

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, August 13, 2014
TIME: 7:15 P.M.
PLACE: Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale, VA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mt. Vernon)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	David Smith (Braddock)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
George Lamb (At-Large)	Glen White (Mason)
	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Alex Robbins (Providence)
Matthew Baker (Student Member)	Michael Sanio (Hunter Mill)
Johna Gagnon (Lee)	

STAFF

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
--------------	-------------

GUESTS

Dr. Katherine Edwards	Pamela Gratton
Charles Forbes	

Briefing on the update of the Solid Waste Management Plan, including a discussion of construction/demolition debris waste

Matters Discussed:

- Presentation from Pamela Gratton, Director, Division of Recycling, Engineering and Environmental Compliance, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services.
- State requirement for Fairfax County to have a 20-year solid waste management plan that gets updated every five years.
- Purpose of, and items for consideration in, SWMPs.
- History of trash in Fairfax County.
- Overview of Fairfax County's solid waste management program.

- County solid waste disposal facilities at the I-66 Transfer Station in Fairfax and the I-95 Landfill Complex in Lorton—transport of waste from the I-66 Transfer Station to the Energy/Resource Recovery Facility (waste-to-energy) in Lorton.
- Incineration of 3,000 tons/day of solid waste at the E/RRF, resulting in substantial generation of electricity.
- Disposal of waste ash from the E/RRF into a landfill with an up-to-date double-liner and leachate collection system to ensure proper environmental protection.
- Disposal capacity in the county, which is available until 2031; a 2035 planning horizon for the SWMP.
- Alternative technologies evaluated as part of the review.
- Post-closure monitoring of the landfill for a minimum of 30 years once it closes.
- The self-funded nature of the solid waste management program, with approximately 90% handled by the private sector.
- Full-time household hazardous waste collection facilities at the I-66 and I-95 complexes—no longer a need for Electric Sunday events.
- Construction/demolition debris collection.
 - County takes C/DD waste only from residential redevelopment/renovation and small commercial projects; not taken from larger projects.
- Fairfax County's process for updating the SWMP for 2015, which is currently in the information gathering phase and receiving public opinion.
 - Desire for completion of draft SWMP update by November 2014.
 - Comments being received until early October.
 - Board of Supervisors approval and transmittal to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality anticipated for February-March 2015.
- Description of current elements in the SWMP, with actions that have been completed. Highlighting of CDD-related considerations, including a need for legislative authority to regulate CDD waste and common needs for CDD recycling capacity among all localities in the region.
- The county's guaranteed annual tonnage agreement.
- Recycling considerations:
 - Legal requirement for a minimum 25% recycling rate, with the county's rate currently at 48%.
 - Relationship to recycling rates in other localities.
 - Single-stream recycling (paper, glass, aluminum, plastic in a single stream) and implications:
 - Community acceptance and ease of use.
 - Cost considerations.
 - Implications to the quality, and resulting value, of recycled materials (e.g., implications of glass breakage during compaction in trucks).
 - Increased processing costs.
 - Resulting impacts to profitability of the recycling program—the program generated revenue between 1999 and 2012, but since 2012, the county has had to pay money for its recycling program.
 - Difficulty in going back to a dual-stream system.

- Recycling requirements and limitations in regard to businesses; no requirement for recycling containers at shopping centers.
- Potential for strengthening business recycling requirements.
- Common issues among localities throughout the region and potential for regional coordination.
- Greenhouse gas emissions benefits of the county's solid waste efforts.
 - Landfill gas collection and use at county facilities; use of cooling water from the Noman M. Cole, Jr. Pollution Control Plant by the E/RRF
 - Consideration of installation of a solar array at the I-95 landfill site.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions:

- Clyde Wilber agreed to consider these issues further and return to a future EQAC meeting with several recommendations to improve environmental aspects of the SWMP; for example, addressing glass recycling differently.

Consideration of EQAC recommendations regarding the proposed revision to the Noise Ordinance

Matters discussed:

- A draft memorandum prepared by Clyde Wilber and Bob McLaren, focusing in particular on a couple areas of concern regarding the proposed noise ordinance update: continuous pet noises; and daytime construction and lawn maintenance noise.
- Consensus supporting some level of regulation for daytime lawn care and construction noise, as well as minimizing unprovoked noises from pets.
- Specific revisions identified to the draft memorandum to:
 - Present the suggested limitations on lawn maintenance and construction as one example of what could be done rather than a specific EQAC recommendation.
 - Identification of the suggested language regarding pet noise as one possible approach that could be considered.
 - Revise the suggested duration of nuisance noise from pets as 20 minutes rather than 10 minutes.
 - Clarify that the animal noise of concern would need to be unprovoked noise.

Motions made:

- George Lamb moved approval of the memorandum as revised. Linda Burchfiel seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

Follow-up actions:

- The memo will be updated and sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Consideration of EQAC legislative proposals for the 2015 General Assembly

Matters discussed:

- EQAC's vote in July to confirm prior year positions regarding disposable bags.
- The need for any new legislative proposals to be approved by EQAC at this meeting.
- Discussion in July of a possible position regarding PACE legislation; decision to not pursue such legislation this year due to a need for EQAC to collect more information about this concept.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions:

- EQAC agreed to schedule a future meeting agenda item around the issue of PACE financing for building energy improvements. Linda Burchfiel and Noel Kaplan agreed to identify points of contact for invitations to this discussion.
- Larry Zaragoza identified a need for EQAC to discuss plastics in the environment.

2014 Annual Report on the Environment

Climate Change and Energy chapter

Matters discussed:

- Draft chapter as presented by Larry Zaragoza.
- Deletion of comment #3 (duplicative with #6).
- Acceptance of suggestion to add a sentence to recommendation #1 acknowledging restoration of EIP funding if the Board of Supervisors does this during the September Carryover Budget decision.
- Decision to move much of recommendation #2 to the Solid Waste chapter with a cross-reference within the Climate Change and Energy chapter; recognition of the need to clarify a statement addressing efforts in Washington, D.C. and Arlington County.
- Significant rewriting of recommendation #3 addressing recognition of companies that adopt energy efficient approaches as part of their business practices. Agreement to reference the work of the Private Sector Energy Task Force and to add text raising concern that the work recommended by the task force is languishing and needs to be reinvigorated. Identification of education and recognition as an example of what could be done.
- Addition of "or adaptation" after "mitigation" in recommendation #4.
- Addition of a recommendation to share information with the public regarding energy monitoring of county facilities and its benefits.
- The need to ensure that each recommendation has supporting text within the chapter.

Motions made:

- Larry Zaragoza moved acceptance of the chapter as revised. Rich Weisman seconded the motion

Record of the vote:

- The motion was approved unanimously, with no abstentions.

Follow-up actions:

- Revision of the comments and recommendations consistent with the approved motion.

Air Quality chapter

Matters discussed:

- Draft chapter as presented by Rich Weisman.
- Agreement to retain the italicized text in comment #2 (addressing Health Department air quality functions).
- Presentation of graphs, which do not start at zero on the y axis.

Motions made:

- Rich Weisman moved acceptance of the chapter as submitted. Bob McLaren seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- The motion was approved unanimously, with no abstentions.

Follow-up actions: None.

Ecological Resources chapter

Matters discussed:

- Draft recommendation as presented by Bob McLaren.
- The need for completion of the chapter.
- A Fairfax County Park Authority survey.
- Consensus to revise the recommendation by deleting the last part of the draft language (addressing the budget climate) in favor of recognition that, over time, the full natural resource management plan should be funded.

Motions made:

- Bob McLaren moved to accept the Ecological Resources recommendation as revised. Linda Burchfiel seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- The motion was approved unanimously, with no abstentions.

Follow-up actions: None.

Wildlife and the Environment chapter

Matters discussed:

- Efforts of a deer management working group as they relate to this chapter.
- Consideration as to whether the chapter should recognize alternatives to DEET in light of the toxicity of DEET and its ability to damage clothes.

- A Total Maximum Daily Load for Hunting Creek in addition to Accotink Creek, and the need for the chapter to recognize that implementation of measures to reduce fecal coliform levels per the TMDLs will be required (and is not just a “should”).
- Disagreement from Clyde Wilber in regard to a statement regarding the county’s inability to control half the fecal coliform pollution load in the near term.
- Further discussion of this chapter was deferred to September.

Follow-up actions:

- Larry Zaragoza will provide, for consideration by Frank Crandall (the chapter author) suggested language regarding alternatives to DEET.
- Clyde Wilber will provide, for consideration by Frank Crandall, text addressing the TMDL issue noted above.
- The chapter will be considered again in September.

Noise section

Matters discussed:

- Draft section as presented by Linda Burchfiel.

Motions made:

- Clyde Wilber moved acceptance of the Noise section as presented. Bob McLaren seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- The motion was approved unanimously, with no abstentions.

Follow-up actions: None.

Visual Pollution section

Matters discussed:

- Draft section as presented by Rich Weisman.

Motions made:

- Rich Weisman moved acceptance of the Visual Pollution section as presented. Bob McLaren seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- The motion was approved unanimously, with no abstentions.

Follow-up actions: None.

General Assembly appendix

Matters discussed: Discussion of this appendix was deferred to September.

General

Matters discussed:

- Scorecard section of the report.
- Remaining chapters and sections needing review in September.
- The utility of the Stewardship section.
- The need for EQAC authors to let Noel Kaplan know of any outstanding information needs beyond what he identified.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: Remaining chapters and sections will be discussed in September.

Report and recommendations from the Environmental Excellence Awards Committee

Matters discussed:

- Review by Glen White of the committee's recommendations for award recipients and the reasons for their selection.
- Consideration of both the lifetime achievements of the nominees and actions undertaken during the preceding 12 months.
- Committee recommendation for recognition of the following:
 - Ann Csonka (posthumously) and John DeNoyer (County Resident category)
 - Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center, George Mason University (Organization category)
 - Davis, Carter, Scott, Ltd (Business category)
 - Guernsey Office Products (Business category)
 - Joyce Doughty (County Employee category)

Motions made:

- Glen White moved approval of the committee's recommendations. Linda Burchfiel seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- The motion was approved unanimously, with no abstentions.

Follow-up actions:

- Noel Kaplan will contact the recipients and their nominators.
- The award recipients will be recognized at the Board of Supervisors' September 23 meeting, at 10:45 AM. An EQAC presenter is needed.

Approval of meeting minutes

Matters discussed:

- Consideration of approval of the minutes of the March 12, 2014 EQAC meeting.
- Deferral of consideration of other sets of minutes.

Motions made:

- Clyde Wilber moved approval of the March 12 minutes as submitted. Linda Burchfiel seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- The motion was approved unanimously, with no abstentions.

Follow-up actions:

- The approved minutes will be posted to EQAC's website, and an e-mail will be sent to all Board of Supervisors' offices to advise them of the availability of the minutes on-line.

EQAC representative on the Tree Commission

Matters discussed:

- The need to appoint an EQAC member to serve on the Tree Commission.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions:

- Absent any volunteers, the issue will be revisited again in September.

Chairman's items None.

Council member items

Matters discussed:

- Agreement by Rich Weisman to send draft documents to an interested high school student.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: None.

Staff items

Matters discussed:

- Meeting agenda reviews.
- Agreement to invite Susan Datta to the November meeting to brief EQAC on the FY 2015 budget process.
- Noel Kaplan's forthcoming absences from the office.

Motions made: None.

Follow-up actions: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 P.M.