

*Approved by EQAC, May 13, 2009*

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 11, 2009  
**TIME:** 5:00 P.M  
**PLACE:** Room 232, Fairfax County Government Center

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Alex Kim (Student Member)
George Lamb (Vice Chairman, At-Large)	Ned Foster (Springfield)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Larry Zaragoza (Mount Vernon)
Doug Denny (Providence)	Johna Gagnon (Lee)
Robert McLaren (At-Large)	
Chet McLaren (Braddock)	

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

none

**STAFF**

Noel Kaplan	Kambiz Agazi
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**OTHERS PRESENT**

James P. Zook, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning  
Fred R. Selden, Director, Planning Division, Department of Planning and Zoning

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm, following a joint meeting with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

1. Discussion of the Comprehensive Plan review process with staff from the Department of Planning and Zoning

There was a discussion of the activities associated with the Comprehensive Plan from the Department of Planning and Zoning. The discussion highlighted the fact that the environmental discussions in portions of the Comprehensive Plan are out of date. Also, Jim Zook suggested that we should watch redevelopment projects for opportunities to improve site use.

Motions Made:

- None

Follow-up action: Follow-up meeting to be scheduled with interested EQAC members as opposed to the whole committee to address specific areas.

2. Discussion of the format of the 2009 Annual Report on the Environment

Motions Made: Doug Denny: Motion that EQAC adopt Noel's proposal for a 2 part report: an annual hard-copy summary (roughly 50-60 pages in length) and a more detailed report that would be produced electronically each year but that would only be printed on a 4-year cycle. Seconded by Frank Crandall and approved by a unanimous vote.

Follow-up action:

- All will need to work on their chapters, with a stewardship component.
- Chapter author assignments and information requests to be discussed in April.

3. Development of EQAC budget priorities and testimony for the FY 2010 county budget

Motions Made: Rich Weisman: Motion to accept four budget items as priorities in the order identified below, with the caveat that EQAC members will provide the Chairman with supporting information that will enable her to incorporate them into her testimony to the Board of Supervisors, plus EQAC support for the proposed stormwater service district and 1.5 cent charge.

1. Retention of the air quality program (including monitoring resources)
2. Retention of transit routes proposed for elimination
3. Concern about the disproportionate cut proposed for natural resource efforts by the Fairfax County Park Authority
4. Retention of the deer management and geese management program

Motion seconded by Chet McLaren and approved by a unanimous vote.

The following summarizes the reasons for supporting these priorities:

- ✓ As Fairfax County is in a non attainment area, monitors will be needed to track the progress in meeting air quality standards. The citizens of Fairfax County deserve to know the quality of their air and to see if progress is being made to clean it so that it meets standards.
- ✓ Transportation resources associated with moving people from their cars to public transit. The cuts identified by the county are logical if the goal is to manage costs, however, these shifts will move people from public transportation to their cars (perhaps forcing them to purchase cars). If we wish to reduce congestion, reduce emissions, and improve air quality, we should be moving people to public transportation systems.
- ✓ The cuts in the natural resource efforts of FCPA are disproportionate at 41% relative to other parts of the budget. Natural resources in parks are important to the quality of life for County residents and this cut seems excessive.
- ✓ The cuts in funding for the management of deer and geese populations will have significant impacts. The deer effectively provide a public transit system for ticks, which spread Lyme Disease. Because deer are overabundant in Fairfax County, they destroy the forest understory, which adversely effects water quality and

prohibits the natural maturation of the forest. The deer effectively eliminate the growth of forest growth below about 5 feet. Control of the geese population is critical because geese populations which have become year around residents present significant problems from their significant fecal deposition, which are a documented source of fecal coliform.

Follow-up action:

- The committee expects that this information will be incorporated into the Chair's testimony before the County Board of Supervisors.

4. Discussion of the Stewardship/Volunteerism chapter of the Annual Report on the Environment

Motions Made:

- None

Follow-up action:

- See item 2

5. Approval of the minutes of the February 11, 2009 meeting

Motions Made:

- George Lamb: Motion for approval. Seconded by Doug Denny and approved by a unanimous vote

6. EQAC representation on Planning Commission committees

Chairman Koch expressed concern that EQAC should have consistent alternates for each Planning Commission Environment Committee discussion. This way, the alternate can be familiar with the issues and actions taken.

Motions Made:

- None

Follow-up action:

- The Chair noted that EQAC should have two people to track the activities of groups so that if one cannot make the meeting, the other can.

7. Chairman's Items

- Chairman Koch noted ongoing discussions regarding possible regulatory protections for headwaters areas of streams.
- Chairman Koch noted the Alice Ferguson Foundation's stream cleanup event during the first weekend of April.

8. Council Member Items

- Chet McLaren reported on his investigation of the issues raised at EQAC's public hearing regarding trail construction along Accotink Creek. He concluded with his opinion that everything was done properly.
- Frank Crandall noted that he would look further into progress regarding the Wildlife Biologist position and would report back to the Council.
- Frank Crandall noted that efforts to neuter feral cats went beyond state mandates relating to animal control.
- Linda Burchfiel noted a March 16 Potomac Riverkeepers program on erosion and sediment control.

9. Staff Items

- Kambiz Agazi noted that a draft energy policy document that has been prepared by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee would be going to the Board and that EQAC will be briefed.
- Noel Kaplan noted progress relating to the Student Member search process and reviewed future agendas.

10. Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made at 9:45 pm and approved by all.