

Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee

February 7, 2017

Conference Rooms 9&10

Board of Supervisors Members Present:

Board Chair Sharon Bulova
Committee Chair Penelope A. Gross, Mason District
Supervisor John Cook, Braddock District
Supervisor John Foust, Dranesville District
Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
Supervisor Jeff McKay, Lee District
Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District
Supervisor Linda Smyth, Providence District
Supervisor Pat Herrity, Springfield District
Supervisor Cathy Smith, Sully District

Summary Minutes of Previous Environmental Committee Meeting (October 11, 2016):

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings/2016/oct11-environmental-summary.pdf>

February 7, 2017 Meeting Agenda:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings/2017/feb7-environmental-agenda.pdf>

February 7, 2017 Meeting Materials:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings/2017/feb7-environmental-presentations.pdf>

The following is a summary of the highlights of the discussion from the **February 7, 2017** meeting.

Today's meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M.

After a brief introduction from Supervisor Gross, Committee Chair, the minutes from the **October 11, 2016** meeting were approved.

The first topic on the agenda was a briefing on the status of the fire that broke out at the Covanta Waste-to-Energy facility. James Patteson, Director of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), indicated that the fire started on the tipping floor and mentioned that tipping floor fires are not uncommon. He explained the operating process from beginning to end. Areas of concern expressed by Supervisor Gross were cost of damage and electrical costs, and responsibility for damage to building? James indicated that more information will be provided to the Board at a later date.

Board Discussion:

- Committee Chair Supervisor Gross asked how long the plant will be out of service and James replied that it was hard to say at this time.
- James shared the names of other energy plants that could help us out while Covanta is shut down.
- Chairman Bulova asked if a flyer could go out addressing air quality.
- James mentioned that the county was working with the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) and looking at what other counties have experienced with air quality following a similar event.
- Supervisor Storck expressed his gratitude and respect for the work of the firefighters, but was disappointed to find out that there aren't air quality monitoring stations in the area.
- Supervisor Gross indicated that the county's four monitoring stations were removed from service due to budget cuts. However, the state continues to operate and maintain a single monitoring station located in the Lee District.
- Supervisor Storck indicated that the Covanta plant needs to be brought back on-line as soon as possible and he was planning to meet with DPWES at a later date to discuss further.

The second topic on the agenda was a briefing by Kate Bennett, who coordinates the county's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program, on the status of the county's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements as it relates to the overall MS4 permit requirements. A detailed presentation is provided in the meeting materials link shown above.

Board Discussion:

- Supervisor McKay asked about comments received and if they would be responded to.

- Kate indicated that staff intends to submit the action plans, which include the response to comments, to DEQ for their review and approval and once approved will post the plans on the public website and notify the Board.
- Chairman Bulova expressed concerns about development in areas without sewer service that were using alternative septic systems.
- James Patteson explained these are regulated by the Health Department – and require individual engineering reports.
- Supervisor Gross noted that the committee needs more details and Randy Bartlett offered to contact the Health Department and request they provide more information regarding the alternative septic systems.
- Supervisor Storck asked about sanitary sewer systems and if they were required to comply?
- Randy indicated that the system in Mason Neck is the only one in the county and it is not impacted by any local TMDLs. They are permitted and regulated by the State DEQ.
- Supervisor Cook noted that on Page 14 of the presentation under “Chesapeake Bay”, the county should celebrate hitting our targets. Do we have other charts like these for the local TMDLs?
- Kate mentioned that the local TMDLs are harder to quantify because the State does not make individual allocations to each MS4, so we do not have the same specific targets.
- Supervisor Gross agreed this is something to celebrate. It took a lot of effort.
- Supervisor Gross concluded by letting staff know that they did not need direction from the Board and to carry on.

The third topic on the agenda was a briefing by Randy Bartlett, Deputy Director, DPWES, on the county’s Storm water Program Business Plan. A detailed presentation is provided in the meeting materials link shown above.

Board Discussion:

- Supervisor Gross commented on the Steady progress of the program and the need for the Board to continue its support.

The fourth topic on the agenda was a briefing by James Patteson, Director, DPWES, on the need for a Storm water Utility. A detailed presentation is provided in the meeting materials link shown above.

Board Discussion:

- Supervisor Gross indicated that this is a discussion and not a proposal and although there are members of the Board who do not think we need to discuss this topic at this time, there are other members who wish to have the discussion.
- Supervisor Foust mentioned that the presentation seemed to portray a success with the existing funding structure and questioned whether a discussion was needed at this time.

- County Executive Ed Long mentioned that the program got started without using a Utility and staff just wanted the Board to be aware of some of the other options for funding the program and what other communities are doing.
- James Patteson mentioned that the current system is working. This is an equity question – who pays?
- The consensus of the committee was to not pursue a utility at this time.

The fifth topic on the agenda was a briefing by Randy Bartlett, Deputy Director, DPWES, on public maintenance of private storm water management facilities. A detailed presentation is provided in the meeting materials link shown above.

Board Discussion:

- Randy briefed the Board's committee on how a program would potentially work, including the costs and benefits of the program and showed where staff had attempted to incorporate the Board's comments from previous meetings.
- Supervisor Smyth suggested that the Board first consider a pilot.
- The decision of the committee was to try a couple of pilot projects and ask staff to report back to the committee.

The sixth topic on the agenda was a briefing by Troy Shaw, Chief, Forest Pest Management, Urban Forest Management Division, DPWES, on a Forest Health Approach, which would expand our monitoring of the forest lands in Fairfax County. The new approach would allow for a better understanding of how our forest are changing over time and allows us to accomplish our mission. Other agencies such as the Park Authority and Storm Water Planning will benefit from this project. Planning meetings between the three agencies show promise for this to be a valuable project. The one time cost of this project is \$78,000. A detailed presentation is provided in the meeting materials link shown above.

Board Discussion:

- Troy Shaw had indicated in the presentation that the Forest Pest Program is required to obtain Board of Supervisors approval each year for its work plan, which included an Urban Forest Health and Value Assessment.
- Chairman Bulova asked if the Forest Pest program could use its funds for such a program.
- Troy indicated that staff had consulted with the Office of the County Attorney prior to presenting to the Board's committee.
- Supervisor Herrity asked if the staff was paid out of the Pest Management fund.
- Troy answered yes – 5 full time and 2 part time. Just the Pest Group – not all of Urban Forestry.
- Chairman Bulova suggested that monitoring the health of our forest and neighborhood is very good.

- Supervisor Storck also mentioned that from what was presented, the program appeared to be the right way to go. Education pieces are powerful.
- Supervisor McKay also supported the new approach and mentioned that the Board received a petition that was on fall cankerworm spraying and asked if the county was planning to respond to the petition?
- Troy indicated that staff would be responding to the petition.

The seventh and final topic on the agenda was a briefing by Michael McGrath, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division, DPWES on the status of the county's Biosolids program. A detailed presentation is provided in the meeting materials link shown above.

Board Discussion:

- Supervisor Gross mentioned that based on the presentation and discussions staff should move forward as proposed with two options pending DEQ determination.
- Supervisor Storck asked if the emissions cap would limit the future plant to the current volume and Mike responded "no".
- Supervisor Gross said that it's possible that staff will have an opportunity to move forward on some things and not on others.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, May 23, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.