in the future, and both reports were referred by the BOS to the Planning Commission, which tasked its Environment Committee with these reviews. MITRE's focus in its reports was on Tysons, but the Environment Committee is looking at the issues more broadly. The electric vehicle charging report review was completed last fall, and the Planning Commission report has been sent to the BOS, which has directed that staff provide a briefing on the PC report at the next BOS Environmental Committee meeting.

The Building energy technology report review is ongoing. The Environment Committee is now meeting on this report roughly monthly.

A "staff perspectives" document on the recommendations identified in the MITRE report has been produced. Public comment was sought on both the MITRE report and staff perspectives document; that input was reviewed with the committee, and the committee is now going through each of the 12 MITRE recommendations as identified in the staff perspectives document. Ultimately, there will be a Planning Commission report to the Board of Supervisors; the report may or may not recommend a Plan amendment or other particular follow-up actions.

EQAC discussion of this subject focused on a broader set of issues, including staff's interagency review structures, whether a subgroup of EQAC members should identify what a county climate change and energy policy might look like, how these issues relate to the forthcoming review of the Board of Supervisors' environmental vision and efforts underway at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments to develop regional greenhouse gas reduction strategies.

It was unclear to EQAC members which environmental elements will be addressed in support of the environmental vision.

**Motion/record of the vote/decision:** Clyde Wilber moved that a workgroup comprised of Larry Zaragoza and Linda Burchfiel should develop a list of items a Climate Change and Energy policy would include. Linda Burchfiel seconded the motion. All EQAC members present voted in favor of the motion. Recommendations of this work group will be considered at a future EQAC meeting dedicated to energy topics.

3. EQAC welcomed Renee Grebe as a new member. Roles and responsibilities of members were briefly discussed.

**Decision:** The EQAC Chair will work with Ms. Grebe to assign a chapter in the annual report on the environment. All chapter assignments will be discussed at a future meeting.

4. Preparation for the March 9, 2016 joint meeting with the Environmental Coordinating Committee

Staff noted that several agenda items had been identified for the joint meeting and added that others had been suggested.

**Decision:**

EQAC agreed to include the following items on the joint meeting agenda:

- Briefing on the proposed FY 2017 budget
- Update on the review of the Board of Supervisors environmental vision document
- Briefing on the Solid Waste Program (EQAC expressed particular interest in recycling issues)
- Briefing from Meghan Trossen, Director of Programs, Tysons Partnership, on the Partnership's Sustainability Council and private sector sustainability efforts in Tysons
- Update on the energy dashboard
- Update on Energy Action Fairfax/green business certification and business outreach efforts

EQAC agreed to include the following items on the agenda of the business meeting that will follow the joint meeting:

- Development of EQAC budget recommendations
- Discussion of the Annual Report on the Environment process

5. Identification of future meeting agenda items

The following potential items for future meetings were discussed:

April Meeting: GIS Demonstration Tree conservation on residential infill projects  
Sea Level Rise Adaptation Annual Report Kick Off

May Meeting: Stormwater/watershed plan briefing (including prioritization of stream restoration projects; status of funding for projects; percentage of watershed plan projects implemented)  
Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)—How many are there? How do they relate to watershed plan implementation?

June Meeting: VDOT briefing

Later Meeting: Invasive plant management—IMA coordinator position in the Park Authority; invasive management efforts in buffer restoration projects

EQAC also discussed the issue of sign enforcement and dump site concerns as presented by e-mails from Joe Chudzik.

Note also that staff has prepared, for future discussion, a list of issues identified at the January 12 public hearing and potential agenda items based on past EQAC meeting discussions.

**Decision:** Staff will attempt to schedule speakers for the above items and prepare agendas accordingly. EQAC agreed that the sign enforcement issue should be considered off-line (i.e., an EQAC member should discuss this with appropriate staff and report back to EQAC) and that further action on the dump site issue be considered after EQAC has received staff responses to Annual Report recommendations.

6. Two items for potential EQAC meeting discussion or action from the Public Hearing were discussed as follows:

- a. The Wisteria invasive species problem in the Accotink Gorge  
Discussion indicated this is an important issue in need of quick action. However, it is a specific area and project need. EQAC has traditionally focused on countywide policy issues.

**Decision:** EQAC defers action on the Accotink Gorge invasive species problem to individuals to contact their supervisors if they so desire.

- b. Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF)  
Discussion indicated that the SLAF program may or may not be funded for the coming year. This program has benefited Fairfax County stream restoration.

**Motion/record of the vote/decision:** Clyde Wilber moved that EQAC send correspondence to the Board of Supervisors supporting reinstatement of state funding for SLAF. Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion. Stella Koch indicated that she would craft the specifics of the correspondence for circulation to all members present prior to transmittal to the Board. All EQAC members present voted in favor of the motion.

7. Approval of January 12, 2016 minutes and public hearing summary  
Delivery of the public hearing summary to the BOS was discussed.

**Motion/record of the vote/decision:** Larry Zaragoza moved approval of the January 12, 2016 minutes and public hearing summary, with corrections noted by Noel Kaplan. Richard Healy seconded the motion. All EQAC members present voted in favor of the motion. It was concluded that the summary should be posted online and no hard copies sent to the Board of Supervisors.

8. Approval of additional meeting minutes  
**Motion/record of the vote/decision:** Clyde Wilber moved approval of the following additional meeting minutes, as submitted:
- 9/9/2015
  - 11/12/2015
  - 12/9/2015

Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion. All EQAC members present voted yes on this decision except Renee Grebe abstained.

9. The backlog of minutes was discussed.  
The long backlog of unapproved minutes was discussed as a concern. EQAC members expressed a desire to simplify the minutes and the process for approving such minutes.

**Decision:** Clyde Wilber and Ken Lanfear will develop a streamlined model set of minutes and procedure for approval that minimizes the need for staff time.

10. Applications for the EQAC student member were discussed.

**Decision:** Staff will proceed with the process as presented.

11. Chairman's items  
None

12. Council member items
- The next green breakfast (March 12) will be on Climate Change
  - Concerns were discussed that infill development is reducing tree cover in the county. This is a concern with the tree commission. Concerns were discussed that the current tree canopy requirement does not protect old trees.

**Decision:** EQAC will invite the Director of the Urban Forest Management Division to the April 13, 2016 EQAC meeting to discuss this issue with EQAC [*noted earlier in the identification of future meeting agenda items*].

13. Staff items
- EQAC is invited to the Mt Vernon District Town Hall meeting in March. There were no EQAC volunteers to staff an EQAC table in the exhibit area. DPZ will

be at the meeting, and Noel Kaplan will pass along EQAC materials for inclusion at the DPZ table.

- EQAC received a note of thanks from the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust commending EQAC for its Annual Report.
- Planning Commission Environment Committee meeting on February 25.
- The county has a pilot project for a pollinator meadow near the government center.

14. Adjournment

**Upcoming meetings**

**March 9, 2016: Joint meeting with the Environmental Coordinating Committee, Conference Rooms 4 & 5, Government Center, 5:00 PM**

**April 13, 2016: Regular Meeting, Location TBD, 7:15 PM**