

*Approved by EQAC, June 8, 2011*

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011  
**TIME:** 7:15 P.M. -10:30 PM  
**PLACE:** Conference Room, Hidden Oaks Nature Center

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)  
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)  
Marie Flanigan (Providence)  
Patricia Greenberg (Hunter Mill)

Robert McLaren (At-Large)  
Rich Weisman (Sully)  
Glen White (Mason)  
Larry Zaragoza (Mount Vernon)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)  
Johna Gagnon (Lee)  
Kevin Sun (Student Member)

Frank Divita (Braddock)  
George Lamb (Vice Chairman, At-Large)

**STAFF**

Kambiz Agazi

Noel Kaplan

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Erin Abrahams (DPWES-Stormwater)  
Kate Bennett (DPWES-Stormwater)  
Bethany Bezak  
Tony Bizjak (Dept. of Vehicle Services)  
Craig Carinci (DPWES-Stormwater)

Chad Crawford (DPWES-Stormwater)  
Noelle Domiguez (FC Dept. of Transp.)  
Susan Hafeli (Dept. of Cable & Cons. Svs.)  
Mike Rolband

The meeting convened at 7:15 PM.

**Briefing About County Energy Initiatives—Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging**

Matters discussed:

- Tony Bizjak, Fairfax County Dept. of Vehicle Services, discussed an April 19 meeting to be held at COG about regional cooperation, to be chaired by Mary Cheh of Washington DC. He also discussed Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants for the following:
  - EV charging stations – with a preference for Level 2 stations (they are trying to determine locations)
  - The incremental resources needed for the county to obtain 10 Chevy Volts and 5 Ford Fusions

- Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County Dept. of Cable & Cons. Svs., discussed legislation and provided State Corporation Commission updates. She noted concerns about the potential for EV stations to be subject to utility regulations. She also described a new bill by David Bulova to exclude EV charging stations from utility regulation, and that was signed March 23. This bill, which goes into effect on July 1, also provides for the evaluation of options for utilities to establish off-hour pricing for EV charging. She discussed the following two pilots by Dominion Virginia Power:
  - Isolated EV meter and hard wire support system
  - Whole house approach on time of use rate (super off-peak rate, at less than 1 cent per kwh).

She said these pilots may start as soon as this summer, have enrollment by December 1<sup>st</sup>, and go for one year. Susan said that she would send the link on this to EQAC.

- Noelle Dominguez, Fairfax County Dept. of Transp., discussed possible locations for electric vehicle charging stations, and provided a map with a prioritized list of locations at county-owned park and ride lots. The handout also identified the number of spaces at these lots and an estimate of their percentage full. She described these as “pay-to-park” spots. She also described the following levels:
  - Level 2 – most stations and is a 4-8 hour charge
  - Level 3 – “fast-charging” 15-30 minute charge, but no protocol yet exists

She said that she would work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Administration on a coordinated plan for county coverage. Susan Hafeli noted several private companies putting in charging stations, such as Cracker Barrel (Walmart is also considering this). Plans in other jurisdictions were also noted; for example, Washington, D.C. is putting in a fast-charging station at a condo on Mass Ave at a cost of \$50,000, College Park MD at “Mom’s Market”, and Japan with the CHAdeMO (“CHARge de MOve”) system.

- Noel Kaplan, Department of Planning and Zoning, described several changes under consideration for the green building policy in the Policy Plan volume of the county’s comprehensive plan. He noted that this policy was adopted in 2007 and that the Planning Commission’s Environment Committee is reviewing the policy with staff to identify changes that may be recommended. He noted that staff had prepared a draft strawman Plan amendment that adds a statement supporting EV recharging and related infrastructure.
- Noel also described a proffer from the MITRE Company to the provision of resources (10 days/year for 2 years) in support of county sustainability efforts. MITRE has coordinated with county staff to define a scope of work for this effort, and the work plan outlines several tasks. A major focus of this effort is the provision of guidance on flexible building design for accommodation of energy efficiency innovations. Also included, however, is a component providing guidance on electric vehicle charging infrastructure, with a focus on the application of this technology in Tysons Corner. MITRE provided to staff a draft report on the EV component in February, and comments have been returned to MITRE. A revised report is expected soon. He said that the report notes “complete uncertainty on the acceptance of EV technology”. He said that the likelihood is that most EV owners will do their charging at home and discussed the potential for negotiation of commitments to the preparation of sites for future retrofits of charging equipment.

- In response to a question from Rich Weisman (Sully), Susan Hafeli noted that a new RFP about Energy Education and Outreach is expected to be released this month.
- Glen White (Mason) requested that the county maintain a public website with information about the locations of charging stations. Staff responded that they thought this was more of an effort to be undertaken by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.

**Briefing from the Stormwater Planning Division on monitoring results from low impact development practices and the process for implementation of watershed plan recommendations**

- Craig Carinci, the Director of the Stormwater Planning Division in DPWES, provided an update on stormwater projects in the county. He noted the progression in stormwater management from flood protection and mitigation, to a focus on water quality. Craig described several specific restoration projects and showed photos of before- and after-conditions, as well as estimates of drainage area and removals of phosphorous, nitrogen, and sediment.
- The following projects were discussed: Poplar Springs (Burke), Bridle Path (Dranesville), Dead Run, Dolly Madison Library, Big Rocky Tributary, which includes a two-year warranty on their vegetation (Centreville), Seven Woods, Foxfield Section 13, Sequoia Lea pond (western part), Sycamore Ridge (near Frying Pan Park), Cinnamon Oaks, McLean Community Center (LID, and work with schools), Sherwood Library (LID pavers installed by county maintenance staff, along with a rain garden and tree box filters), Walt Whitman MS (rain gardens and bioretention facilities), and Cub Run ReCenter (vegetated swale and rain garden).
- For Cub Run, Craig described a study done over a 1.5 year period to measure rain and runoff, noting 82% of rain retained following the stormwater improvements. He also described an 84% rain retention for the Providence Fire station, and a 40% rain retention for the Herrity Building green roof on a portion of the parking garage, following their stormwater improvements.
- Craig also discussed stormwater pipe rehabilitation and lining in the county. He noted that there are 1,500 miles of pipe in the county, and that, in 2010, they visually inspected 300 miles and TV inspected 60-70 miles. He said that typically 15% of the pipe needs maintenance, with 5% of that 15% needing serious maintenance. Last year, they repaired 2,300 feet of pipe, with 500 ft replaced and 1,800 ft relined.
- Larry Zaragoza (Mount Vernon) expressed an interest in further engagement with community groups interested in restoration.
- Stella Koch (Chair) requested that the county do more to publicize and perform outreach on the results from the recently completed watershed plans. Craig replied that DPWES plans to get members of watershed advisory groups involved on an annual basis to let them know the status of program efforts. He also noted forthcoming improvements to the program website.
- Craig also discussed dam safety, including about the Lake Barton emergency dredging project that is now ongoing. They are removing 35,000 cubic yards of sediment and creating a forebay.

- Craig noted a \$5 million budget for implementing stormwater projects next year, and that there are over 1,600 structural projects identified in the watershed plans. He said that the watershed management plan projects are estimated to cost a total of \$700 million. It would take 140 years to do all those projects, assuming the current rate of funding. He said that they average 15-30 projects per year. In FY 10, Craig noted that approximately 50% of project funds were allocated for flood mitigation, 30% for water quality including partnerships with schools and parks, and 20% for stream restorations. Craig described the Watershed Advisory Groups (WAGs) – there are 13 WAGs which are used to provide citizen input. The plans were finished in February 2011.
- Marie Flanigan (Providence) requested that the county provide on a county website easy to use “translations” for stormwater terminology, such as a ¼ acre lot and ½ inch of rain equals so many gallons of stormwater.
- Craig also provided a summary of a cost-benefit analysis of the projects that were included in the presentation that compared the following four types of activities on a dollar per basis – stream restoration, outfall restoration, detention pond retrofit, and LID. These were examined on a per pound of phosphorous, nitrogen, and solids removal basis. The analysis showed that detention pond retrofit had the lowest overall cost per basis, among the four activities examined.

#### **Overview of the Chairman’s Private Sector Energy Task Force**

- Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator, discussed the Chairman’s Private Sector Energy Task Force. He said that discussions regarding community energy planning were held about six months ago, and that the task force concept grew out of these discussions. The task force, which is chaired by Leo Schefer, has had two meetings so far.
- Kambiz described “community energy planning,” “district energy,” “scalable energy” and “combined heating and power” concepts. He described the central concept of community energy planning as “if you don’t need it, don’t use it, and if you use it, don’t lose it.” This concept includes, for example, activities such as heat capture in a power plant rather than letting this heat escape.
- Kambiz noted that Arlington County has just completed an 18-month project to develop a plan. Chairman Koch noted that the current average greenhouse gas emission level in the United States is about 20 metric tons per person, and that Arlington County has set a goal of achieving a level of 3 metric tons per person by 2050 (identical to where Copenhagen is now).
- Kambiz stated that Chairman Bulova has set up the Fairfax County task force in a manner similar to that used in Arlington, with an emphasis on private sector participation. Both he and Chairman Koch added that utilities were well represented on the task force. He said that it was not clear what the final outcome of this effort would be (this will be up to the task force to decide) but that he anticipated one possible outcome as a set of goals and strategies. He said that the Fairfax County government accounts for about 4% of total greenhouse gas emissions in the county and that this highlights the need for private sector involvement.
- There was additional discussion about this effort, including Comprehensive Plan goals for Tysons Corner related to greenhouse gas emissions, impediments/challenges to

district energy, the role of energy planning in attracting firms from Europe and legislation relating to electric vehicle recharging.

### **EQAC Representative to the Tree Commission**

- Nobody volunteered to serve as the EQAC representative to the Tree Commission. The issue was deferred again to the next meeting.

### **Student Member Search Committee**

- The following EQAC representatives volunteered to serve on the student member search committee (needs report out by June):
  - Bob McLaren – Chair
  - Marie Flanigan
  - Kevin Sun

### **Environmental Excellence Awards Nomination Review Committee**

- The following EQAC representatives volunteered to serve on the environmental excellence awards nomination review committee (needs report out by August):
  - Rich Weisman – chair
  - Bob McLaren
  - Glen White

### **2011 Annual Report on the Environment (ARE)**

- Noel Kaplan reviewed the chapter author assignments for the 2011 ARE. Patricia Greenberg volunteered to lead the section on urban forestry (within the Ecological Resources chapter, which will be prepared by Bob McLaren). Noel noted that there were still gaps in author assignments for the visual pollution section and for a co-author for the Land Use and Transportation chapter. He was asked to send an e-mail to all members to request volunteers.
- The plan is to shoot to have the ARE presented to the Board of Supervisors on November 1, with a fall-back of December 6. The public hearing would be held after the presentation of the report.
- Noel requested feedback on the information request list by April 22. He stressed that extensive lists of information were being requested and that we should not be requesting information we will not use.

### **Minutes of the March 9 Meeting**

- This was deferred until the May 11 meeting.

### **Council Items**

- Rich Weisman discussed his input on the development of a request for proposals for the energy education and outreach program. Chairman Koch asked that the RFP be circulated to all members once it is issued.
- Bob McLaren asked about inviting his grand-daughter to present on her Science Fair project at the May meeting of EQAC. It was agreed that an invitation should be extended.
- Marie Flanigan noted that there will be a meeting of the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee on April 14.
- Glen White asked for clarification regarding the need for government operation of electric vehicle charging facilities at park and ride lots. Kambiz Agazi clarified that the sites would be operated by private interests at these lots through agreements with the county.

### **Staff Items**

- Noel Kaplan noted that an amendment had been proposed to the Public Facilities Manual that would require a wider minimum street width (36 feet) for new public streets. He cited fire safety as the driving factor behind this proposal. He noted that the Planning Commission public hearing on this matter was scheduled for May 5, with a Board of Supervisors public hearing on June 7. There was considerable discussion regarding this matter, leading to the following motion from Stella Koch: EQAC will prepare a letter expressing opposition to the proposed increase in street width based on the justification provided. The letter will note that there are many places in the county with narrower streets. Bob McLaren seconded the motion, which was adopted by a unanimous vote, with no abstentions (Larry Zaragoza was not present for the vote). It was agreed that Marie Flanigan would draft a letter in coordination with Stella Koch and George Lamb. The draft letter would be circulated to all members present at the vote to ensure consistency with the vote.
- Noel noted that the next meeting of the Planning Commission's Environment Committee would be held on April 14, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the Board of Supervisors' conference room. He noted that the committee would continue its discussion of the green building policy, with a focus on a strawman draft Plan amendment.
- Noel reviewed the May meeting agenda, noting that the following would be on the agenda: A discussion with VDOT and Fairfax ReLeaf regarding plantings in highway rights-of-way; a possible discussion of new regulations regarding alternative on-site sewage disposal facilities; a presentation from Bob's granddaughter on her science fair project, and, if staff is available and if the discussion is timely, a discussion of the idea of expanding county maintenance of stormwater management facilities for new development. Noel noted that the latter item was presented as a proposal from one of the people who testified at the last EQAC public hearing. Stella Koch asked that this item be expanded to focus on a more general question of how to get underperforming private stormwater management facilities to work appropriately.

- Kambiz Agazi noted that the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Committee would be held on June 28 at 10:00 A.M. in conference rooms 9 and 10 in the Government Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 P.M.