

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES**

**DATE:** Thursday, September 15, 2011  
**TIME:** 7:15 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Conference Room, Hidden Oaks Nature Center

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Johna Gagnon (Lee)
George Lamb (Vice Chairman, At-Large)	Patricia Greenberg (Hunter Mill)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Kat Pfleeger (Student Member)
Frank Divita (Braddock)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
Marie Flanigan (Providence)	Larry Zaragoza (Mount Vernon)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Glen White (Mason)

**STAFF**

Kambiz Agazi Noel Kaplan

The meeting convened at 7:20 pm.

**2011 Annual Report on the Environment: Status and review of chapter drafts**

**Climate Change and Energy:**

Larry provided an overview of the chapter. Kambiz noted that there have been issues with the completion of the greenhouse gas inventory that have required additional adjustment and that the inventories for both the county GHG and the countywide GHG business and residential inventory. Stella referenced activities of the Chairman's Private Sector Energy Task Force. There was discussion regarding a need for dedicated funding for the Environmental Improvement Program, and Larry was asked to develop a recommendation for inclusion in this chapter. Linda also noted that a source of funding is needed for outreach beyond the current Residential Energy Education and Outreach program.

Concerns were raised regarding the draft recommendations. Clarification was requested on a recommendation addressing energy labeling of buildings. There was considerable discussion regarding district energy concepts and efforts under way in Arlington County and at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Kambiz also referenced a report that is

being prepared by the MITRE Corporation in response to a proffered commitment; he noted that a draft of the report should be submitted by the end of the year.

Bob noted that the scorecard must be completed and asked for chapter author assistance.

The Council decided that this chapter will be revisited in October.

### **Water Resources:**

Chair Stella Koch reviewed her draft ongoing concerns, comments and recommendation. She requested that Randy Bartlett, DPWES-Stormwater, be asked to address ongoing comment #6 (addressing the need to dredge ponds) at some point in the future. Stella noted that she had a draft dredge spoil report; Larry expressed interest in reviewing it.

Stella referenced a new technique that was being applied in stream restoration projects through which bags have been used to capture sediment and the bags are then taken, dried and used to stabilize stream banks.

Stella moved approval of her ongoing concerns, comments and recommendations, recognizing that the complete chapter was still needed. Bob seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous vote.

### **Solid Waste:**

Marie discussed the draft chapter and commended staff's solid waste efforts. She noted that she did not have any recommendations.

The question of recycling in schools was raised; the conversation progressed to a broader discussion of environmental requirements and the reporting of violations. As a result of this discussion, the council decided that the existing table regarding the reporting of environmental crimes and violations should be pulled from the Hazardous Materials chapter, be broadened in scope, and be presented in a stand-alone place, both in the detailed and summary reports. Noel agreed to send the table to all members for discussion in October.

A question was raised about the inclusion of information on compact fluorescent bulbs and whether better information was needed to guide residents as to where they can take such bulbs for disposal. Marie responded that information on compact fluorescent bulbs is available from a number of places.

The Council also requested that we have a future agenda item on the county's recycling ordinance and whether businesses should be asked to broaden the scope of materials collected for recycling (i.e., all primary recyclable waste streams).

Stella asked about food composting; Kat asked if the Council had looked into the use of Styrofoam food trays. Stella asked Kat to compile a list of school-related issues for future consideration.

Marie moved that the chapter be adopted. Bob seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Noise:**

Linda reviewed the proposed comments and asked if comments regarding the quarterly posting of noise impact statistics by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority should be a recommendation. After some discussion, it was agreed that this should be a recommendation that would be directed to the Board of Supervisors rather than to MWA.

Linda also asked if the comment regarding a possible airport noise disclosure requirement should be presented as a recommendation. Noel noted that there had been, about 15 years ago, a comprehensive study of land use policy near Dulles Airport in response to the phasing out of noisier jet aircraft in favor of quieter aircraft. He indicated that it was his recollection from this study that the county could not require disclosure for the sale of existing residences but that Loudoun County had established such a requirement for new residential construction. He noted that the outcome of the study was an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan that recommended against new residential rezonings inside the DNL 60 dBA noise contour and that general Plan text supporting disclosure for residential development near the airport was adopted. Noel agreed to research the disclosure question further before EQAC decided how to proceed (e.g., comment vs. recommendation).

Linda moved approval of her chapter (recognizing that follow-up was needed on the disclosure question), and Frank Divita seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Land Use and Transportation:**

George reviewed the draft recommendations. After some discussion, he noted that there are some changes he would like to make to this chapter; the Council agreed to continue its review in October. George agreed that Noel should review draft recommendations 2a, 2b and 2c with other DPZ staff.

**Other:**

Stella reiterated that chapter author assistance was needed on the Scorecard.

Kat agreed to develop a draft cover for consideration at the October meeting.

Noel noted that he had received draft summary sections only for the Wildlife and Light Pollution sections. He noted that all summary sections were needed by October 5.

Stella asked for guidance on issues for prioritization in the Chairman's letter. The three items that were identified per this discussion were: (1) an additional penny for the Stormwater Service District tax rate; (2) the establishment of an Environmental Improvement Program projects fund similar to the Information Technology fund; and (3) better utilization of GIS technology in the Comprehensive Plan. Other potential items (opposition to uranium mining and naturally-

occurring asbestos) were determined to need further discussion before EQAC could make recommendations. These were identified as future agenda items.

### **Preparation for the October 12 discussion of the FY 2013 budget**

Noel noted that Susan Datta, the Director of Management and Budget, will be visiting with EQAC in October to discuss the FY 2013 budget. Noel asked if there were items he should highlight for Susan's attention prior to the meeting. The following were identified:

1. Overall funding for environmental programs
2. Potential for an increase in the Stormwater Service District tax rate
3. The potential for development of an Environmental Improvement Program/energy fund along the lines of what has been established to support IT projects. For energy-related projects, could energy savings associated with the projects be considered in the determination of how much money could be allocated?
4. The budget for the Fairfax County Park Authority, particularly for natural resources efforts
5. Is there a potential for any funding increases for the Wildlife Management program in the Police Department?

### **Approval of the minutes of the August 10, 2011 meeting**

This was deferred until the October meeting.

### **Chairman's items**

There were no Chairman's items.

### **Council member items**

Rich noted that the Residential Energy Education and Outreach program was moving forward.

Larry noted that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations was developing a paper addressing solid waste/recycling issues.

Linda noted an upcoming meeting of the Northern Virginia Climate Action Network at which candidates for the Virginia General Assembly would be present.

Marie noted that work-related issues would cause her to leave the council upon the completion of her term (January 2013).

It was noted that George and Johna are running for the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board.

Frank Crandall noted that the Solar Decathlon will run from September 23 until October 2 in West Potomac Park.

Frank Crandall noted that Congressman Wolf's office has asked the McLean Citizens Association to host a public meeting to provide the Federal Aviation Administration an opportunity to explain a new airplane navigation system that should assist in keeping aircraft over the Potomac River.

Frank Crandall noted that a walk-through of stream restoration efforts at the Aerospace site was scheduled for September 26.

Johna Gagnon noted concerns raised by Tree Commission members regarding the Commission's relationship with the Board of Supervisors. Patricia Greenberg noted a recent discussion about this; she indicated that the Tree Commission was hoping to give a presentation to the Board of Supervisors similar to what EQAC provides each year.

### **Staff items**

Noel reported that a conflict had arisen regarding EQAC's scheduled public hearing date of December 13. After some discussion, EQAC requested that the public hearing be held in January. Noel agreed to follow up with possible dates.

Noel noted that the Environmental Excellence awards will be awarded on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am, during the Board of Supervisors meeting. Stella will present the awards.

Noel noted that the next meeting of the Planning Committee's Environment Committee will be November 17 at 7 pm in the Board's Conference Room.

Kambiz and Noel met with Fairfax City's Environmental Sustainability Committee; that committee is interested in having a joint meeting with EQAC. There was agreement to hold such a meeting sometime next year.

Noel noted that, with the rescheduling of the public hearing, the December 14 EQAC meeting has an open agenda. No items were identified for that meeting.

Kambiz noted that the Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee will meet on October 11 at 1:00 pm in Conference Rooms 9&10.

Stella noted that the Georgelas application (Tysons Corner) was approved by the Board of Supervisors; she was pleased that they had agreed to meet the stormwater management recommendation of retention of the first inch of rainfall.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm