

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, July 13, 2011
TIME: 5:00 P.M.
PLACE: Room 232, Fairfax County Government Center

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Larry Zaragoza (Mount Vernon)
Johna Gagnon (Lee)	
Patricia Greenberg (Hunter Mill)	

MEMBERS ABSENT

George Lamb (Vice Chairman, At-Large)	Katherine Pfleeger (Student Member)
Frank Divita (Braddock)	Glen White (Mason)
Marie Flanigan (Providence)	

STAFF

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
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OTHERS PRESENT

Randy Bartlett (DPWES-Stormwater)	Ellen O'Brien (OPA)
Michelle Brickner (DPWES-LDS)	James Patteson (DPWES)
Scott Brown (DPZ)	Heather Schinkel (FCPA)
Judy Cronauer (DPWES-LDS)	Dann Sklarew (George Mason Univ.)
Tom Crow (Health)	Betsy Smith (DPWES-LDS)
Diane Hoffman (NVSWCD)	Dan Southworth (FCDOT)
Dave Molchany (Deputy County Executive)	

The minutes were recorded by Patricia Greenberg and Johna Gagnon.

Joint meeting with the Fairfax County Environmental Coordinating Committee

COMMUNITY-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

Dann Sklarew, the Associate Director of the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center at George Mason University, presented on update on Fairfax County greenhouse commissions inventory. He noted that the inventory was focusing on the 2006-2009 period but that data from 2010 had almost been compiled. He referenced a request from the Hunter Mill District Supervisor for information from Reston and indicated that emissions associated with natural gas, electricity and mobile source emissions could be compiled by zip code. He

discussed overall trends, mobile source vs. stationary source emissions and results from Reston. Topics discussed during the question and answer session included off-road vehicles and emissions per capita as they relate to development densities.

MAINTENANCE OF STORMWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

Chairman Koch referenced a proposal that EQAC had received at its last public hearing for county maintenance of new stormwater management facilities. Randy Bartlett, Deputy Director, DPWES, provided his perspectives on this idea. He identified several issues, including: A definition of what “maintenance” would entail; control of retrofits; easement arrangements; traditional stormwater management facilities as opposed to low impact development practices; liability; residential vs. commercial; proffer commitments; and staff resources. A number of other issues were identified during the question and answer period: how well existing facilities are functioning; possible certification for privately maintained facilities; and related inspection and maintenance practices. He concluded that the issue is a valid one for consideration but that the time is not appropriate in light of the large number of efforts on the stormwater program’s plate at this time. Randy Bartlett agreed to prepare a letter to the person who presented the maintenance proposal to EQAC.

STORMWATER REGULATORY UPDATES

Randy Bartlett provided updates on the following: the recent audit of the county’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) by the Environmental Protection Agency; the renewal of the county’s MS4 permit; the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL); and the Accotink Creek flow-based TMDL. Issues discussed during the question and answer period included: concerns about the inability or difficulty in applying stream restoration efforts to the flow-based TMDL approach being proposed for the Accotink Creek watershed; additional costs associated with reporting requirements that are anticipated within the renewed MS4 permit; complexity of the MS4 issue in regard to locations of county stormwater pipes and the Virginia Department of Transportation’s storm sewer system; the watershed segments being established for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and implications to Fairfax County of having three such segments partially in the county; concerns about recent legislation allowing for water quality trading out of the county; implications of Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction goals to the Occoquan Reservoir, where higher nitrogen loads serve to suppress phosphorus concentrations; and the long-term nature of the problem (i.e., it will take time to fix the problem).

PRESENTATION OF A VIDEO REGARDING FAIRFAX COUNTY’S ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECTS

A video prepared for Cable Channel 16 highlighted several of the county’s energy conservation initiatives. Following the presentation, there was a discussion of several related issues, including: the county’s environment/energy Facebook site; the Chairman’s Private Sector Energy Task Force; the Residential Education and Outreach program request for proposals; the MITRE Corporation’s preparation of reports to the county on electric vehicle charging facilities and broader development-related energy opportunities (per a proffered commitment); the outcome of the discussion regarding possible county purchase of the Energy/Resource Recovery Facility; the county operations greenhouse gas inventory; the community-wide greenhouse gas

inventory; and the desirability of establishing a dedicated fund for environmental initiatives, perhaps modeled on the existing fund for information technology programs.

Follow-up actions included: the circulation to EQAC members of a list of acronyms/abbreviations used in the handout regarding the county operations greenhouse gas inventory; a recognition by EQAC (in the Annual Report?) of the work that the county has been doing in support of energy conservation; the incorporation of a recommendation in Larry Zaragoza's chapter (which is to be renamed to recognize both climate change and energy considerations) supporting a dedicated fund for environmental initiatives.

SCHEDULING OF THE NEXT JOINT MEETING

The next joint meeting was scheduled for March 14, 2012.

Identification of possible legislative initiatives/positions for the 2012 legislative session

The council discussed the idea of reiterating its earlier position in support of legislation that would have the effect of reducing the use of plastic/disposable bags. Larry Zaragoza and Patricia Greenberg volunteered to review the previous position and craft an updated proposal for EQAC's consideration in August.

Report and recommendations from the Environmental Excellence Awards Committee

The committee (Rich Weisman, Glen White and Bob McLaren) recommended that awards be given to the two nominations that had been received in the "organization" category. Bob McLaren made a motion to this effect. The motion was seconded by Linda Burchfiel and was approved by a unanimous vote.

The committee recommended against an award for a nomination that was submitted after the deadline.

Concerns were raised regarding the small number of nominations that had been submitted. EQAC agreed to discuss this concern at the January 2012 meeting, with hopes of identifying approaches that can be taken to improve participation.

2011 Annual Report on the Environment

Noel Kaplan noted that there was not yet an author for the Visual Pollution section of the report. As nobody volunteered, he was asked to carry forward the Visual Pollution section from the 2010 report in this year's report.

Noel Kaplan reviewed the time line and stressed the need to have at least some chapters ready for review at the August 10 EQAC meeting. He noted that all chapter reviews would need to be complete by the end of the September meeting. He also requested that authors provide their Scorecard input to Bob McLaren as soon as possible.

Noel Kaplan noted that he had followed up with some agencies in regard to missing information but that he was not able to be as methodical about this as he has been in the past. He asked chapter authors to identify critical missing information in need of follow-up contacts.

Approval of the June 8, 2011 minutes

This item was deferred to the August 10 meeting.

Chairman's Items

Stella Koch noted the circulation of maps identifying uranium mining lease sites in Virginia. She indicated that this issue would generate considerable discussion during next year's General Assembly session. She identified this as a topic for future EQAC discussion.

Council member items

Patricia Greenberg circulated her notes from the most recent Tree Commission meeting.

Frank Crandall raised a concern about feral cats in the community. He noted that there was a case where a child and adult were bitten by a feral cat that was caught and was found to be rabid. He expressed his view that something needed to be done about this problem and indicated that he would reference it in the Wildlife Management chapter of the Annual Report. Stella Koch advised him that EQAC should not take a position or make a recommendation about this until there has been discussion with appropriate staff about the issue.

Staff Items

Because of a conflict with a September 14 stakeholder workshop on the green building policy, Noel Kaplan recommended a rescheduling of EQAC's September meeting. A new meeting date of Thursday, September 15, 2011 was chosen; the meeting will be held at the same place and time.

Noel Kaplan noted two upcoming stakeholder meetings regarding the county's green building policy (July 27 and September 14).

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.