

*Approved by EQAC March 12, 2014*

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

**DATE: January 13, 2014**

**TIME: 7:30-10:00 PM**

**LOCATION: Board of Supervisors Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center, with a remote testimony site established in Room 221A (Woodlawn), South County 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)
Hana Burkly (Student Member)	Glen White (Mason)
George Lamb (At-Large)	

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Jeff Allcroft (Springfield)	Johna Gagnon (Lee)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Michael Sanio (Hunter Mill)

**STAFF**

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
Tom Merce (South County)	

**PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS**

Eric Goplerud—Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (Government Center)  
Jessica Bowser (South County)  
Jim Lemon—Biogas Researchers, Inc. (Government Center)  
Trish Strat (Government Center)  
John Cartmill--Fairfax Climate Watch (Government Center)  
Jehanne Arslan (Government Center)  
Merrily Pierce—McLean Citizens Association (Government Center)  
Flint Webb (Government Center)

**OTHERS PRESENT AT THE PUBLIC HEARING**

**Government Center:**

Martha Ades  
Hunter Black (Troop 1313)  
Max de Leon (Troop 1313)  
Kay Fowler  
Michael Lemon (Biogas Researchers, Inc.)  
J. Macia  
Thomas McPherson (Sierra Club, Great Falls Group)  
Peter Mecca (George Mason High School)  
Donna Murphy  
Shannon O'Neil (Northern Virginia Conservation Trust)  
Peggy Stevens (Northern Virginia Conservation Trust)  
Susan Weltz (Sierra Club)

**South County:**

Bill Cleveland  
Leigh Sutherland  
Karen Zaragoza  
Matthew Zaragoza (Boy Scouts)

In addition, a number of staff members from the Department of Cable and Consumer Services were present at both the Government Center and South County sites.

The public hearing was convened at 7:30 P.M. in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in the Fairfax County Government Center. A remote public hearing testimony site was established in room 221A (Woodlawn) of the South County Center, with communications between sites established through a two-way audio and visual communication hookup via Fairfax County Cable Channel 16.

**Annual Public Hearing**

Matters discussed:

- The annual EQAC public hearing was held. The public hearing summary is attached as part of the meeting minutes.

Motions made:

- None.

Follow-up actions:

- EQAC agreed to devote time at its February meeting to the consideration of issues identified at the public hearing and to determine who to invite to future meetings to discuss specific issues.

**Election of officers for 2014: Establishment of a Nominating Committee**

Matters discussed:

- Establishment of a committee to recommend, at EQAC's February 12 meeting, officers for 2014.

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions:

- George Lamb, Bob McLaren and Glen White agreed to serve on the nominating committee. They will recommend a slate of officers at the February 12 meeting.

**Annual Report on the Environment: Continuation of discussion of the report preparation process and possible changes**

Matters discussed:

- George Lamb summarized a conversation he had with Supervisor Gross regarding the Annual Report on the Environment. He noted Supervisor Gross's interest in a survey of the public on their attitudes toward the environment. There was discussion of this idea.
- Stella Koch noted an effort to bring together chairs of boards, authorities and commissions during the process for hiring a new county executive. She expressed her appreciation for how the Board of Supervisors uses its BACs as an intermediary to the larger public.
- Other environmentally-oriented boards, authorities and commissions—what issues they deal with; how they measure their effectiveness.
- Staff responses to EQAC recommendations—Do they assist the Board of Supervisors in addressing EQAC's recommendations?
- Interaction between EQAC and staff—is the Scorecard section of the Annual Report working as intended? Is there anything else that staff can/should do that it is not doing now to be responsive to EQAC priorities?

Motions made:

- None

Follow up actions:

- Each EQAC member was encouraged to have an informal discussion with his/her Supervisor regarding the Supervisor's use of the report and how it could work better. A suggestion was made to ask each Supervisor about the key environmental issue(s) he/she is dealing with in his/her district.
- EQAC agreed to discuss this issue further at the February 12 meeting.
- EQAC members were encouraged to talk to their cohorts in other BACs to identify common issues of concern.
- Noel Kaplan will provide EQAC members with a list of environmentally-oriented boards, authorities and commissions and will seek from the Clerk's Office information about district representation for each of these BACs and perhaps contact information.

**Approval of meeting minutes**

Motions made:

- Rich Weisman moved approval of the December 11, 2013 minutes as submitted. Alex Robbins seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- Approval by unanimous vote, with Bob McLaren, Linda Burchfiel, Larry Zaragoza and Hana Burkly abstaining.

Follow-up actions:

- Per standard practice, Noel Kaplan will post the approved minutes on EQAC's website and notify Supervisors offices of the approval.
- Approval of the April 10, 2013, October 9, 2013 and November 13, 2013 minutes was deferred.

**Chairman's Items**

Matters Discussed:

- Stella Koch recommended that EQAC schedule a meeting with the Fairfax County Park Authority Board.

Motions made:

- None.

Follow up actions:

- EQAC will discuss scheduling of this meeting at its February 12 meeting.

### **Council Member Items**

Matters Discussed:

- George Lamb expressed his view that the public hearing focus on air quality and climate change was invigorating.
- Alex Robbins volunteered to prepare the legislation section of next year's Annual Report on the Environment.

Motions made:

- None.

Follow up actions:

- None.

### **Staff Items**

Matters Discussed:

- Agenda for the February 12 EQAC meeting
- Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee meeting on January 21.
- Mount Vernon District Town Hall Meeting on February 1, and the invitation to EQAC to have a table in the exhibit area at that meeting.
- Upcoming meetings of the Planning Commission's Environment Committee (January 29 and February 19)

Motions made:

- None.

Follow up actions:

- At the February 12 meeting, EQAC will review the public hearing testimony and other items that have been identified as potential agenda items and to develop a work plan for future agendas. EQAC agreed to not provide any additional outreach in regard to the February 12 meeting but to consider this as an informal discussion leading to a work plan.
- EQAC will not staff a table at the Mount Vernon District Town Hall Meeting, but Noel Kaplan will provide EQAC Annual Reports and flyers for display/availability at the DPZ table.

### **Adjournment**

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