

Approved by EQAC, March 11, 2015

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

DATE: September 9, 2014

TIME: 7:15-10:00 PM

LOCATION: Hidden Oaks Nature Center

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon)	Alex Robbins (Providence)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
Michael Baker (Student Member)	Glen White (Mason)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)
George Lamb (At-Large)	Glen White (Mason)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Johna Gagnon (Lee)	Michael Sanio (Hunter Mill)
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STAFF

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
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GUESTS

Claude Delermater	Nathan Moore
Brotherton Jeng	

2014 Annual Report on the Environment--Chapter/section reviews:

- **Wildlife and the Environment.**
Two amendments to the proposed wildlife chapter were proposed. One on alternative insecticides and the other on a Total Maximum Daily Load for bacteria in Cameron Run, which will necessitate reductions in bacteria from geese. Both amendments were accepted by Frank Crandall, who moved approval of the draft as amended. Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously with no abstentions.
- **Land Use and Transportation**
The complete chapter was not available for review, but the draft comments and recommendations were. George Lamb reviewed each comment and recommendation.
 - The Analyze Revitalization Incentive recommendation may be moved to the comments section after confirming it has been addressed.

- Minor editing to the Urban Design Standards recommendation was discussed and agreed to.
 - The Data and Modeling recommendations include issues yet to be resolved-- the recommendations were written to recognize this, and further guidance from staff may result in additional changes. Recommendation 3c may be pulled depending on guidance from staff in regard to acquisition of multispectral data.
 - The Transportation recommendation will be revised to include recognition of what the county has done this year.
 - There was a suggestion that, after the Annual Report is completed, there should be a focus on longer-term ideas in many areas, including water resources and redevelopment.
 - George Lamb moved approval of the comments and recommendations as revised per the discussion, with the flexibility discussed to provide for further changes. Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously with no abstentions.
- Water Resources
 - Deferred until October
 - Solid Waste

The complete chapter was not available for review, but the draft comments and recommendations were. Clyde Wilber reviewed the draft comments and recommendations.

 - There was a suggestion to invite Covanta to meet with EQAC to discuss issues of EQAC interest. There was also a suggestion to arrange for a tour of the Covanta facility in conjunction with that discussion. A tour of the “purple pipe” wastewater effluent reuse project was also suggested.
 - There was agreement that the reference to the 20% difference in recycling rates between Fairfax and Montgomery Counties would be clarified.
 - There was discussion of the county’s 48% recycling rate and the disposition of the materials collected for recycling. It was agreed that there should be further discussion of this question.
 - A tour of a recycling facility was suggested.
 - It was also suggested that Pamela Gratton should be invited to join EQAC on any solid waste-related tours.
 - Recommendation 2c, addressing the need to eliminate redundant truck traffic relating to multiple solid waste collection firms serving individual communities, was recognized as something that has generated vocal opposition in the past. It was agreed that this recommendation would be retained, with the addition of language recognizing the need to not increase costs as a result of measures that may be taken to minimize redundant trips.
 - It was agreed that Comment 1c, addressing hazardous waste disposal hours, would be retained along with a reference to the Hazardous Materials chapter.

- There was discussion as to whether support for a bottle bill should be taken out of Recommendation 2d and be made a separate recommendation. EQAC agreed to retain the concept within the broader recommendation and to present it as one possible approach to reducing glass in single stream recycling collections.
- Clyde Wilber moved approval of the comments and recommendations as revised. Linda Burchfiel seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously with one exception: Bob McLaren voted against supporting recommendation 2c, which addresses minimizing redundant trash truck collection trips in neighborhoods.
- Hazardous Materials
 - The draft chapter was not available for review, and Glen White indicated that he would be proposing two comments and no recommendations. One of the comments would be carried forward from the 2013 report.
 - Glen White noted that the county would no longer be offering remote household hazardous waste collection events, given that there would be continuous collection of such wastes at two sites, seven days per week. He stated that the new comment would express concern about the loss of the remote collection events and that EQAC would monitor the two full-time sites to see if those sites will offset the loss of the remote collection events. Concern was raised over EQAC's ability to do this monitoring. It was agreed that the comment would reference "examination" or "review" rather than "monitoring."
 - Glen White recommended that a previous comment addressing the elimination of a hazardous materials program in the Health Department be taken out of this year's report. There was consensus in support of this recommendation.
 - Glen White noted that he would add to the chapter a list of things considered to be hazardous wastes. He also noted that he would be revising text regarding disposal of broken fluorescent lights by referencing an Environmental Protection Agency website that addresses that issue.
 - Glen White moved acceptance of the chapter as discussed. Rich Weisman seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously with no abstentions.
- Scorecard
 - EQAC members were asked to provide revisions to their sections.
- Light Pollution - Deferred
 - Deferred until October
- Stewardship
 - Glen White noted that this section had not been drafted and that he needed chapter author assistance in updates to their respective sections of this summary. Noel Kaplan agreed to circulate the 2013 section for updating.

- Public Schools spotlight
 - Rich Weisman reviewed this draft section. Council members expressed concern about the lack of responsiveness to a question about progress in schools meeting the CHPS (Collaborative for High Performance Schools) criteria; a presentation on this matter was requested, as was a list of schools participating in the stormwater management collaboration between Fairfax County Public Schools and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. Rich Weisman agreed to add a sentence recommending the provision of signage at such stormwater management projects to provide education on what has been done.
 - The section as discussed was accepted by consensus.
- Report of EQAC activities, November 2013-October 2014
 - The draft section was discussed and accepted by consensus. It was agreed that this section would be placed immediately after the Chairman's letter.
- Environmental Crimes/Violations
 - A draft "How to report environmental crimes or concerns" table was presented and discussed. The potential to add the reporting phone numbers to the county's contact app was discussed.
 - Larry Zaragoza indicated that he'd provide suggestions on phone numbers regarding hazardous materials spills.
- General Assembly appendix
 - Alex Robbins reviewed the draft appendix he prepared. It was accepted by consensus.
- Cover
 - Deferred until October
- Chairman's letter
 - Stella Koch asked the council for guidance on the items that should be stressed in her Chairman's letter.
 - The following were highlighted, with the recognition that this would need to be discussed again in October:
 - Funding needs (e.g., Environmental Improvement Program; Invasive Management Area Program; Natural Resource Management Plan implementation; Stormwater Service District fee).
 - Protection and restoration of streams/water bodies.
 - Solid waste management concerns.
 - Long-term planning needs.
- Climate Change and Energy

The chapter was reviewed and approved at the August meeting. However, Larry Zaragoza agreed to revisit the recommendations in light of changes that had been

identified since the August meeting. There was particular discussion of the tone and specific content of recommendation #3, which addressed follow-up actions from the work of the Chairman's Private Sector Energy Task Force. After some discussion, it was agreed that EQAC would consider this again at its October meeting.

- General
 - There was recognition that many chapter drafts had not yet been completed and that completed chapter drafts needed to be submitted to Noel Kaplan by the end of the month.
 - There was also recognition that chapter authors needed to complete their respective portions of the Scorecard.

Preparation for the October 8 joint meeting with the Fairfax County Park Authority Board

- The following were identified as agenda items:
 - Natural Resource Management Plan implementation
 - Potential for stream mitigation funding for restoration projects in parks
 - Update on the FCPA Needs Assessment
 - Update on the Invasive Management Area program

Approval of meeting minutes (tentative):

- David Smith moved approval of the minutes of the April 9, 2014 meeting as submitted. Alex Robbins seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously, with Bob McLaren, Clyde Wilber and George Lamb abstaining.
- Consideration of minutes from subsequent meetings was deferred.

Identification of an EQAC representative for the Tree Commission

- The Chair asked for volunteers. There were none.

Chairman's items

- A groundbreaking ceremony for the Jean Packard Center will be held at Occoquan Regional Park on September 27.

Council member items

- Matthew Baker expressed support for getting information regarding stormwater management efforts at public schools, stressing that this would be a good teaching point for environmental science programs.
- George Lamb noted that the new Park Authority Director would be speaking at the September 13 Green Breakfast meeting.

- Larry Zaragoza indicated that Dyke Marsh had received funding from the National Park Service for restoration. A marsh area will be rebuilt with dredge spoils from local projects. He raised concern, though, about a proposal to bring in rocks rather than fine sediments, and he expressed his view that an additional \$15 million would be spent in support of efforts that would reduce the environmental value of the project. Stella Koch suggested that the National Parks Conservation Association be contacted.
- Glen White made note of the earlier discussion on recycling separation—he noted that the best facility he’s seen is in Seoul, South Korea, and he described the operations of this facility.

Staff items

- EQAC suggested that the date of the next public hearing be scheduled on EQAC’s normal January meeting night.
- A discussion of PACE financing was scheduled for EQAC’s November 12 meeting, as would be a presentation on the FY 2016 budget outlook and process.
- Possible future agendas were identified based on discussions earlier in the meeting.
- Upcoming meetings of the Planning Commission Environment Committee were noted.
- It was noted that Linda Burchfiel would present the Environmental Excellence Awards at the Board of Supervisors’ September 23 meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.