

Approved by EQAC, July 13, 2016

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

DATE: June 8, 2016

TIME: 7:15 – 10:15pm

LOCATION: Hidden Oaks, Annandale

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)	A	Rich Weisman (Sully)	P

*Note: P indicates present, A indicates absent

Staff Attendance

Kambiz Agazi, John Bell, Denise James

Visitor Attendance

John Muse, Pawan Sarang, Dr. Katherine Edwards, Major Randy Joyce, Capt. Anthony Matos, David Kepley, Philip Latasa, Jerry Peters, Kris Unger, others

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

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

John Muse (District Environmental Manager, Northern Virginia Regional Office) and Pawan Sarang (Hydraulics Engineer), both of VDOT, talked through a list of topics and questions prepared in advance by EQAC. Information such as tree/vegetation preservation, conservation measures for rights-of-way and buffer zones, best practices for mowing, native and pollinator-friendly plantings, stormwater management practices and requirements (including VDOT's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit requirements), wetland preservation and mitigation, multi-mode transportations issues, and winter road treatments were discussed within this context.

With respect to wetland mitigation, Mr. Muse suggested that EQAC should learn more about the Prince William wetland mitigation bank with the possibility of suggesting a similar implementation for Fairfax County.

Decision – EQAC follow-up actions identified as a result of this discussion included:

- (1) EQAC may want to develop a policy statement applying to multi-modal transportation (e.g. bike lane construction). Rich Weisman volunteered to prepare a draft statement supporting the development of a regional trail system for the I-66 project (along the lines of the W&OD Trail).
- (2) EQAC should invite the Fairfax County Department of Transportation to its July meeting for a briefing on bicycle/alternative transportation initiatives (e.g., bicycle trails, protected bike lanes, other bike lanes).

2. Discussion of Fairfax County’s wildlife management program

Dr. Katherine Edwards (Fairfax County Wildlife Management Specialist) gave a presentation on the wildlife management program, with a strong focus on the topic of deer. Major Randy Joyce (Patrol Bureau, Commander, Division II) and Captain Anthony Matos (Animal Services Division, Commander, Animal Control) also participated in the discussion. Discussions included the management and structure of the program, an in-depth look at deer hunts (including their history, current goals, and plans for the 2017 deer hunt), and hunts on private property. There were also brief discussions addressing geese management, beavers, coyotes, and relationships between the deer management efforts and ticks and invasive plants. A list of topics and questions prepared by EQAC in advance were discussed. Most notably, it had been anticipated that a report addressing the reorganization of the program would have been released in advance of the EQAC meeting. That report had not yet been released, so some of the topics identified by EQAC, such as the status of the Assistant Wildlife Management Specialist position, did not yet have an update.

Decision – Stella suggested we add animalcontrol@fairfaxcounty.gov and the Fairfax County non-emergency phone number (703-691-2131) to EQAC’s “Numbers to call” section in the Annual Report. Noel should pass along the report on the program’s reorganization to EQAC members as soon as it becomes available.

3. Report and recommendations from the Student Member Search Committee

Paul Pitera presented an overview of the student member selection process. He noted that the committee was recommending William Furlong (Thomas Jefferson) to be the student member, with Alex Lin (Robinson) as the first alternate and Varun Saraswathula (Thomas Jefferson) as the second alternate.

Motion/record of the vote/decision – Paul Pitera moved for the acceptance of the committee recommendations. Stella Koch seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

4. 2016 Annual Report on the Environment

The schedule for presenting chapter drafts was reviewed.

5. Approval of meeting minutes

The minutes of the April 13, 2016 meeting were ready for approval.

Motion/record of the vote/decision: Larry Zaragoza moved approval of the April 13, 2016 minutes. Ken Lanfear seconded the motion. All EQAC members present voted in favor of the motion.

6. Identification of July 13th agenda items

In addition to the reviews of six chapters/sections of the Annual Report on the Environment, EQAC asked that the Fairfax County Department of Transportation be invited to the July 13 meeting to brief the council on trails, bike paths and a protected bike lanes project.

7. Chairman's items - none

8. Council member items

Rich reported on the following:

(1) He met with Supervisor Kathy Smith and her Chief of Staff (Ben Tribbett) and Policy Manager (Philip Scranage). She was very interested in sustainability issues and appreciated diving into details.

(2) He attended the Fairfax County Public Schools "Get to Green" sustainability committee kick off meeting with more than 50 people attending. A public website is aiming to be launched around August with energy data per school by month.

Larry reported on his meeting with Supervisor Dan Storck—the meeting included Mount Vernon District representatives of many county boards, authorities and commissions, and Larry anticipates that the Supervisor will follow this meeting up with individual meetings. Kambiz Agazi noted that he had also met with Supervisor Storck and that the Supervisor expressed interest in climate change issues.

Stella reminded the Council that members may want to consider meeting with their supervisors to continue to work toward a common understanding of the environmental issues being faced by the county.

Ken indicated that he would be meeting with Fairfax County's GIS staff to help inform the new Annual Report chapter (technology) he's writing.

9. Staff items

Kambiz noted that, at the June 7 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Board directed staff to proceed with the update of the Board's Environmental Vision document. He noted that he had sent an email to all members about this, but he noted that there may be one or two members who did not receive the email. He will be ensuring the EQAC email distribution lists contain all of the members appropriately, as some issues had arisen in Noel's absence. The distribution lists he has also has a lot of bounces from Chambers and he will be investigating those as well. Kambiz indicated that staff would be meeting with EQAC in the fall (TBD/October) to get feedback on a draft document.

John noted that Noel would be emailing instructions for submitting legislative proposals to the General Assembly. EQAC's due date for doing so will be at the August 10th EQAC meeting.

10. Adjournment—10:15 p.m.

Upcoming meetings

July 13, 2016: Regular meeting, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7:15pm

August 10, 2016: Regular Meeting, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7:15 PM

September 14, 2016: Joint EQAC-ECC meeting, Conference Rooms 9 & 10, Government Center, 5:00 PM