

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**DATE:** Wednesday, June 12, 2013  
**TIME:** 7:15 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Conference Room 8, Fairfax County Government Center, Fairfax, VA

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Frank Divita (Braddock)
Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mt. Vernon)	Johna Gagnon (Lee)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	George Lamb (At-Large)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Michael Sanio (Hunter Mill)
	Talia Schmitt (Student Member)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jeff Allcroft (Springfield)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
Robert McLaren (At-Large)	Glen White (Mason)

**STAFF**

Kambiz Agazi	Mary Ann Welton
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**GUESTS**

Tom Conry	Meghan Van Dam
Greg Thomas	

Call to Order: Chair Koch called the meeting to order at 7:15

**Geographic Information System demonstration**

Mr. Tom Conry (GIS Director) and Mr. Greg Thomas (GIS Data Administrator), GIS & Mapping Services Branch, Fairfax County Government provided a geographic Information System demonstration.

Matters discussed:

- Mr. Conry and his colleague, Mr. Thomas, briefed the council on recent planimetric data obtained for Fairfax County's Geographic Information Systems

(GIS). GIS & Mapping Services is a branch of Fairfax County's Department of Information Technology. It is tasked with developing, maintaining, coordinating, and distributing GIS/mapping data and technology to Fairfax County government agencies and residents.

- A GIS is a computer system - Hardware and Software - that helps analysts discover relationships between and among sets of computer-readable, geographically referenced data.
- A planimetric map indicates only the horizontal positions of features, without regard to elevation, in contrast with a topographic map, which indicates both horizontal and vertical positions. Planimetric map data provide information on the topographic features such as roads, buildings, and water bodies that are visible and identifiable on aerial photographs, which can be compiled into map features through photogrammetric or surveying procedures. Typical map features include roadway feature details as roads, sidewalks, streets, highways and alleys including curb lines, edge of paved surfaces, and general feature details as building footprints, building types, etc.
- Mr. Conry described that GIS enables the county to display and analyze geographically referenced information. More than 75% of county information can be referenced geographically (e.g. street addresses, parcels). Dozens of agencies rely on this information to support their operations, create efficiencies and allow for sophisticated analyses. A recent survey indicated that 66% of the respondents could not do their current work without planimetric data. Public Safety agencies can pinpoint locations of events like fires and crimes.
- The project took four years to complete. The previous update took place in 1997.
- Mr. Greg Thomas gave a presentation to describe the recent planimetric data obtained for Fairfax County's Geographic Information Systems. The presentation was titled "ALL NEW PLANIMETRIC DATA". Highlights of the presentation are provided below.
- For this project 15 planimetric data features, locations, and attributes were updated -- Airports, Buildings, Building Additions, Hydrography areas and edges, Sidewalk centerlines, Recreational features, Storage tanks, Major Transportation areas and edges, Minor Transportation areas and edges, Contours, Spot elevations, and DTM. Details are shown below.

#### Airports

- Features – Runways, Taxiways, Airport boundary
- Attributes - Airport name, Type, Source

#### Buildings

- Feature - Single Family, Residential, Multi-Family Residential, Public, Industrial, Commercial, Multi Story Garage, Other (new buildings)
- Attributes – Name, Type, Effective Date, Expiry Date, Identifier, Source, Top Elevation, Ground Elevation, Top X, Top Y, Ground X, Ground Y

*Note : Building updated/captured over 113,000 buildings*

#### Building Additions

- Features – Decks, Patios, Pools, Other
- Attributes – Type, Source

#### Hydrography

- Features – Dam, Lake, Paved ditch, Pond, River, Stream, Swamp
- Attributes – Name, Type, Visible, Effective Date, Expiry Date, Source, Quad

#### Sidewalks

- Features – centerlines, connectors
- Attributes – Type, Width, Source

#### Recreational Features

- Features – Tennis courts, Basketball Courts, Other
- Attributes – Type and Source

#### Storage Tanks

- Features – Fuel, Water, Other
- Attributes – Type, Top elevation, ground elevation, source

#### Major Transportation

- Features - Bridge/Overpass, Median, Paved Road, Unpaved Road
- Attributes – Type, Effective date, Expiry date, Source, Perviousness, Raised

#### Minor Transportation

- Features - Paved driveway, Paved parking lot, Paved private road, Paved shared drive, Unpaved driveway, Unpaved parking lot, Unpaved private road, Unpaved shared drive
- Attributes – Type, Effective date, Expiry date, Source

Contours

- Feature – Index contour, Intermediate contour
- Attributes – Elevation, Hidden, Dense Tree, Depressions, Source, Type, Quad

Spot Elevations

- Features – Ground, Water
- Attributes, Elevation, Type, Source

DTM

- Breaklines – Hydro edges, road edges, road centerlines, driveways, buildings
  - Mass points – 30 foot spacing
- The total features in all the planimetric layers combined (including DTM) is 16,222,416. The 1997 version contained 3,000,000 features.
  - Chairman Koch asked if the GIS data could easily be used to determine green land like parks and recreation centers. Answer: Not really with this database but Mike Knapp has land use data that could be used for that purpose. These data are already being used for stormwater management/drainage planning.
  - Talia Schmitt asked if the data could be used to analyze impervious surfaces. Answer: With the layers and features that have now been collected, we can do a very detailed analysis of each property (or broader geographic area) to determine the impervious cover.

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions

- None

**Fairfax Forward**

Ms. Meghan Van Dam, Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning.

Matters discussed:

- Ms. Van Dam provided a briefing on recent efforts relating to Fairfax Forward.
- In general, the approach seeks to:
  - Expand public participation and stakeholder collaboration in planning activities

- Allow for a more systematic, geographically logical review of the Comprehensive Plan
  - Provide a more focused approach to future planning studies
  - Emphasize plan monitoring and maintenance
- The Planning Commission provided recommendations at its April 3, 2013 meeting.
  - Ms. Van Dam described the Concept for Future Development. She noted that area-wide studies will take place in each area. She hopes that the new process will allow for editorial updates.
  - On July 9, 2013 the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Fairfax Forward.

Motions made:

- Stella Koch moved that EQAC prepare a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors asking it to adopt Fairfax Forward process. The motion was seconded by Larry Zaragoza. Approved unanimously.

Follow-up actions

- George Lamb will prepare the letter. Once circulated and reviewed, Noel Kaplan will transmit the correspondence, under Stella Koch's signature, to the Board of Supervisors.

**Consideration of development of an EQAC recommendation regarding outreach and education in support of the county's stormwater management efforts**

- This item was not discussed. It will be taken up at the next meeting.

**Report and recommendations from the Student Member Search Committee**

Matters discussed:

- Thirty applications were received. Two candidates were discussed. The nominating committee recommended Hana Burkly, Oakton High School as the Student Member. Mathew Baker, Woodson High School was recommended as the back-up candidate.

Motions made:

- Stella Koch moved that EQAC recommend to the Board of Supervisors that it appoint Anna Burkly as the EQAC Student Member and that Mathew Baker be identified as a back-up candidate if Anna is unable to serve. The motion was seconded by Larry Zaragoza. Approved unanimously.

Follow-up actions

- Noel Kaplan will work with the Providence District Supervisor's office on a motion for appointment of Hana Burkly as the EQAC Student Member.

**Identification of possible EQAC legislative positions for the 2013 General Assembly session and setting direction for development of any EQAC proposals**

Matters discussed:

- Frank Divita and Linda Burchfiel agreed to coordinate submissions, if any, of EQAC legislative positions for the 2013 General Assembly session.

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions

- Noel Kaplan will send an email to EQAC members asking for EQAC legislative positions for the 2013 General Assembly session. EQAC will need to vote on recommendations in July or August.

**Preparation for the July 10, 2013 joint meeting with the Environmental Coordinating Committee**

Matters discussed:

- The Council discusses several topics that should be addresses at the July 10, 2013 joint meeting with the Environmental Coordinating Committee.
- Consensus was reached that the following topic should be discussed.
  - Stormwater management ordinance, including stormwater messaging/outreach
  - Wildlife Management
  - Transportation Demand Management

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions

- Noel Kaplan will coordinate with appropriate staff in order to finalize the July agenda.

**2013 Annual Report on the Environment: Status report**

Matters discussed:

- The Council discussed the timeline for the report preparation and agreed to keep working to achieve that goal.

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions

- None

**Approval of the minutes of the April 10, 2013 meeting (tentative)**

- This item was not discussed. It will be taken up at the next meeting.

**Approval of the minutes of the May 8, 2013 meeting (tentative)**

- This item was not discussed. It will be taken up at the next meeting.

**Chairman's items**

Matters discussed:

- Stella Koch discussed EQAC's recent letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding advertisement of the proposed stormwater management ordinance. She noted that this letter, which highlighted a need to advertise the ordinance in a way that would not necessitate a weakening of existing practices regarding exemptions for single lot residential construction, proved to be quite effective and influential during the Environmental Committee's discussion of the ordinance.
- Stella Koch noted a presentation that was given by the Executive Director of the Center for Watershed Protection and called EQAC's attention to slides identifying the most cost-effective practices for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment removal. She noted that low impact development was not identified on any of these lists and attributed this to long-term maintenance needs.

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions

- None

**Council member items**

Matters discussed:

- George Lamb mentioned that the next Green Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, July 13 at Brion's Grille in Fairfax, from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Green Breakfasts are held on the second Saturday of every other month. Cost: \$10.00 for the buffet, which includes tax and tip. Cash is preferred.

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions

- None

**Staff items**

Matters discussed:

- Environmental Committee will meet in Rooms 9/10 on October 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00.

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions

- None

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45