



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 22, 2009

TO: PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: Noel H. Kaplan, Senior Environmental Planner
Environment and Development Review Branch, DPZ

SUBJECT: Transmittal of EQAC statements relating to protection of headwaters areas of streams through regulation

At its May 13, 2009 meeting, the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) received a briefing from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services on the status of discussions that may lead to the development of regulatory protection for headwaters areas of streams (areas above Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) designated pursuant to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance). EQAC has been participating in discussions regarding this matter with the Planning Commission's Environment Committee and staff. Subsequent to this briefing, EQAC adopted, by a unanimous vote of members present, the following statements relating to this issue:

- *EQAC considers headwaters areas/streams that are found above existing designated Resource Protection Areas to be of exceptional importance.*
- *EQAC recognizes that there are challenges at this time to a regulatory approach for protecting these areas but does not want the county to abandon the idea altogether in the long term--EQAC supports protection and restoration of these areas to the maximum extent possible.*
- *EQAC supports efforts to protect headwater streams through watershed management plans, buffer restoration projects and education/voluntary efforts at this time.*

I am transmitting EQAC's statements separately to the Planning Commission in light of the Environment Committee's anticipated discussion of this matter on May 28. The Board of Supervisors is being copied on this memorandum.

Thank you for your attention.

NHK

cc:

Board of Supervisors
Jimmie D. Jenkins, Director, DPWES
James W. Patteson, Director, Land Development Services, DPWES
Environmental Quality Advisory Council
EQAC file, May 2009

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