

# **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

**February 12, 2019**

**11:00 A.M.**

**Government Center Conference Room 11**

## **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 Pat Herrity, Springfield District

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Hunter Mill District

Supervisor Jeff McKay, Lee District

Supervisor Kathy Smith, Sully District

Supervisor Linda Smyth, Providence District

Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District

## **Others Present:**

Hugh Whitehead, DPWES

Ron Kirkpatrick, DPWES, CAP

Jack Weyant, DCC

Paul Shirley, FCPA

Keith Snyder, FCPS

Noel Kaplan, DPZ

Jean Wright, FACS

Jerry Stonefield, LDS

Tiya Raju, DPWES-BCBD

Rushali Oak, DPWES-BBD

Chris McGough DPMM

Heather Ambrose, DPWES, SWPD

P. Shogram, FAD, Energy Division

Flint Webb, Fed. Env. Committee Co.

Hans Christianson, DPWES, Solid Waste

Mark Thomas, DMB

Norbert Pink, Sierra Club

Meena Bhatia, DPWES

Goldie Harrison, Hunter Mill District  
Ida Tu

February 12, 2019 Meeting Agenda:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/meeting-materials/2019/feb12-environmental-agenda.pdf>

February 12, 2019 Meeting Materials:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/board-supervisors-environmental-committee-meeting-feb-12-2019>

The following is a summary of the highlights of the discussion from the February 12, 2019 meeting.

Today's meeting was called to order at 11:20 am.

### **Opening Remarks & Item I**

After a brief introduction from Supervisor Gross, Committee Chair, the Environmental Committee accepted the minutes of October 2, 2018. With no further changes, the meeting minutes were accepted into the record.

### **Item II Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Ordinance & Agreement**

The first topic on the agenda was a presentation from Kambiz Agazi, Environmental and Energy Coordinator, Office of the County Executive, who provided an update on a C-PACE ordinance and finance agreement.

Agazi began by referencing the June 12, 2018 Environmental Committee meeting, where the Board directed staff to draft a C-PACE ordinance and finance agreement for the committee's review. He provided a brief review of what C-PACE is - a market-based financing tool for building owners and developers,

used to fund energy efficiency, renewable energy and water conservation projects. C-PACE has no upfront costs. It is not a conventional loan, but is more of an assessment that runs with the land. Agazi shared a C-PACE Program Development Timeline with the Board. The County is looking to advertise a public hearing to authorize the adoption of the ordinance on February 19, 2019. The public hearing would then take place on March 19, 2019.

Agazi acknowledged Cliff Kellogg and the other stakeholders who worked with county staff on the ordinance. These stakeholders submitted extremely professional comments that were easy to follow and implement. There were two parts of the comments that County staff were tracking: one part regarded critical issues that the stakeholder group felt could impact the implementation of the program. The second included “nice to have” items – these were items that the stakeholder group felt would benefit the C-PACE program and provide for widespread implementation. All critical items from the group were tracked and implemented. The stakeholder group, in the “nice to have” column, asked if it would be possible for the ordinance to allow for the refinance of ongoing or completed projects. Staff conferred with the County Attorney, who reviewed the request. The County Attorney rendered an opinion that ongoing projects can be refinanced, but projects that are already complete cannot.

### **Board Discussion:**

**Gross:** So [the ordinance] is not retroactive?

**Agazi:** It’s not retroactive. If you had done something in the past and it was complete and you took out a loan, you couldn’t turn around and refinance that loan using the C-PACE program.

**Foust:** Going forward, if you do a project, and you don’t go through the C-PACE process, but then you refinance that project after the ordinance is adopted, can you take advantage of the C-PACE program?

**Smith, Assistant County Attorney, Office of the County Attorney:** The answer is whether or not the improvements were already completed. If the project was ongoing, and the owner decided that they wanted to refinance with a PACE loan, then that would still be permitted. But under the language of the statute, improvements or reconstruction that is complete is not permitted.

**Foust:** Even if it's started and completed after the ordinance is in place, you can't refinance through C-PACE?

**Smith:** Correct, but if it's started and not completed, you could.

**McKay:** Just following up on that, would the refinance amount be limited to the portion of the ongoing work that's yet to be completed? Or would [the refinance amount] be for all of the work- even the stuff that has already been completed- as long as you are working on it, and it has not been finished? Can you go back and count the things that have already been done as long as it's part of the phase that you are still working on?

**Smith:** That's correct.

**Storck:** I understand this is the county attorney's opinion. Do we know of other Virginia entities that have had different opinions to that?

**Smith:** I personally do not.

**Agazi:** I asked Cliff Kellogg to reach out to Arlington County. They are the first Virginia jurisdiction to have a C-PACE program and ordinance. They also do not allow for the refinance of projects that are complete. The answer that I have received from them is that this is not a legal opinion; they just don't allow it.

Wrapping up here, I am looking for this committee's endorsement to authorize a public hearing to adopt the C-PACE draft ordinance that you should have already received. I distributed this draft about a week ago, and it includes, for the most part, all of the comments that we received from the professional stakeholder group. Fairfax County staff have also reviewed this ordinance extensively, and are ready to move forward with it. The authorization for the draft ordinance would be through a Board Matter. I will work with Supervisor Gross on the Board Matter for the February 19, 2019 meeting. We would also like the Committee to know that we are finalizing a request for proposal (RFP) to retain the services of a third party service company to administer the C-PACE program. I have had some questions regarding the timeline - we are working the RFP process at the same time that we are working the ordinance. It's a procurement process, and I hope to get through that procurement process in the spring. I will update the Committee with another timeline once I have more information.

If I can just say a couple words regarding Senate Bill 1559. SB1559 is the C-PACE ordinance that would allow shoreline resiliency projects, such as sediment and erosion control and stormwater management, to take place on the shoreline. This is only for commercial entities. It is my opinion that the Board should support this bill and task staff to look at amending the ordinance later this year should this bill be signed into law. I don't see any reason why this bill shouldn't be included in our C-PACE ordinance. I asked Noel Kaplan (DPZ) to go back and look at a study that we did in 2004. We have approximately one hundred miles of shoreline with approximately nine yacht clubs and/or marinas that could take advantage of that C-PACE resiliency amendment.

**Foust:** I don't have any questions but this has come together really well and I want to thank Kambiz for the effort. This happened quickly and the fact that you are expediting the procurement process -kind of in a parallel rather than a linear approach- is really nice and I want to thank you!

**Gross:** Thank you, I have heard from some folks who are in this business who are really anxious to get some projects going, but we have to get the ordinance adopted first. If there is no objection, we will do that with a Board Matter on February 19.

**Storck:** I want to share that thanks. Is there a cost to the county for this process?

**Agazi:** There is no actual cost to the county in terms of dollars. The county is not originating any loans or spending any budgetary dollars. I am going to be administering the program. There is staff time that is associated with the program, but it is my time, and these are things that I do anyway. Costs will be borne by the Program Administrator who will then build it into the fees of the C-PACE loan.

**Storck:** The Administrator charges their costs through the program itself, so there are no County costs from that?

**Agazi:** Correct.

**Gross:** Are there any objections with going forward on the Board Matter on February 19th, 2019? The C-PACE ordinance and finance agreement will move forward as a Board Matter on February 19.

### **Item III**

#### **Energy Initiatives in Support of the Operational Energy Strategy**

The second topic on the agenda was a presentation from Kambiz Agazi, Environmental and Energy Coordinator, Office of the County Executive, who provided an update on the status of energy initiatives in support of the County Operational Energy Strategy.

The Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee has asked Agazi for periodic updates on the progress of the Energy Strategy, which was adopted in July 2018. The purpose of the Energy Strategy is to look at County Government energy consumption, to see how that consumption can be reduced, how County utility costs associated with energy consumption can be reduced, and how the County can meet some of its regional greenhouse gas emission goals through the reduction of energy use.

Agazi reviewed funding for the Energy Strategy: as soon as the Strategy was adopted, there was a request through a Board Matter for a consideration item at the FY 2018 carryover review (which occurred in late September 2018); the Energy Strategy was funded at the same time as it was adopted. He then shared a PowerPoint presentation on FY2018 carryover projects that were funded. He included an estimated project completion column for these projects. The majority of the construction projects that were presented are likely going to be completed this summer. When the projects are completed, more detail will be provided on the costs and benefits.

Agazi then provided an update on a streetlight LED conversion project that the Board has funded from this year's third quarter review request for funding. The County had a lengthy back and forth with Dominion, through NVRC, for about eighteen months on allowing municipalities to convert their streetlights to LED. Dominion finally agreed to allow streetlight conversions and to provide better rates. The Board-funded streetlight conversions will be with the 3,000 Kelvin soft lighting option. The County is looking at phasing in this conversion program over five years. There is a request at the Third Quarter Review for \$1.8 million for the first year. At the end of the conversion phase, which includes approximately 56,000 street lights, there will be about a \$1.4 million reduction in the cost of the streetlights per year. Dominion has agreed to reduce the cost of each pole by about \$20. The anticipated savings (\$41.4 million) will be offset if new fixtures

are added. The savings do not assume any price changes by Dominion, per pole-those are negotiated through County contracts. Savings do not assume pole fixtures replaced by Dominion due to regular maintenance, which would reduce County conversion costs. If a pole needs to be replaced, and Dominion replaces that pole before the County gets to it, then that is on Dominion.

Agazi shared an update on estimated energy use and efficiency investments, which showed the \$4.5 million funded in the FY2018 carryover as well as the benefits of funding the third quarter request to initiate the first year of the streetlight conversion program. There will be four additional years of benefit should the Board continue funding this program. The target adopted by the Board in the Energy Strategy is to reduce energy use by 264 million kBtu, or 20% total county government energy consumption, by 2029. The FY 2018 Carryover and the Third Quarter request will get the County to about 20.1 kBtu, or an 8% reduction in energy use. At the end of the five-year conversion, that alone would bring the County to about 26% of the County energy use reduction goal.

Once these projects are complete, Agazi is going to come back with a more detailed table showing benefits related to greenhouse gas reductions and cost savings associated with each of the projects.

### **Board Discussion:**

**Hudgins:** You have described it as the replacement of poles and that would be what we are looking here at a cost factor. When I look at significant parts of the Reston area, there are dark skies and no poles. Yet, as it becomes more urbanized, there will be a greater demand for light. Would that be treated as something new?

**Agazi:** It would be treated as new. When I mentioned the \$1.4 million a year savings because of the reduction in the pole costs, that would certainly be offset if we were to add more poles.

**Hudgins:** The reason I am asking is because we didn't pay to add poles originally, so if there is a pole here in that community and there isn't one here, then that is kind of an interesting piece of how we calculate that. You might want to determine how many and what is most advantaged in the community.

The next energy initiative Agazi presented was on innovative energy solutions. When the Operational Energy Strategy was first presented, Agazi suggested that the County not set a target for renewable energy adoption, as there were a lot of questions to be answered, such as how the County could put solar on its facilities and be cost effective at the same time. Since the Strategy was adopted, there has been legal and professional staff review on solar procurement options, including a power purchase agreement (PPA). Staff agreed that PPAs could be implemented in the County, if language is worded correctly in the procurement documents. The County is in the process of doing just that. PPAs are agreements between two parties - in this case, the County and a third party solar provider. The County would sign with a third party, which would install solar equipment on County facilities and properties. The County would agree to purchase the electrons from these installations. There is no upfront cost to the County and it works within the existing regulatory structure of the pilot program that is allowed in the state. Under a long-term commitment or contract, Fairfax County would be looking to lower its average utility rate over time, and to have lower escalation costs. The equipment would be owned and operated by a third party, which would decommission the equipment at the end of the contract term.

Agazi shared some broad categories of facilities that the County staff is currently looking at as well as a tentative procurement schedule for entering into a power purchase agreement. There are a lot of facilities that the County wants to include in this power purchase agreement so there may be multiple awards. County Government is working with FCPS, which has tentatively identified three of its own facilities to be included in the PPA procurement process.

Agazi requested that the Board include any questions they may have about a facility in the procurement documents- specifically, in the RFP. The solar providers will assess and evaluate those facilities for free. If the providers are not comfortable with the facility, they will not bid on it, and they will provide reasoning for their decision. The providers will also provide cost estimates of what is being offered. If a facility is not included in the RFP, it won't be evaluated. But the county will include language to allow for facilities to be added into the active contract(s) that are anticipated to be awarded.

### **Board Discussion:**

**McKay:** Why is the procurement process limited to only three schools? I think we should be broader. If it doesn't cost us anything for people to analyze these



buildings, I don't know why we would limit it to three. Are these three schools being treated like pilots? Is there an expectation that if these three work, we would open it up to a far larger number of facilities?

**Cathy Muse, Director, Procurement & Material Management:** I can't speak for the Schools, or the pace at which they want to include other facilities, but our hope is that the result of the solicitation for the PPA will be scalable and flexible to allow facilities to be added and for them to be scoped specifically. We will have a cost structure and a contract that will allow us to adapt it to many facilities. If Schools get more enthused and want to include more facilities, the contract should be scalable to be able to bring those on quickly and not require us to resolicit or establish a new PPA.

**McKay:** Is that true of County facilities as well?

**Muse:** Absolutely. It's for everything.

**McKay:** If at any point in time, staff can be directed to include a whole new list of properties, how would industry know that those are ones that we're asking them to evaluate?

**Muse:** We're going to include a pretty good list of facilities. The county's facilities information is public, so the industry will know it is an emerging, but very robustly emerging, industry in Virginia. There are lot of players and I think there is going to be significant interest. We will write it so the industry knows this is a scalable contract.

**McKay:** I wanted to make sure we are ambitious in the language, because having a list of facilities, and having a message to industry that we're interested in looking at those facilities are two different things. If the language in the RFP encourages that, that's good.

**Muse:** Specific buildings and facilities are very useful to be able to evaluate the cost, and many of them are comparable to others. It will be useful to have both.

**Herrity:** Did you say you are sending us the list of the stuff that we are looking at now?

**Agazi:** I don't have a complete list of projects at this time. It is safe to say that we may not have a complete list until the end, when we are finalizing the RFP, both from the Schools side and the County side. I am hoping to get more schools on the list. I think we can certainly send the Board a completed list once the RFP has hit the street.

**Herrity:** Could you send an interim list in the meantime? Is that violating anything?

**Muse:** No, not from a procurement perspective.

**Herrity:** I don't want to speak for Schools, but I know from talking to them about solar, their major concern is the stability and integrity of the roofs. The roofs are multi-million dollar investments. I would be curious to hear how we are handling that in the RFP, and who is going to take responsibility for the stability and integrity of the roofs both on the County side or the Schools side, because that to me is a big hurdle with the School system and, I understand, even our own buildings. There is a potential for the flat roof membranes to be compromised and then who is stuck with that bill?

**Muse:** From the procurement perspective, I don't know yet. We don't know what the industry is offering as far as protections in this solicitation. We tell them what we want them to do and let them tell us how they can protect the roofs. Someone from facilities can speak to how we are assessing the facilities to determine whether they can withstand these.

**Gross:** I think our proposed project, putting solar on the warehouse in Springfield Industrial Park, is going to occur after that roof is going to be replaced. And so, once a facility roof is replaced, then you build it into that.

**Jose Comayagua Director, Department of Facilities Management:** To answer the question, Supervisor Gross, you are correct, the first thing we want to look at is a fairly new roof. The roof on the Springfield Warehouse was just replaced, so it's a prime candidate. We are also working, and we plan to continue to work with, Cathy and her staff. As part of the contract, we want these solar vendors that are going to come in and install to use the same roof vendor that we have used in the past, so that the warranty is the same, and the terms and conditions of the warranty are not violated.

**Gross:** If roof replacement is going to be, for instance, in five years on a five-year process, you wouldn't install solar on that roof today, you would wait until the roof is replaced and then install the solar.

**Comayagua:** Exactly.

**Foust:** Kambiz, did you say how many [facilities] from the County are on the list?

**Agazi:** I did not. I have a rough list of facilities. We are working through them because we are weeding out - I think Supervisor Herrity's comments about the rooftops are important- we are weeding out poor candidates, so we don't waste our time or the vendors'. We are looking at over fifty facilities on the County Government side, and hoping that Schools will look at some additional schools.

**Foust:** I would like to see the list. Who makes a decision whether a building is in or out when we ultimately release the request?

**Agazi:** That decision is made by the department that is tasked with operating and maintaining that facility, so they will have some engineering assessment before it gets to the RFP.

**Foust:** I suspect that the Board will be very interested in the results of those assessments and what buildings are in and out. We'll want to look at that at some point.

**McKay:** This is why the flexibility in the language is really important. I appreciate that aspect and don't want to second judge staff on this. We have hundreds of buildings and we're replacing roofs all the time. People all over the country are doing this. Let's not overcomplicate it and let's make sure that we are flexible when opportunities arise. Things happen to our buildings when we have to expedite repairs. Let's not miss opportunities like that because it wasn't on some list somewhere.

**Storck:** That's the core point: there's solar potential, and who is assessing that, and then there's the engineering side and what physically it can handle. Is this part of the RFP that somebody could assess this overall and then you narrow that down into at least an independent person who has knowledge and uses this and does this on a routine basis? I recognize that we have County experts as well.

That is something that should be part of this broader look that we do and we can then build on top of that.

Kambiz then presented on another ongoing energy initiative: a review of the electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure potential in the county. The Department of Vehicle Services (DVS) is taking the lead on that. Marguerite Guarino is doing a wonderful job and working across the agencies to take a look at potential sites throughout the county.

There are three major tasks associated with site assessment. One is to identify EV-ready sites based on the criteria that the Board of Supervisors agreed to in the Operational Energy Strategy, which was that the sites would be open to the public, i.e. open to county and private vehicle charging. Installation of EV charging infrastructure involves designing, permitting and constructing. Because of this process, it will take several years to install the infrastructure at the twenty government facilities that the County has chosen as its target.

The other piece that the County is working on is an RFP to select a vendor to operate and maintain the electric vehicle infrastructure in the county. Once the EV-ready sites have been selected, the vendor will come in and install the equipment. They would work within the guidelines of the county in terms of the rate schedule and also have the ability for county vehicles to charge via punch code and private vehicles to charge via credit card. The vendor would operate and maintain these facilities for the county.

### **Board Discussion:**

**Bulova:** This is great. My question regarding funding is: are we taking advantage of Volkswagen? I know that Volkswagen was required to provide a great deal of funding and to make charging stations available. Are we tapping into that?

**Marguerite Guarino, Deputy Director of Administration, Department of Vehicle Services:** We attend meetings with COG and will be receiving information on those grants. We have not received anything so far.

**Gross:** Most of the work has been done at the regional level with COG.

**Guarino:** Correct.

**Agazi:** The Majority of the Volkswagen work is being done in the I-95 corridor on the major highways. I think they are going to eventually get into the suburbs, but right now they are looking at the interstates.

**Bulova:** I remembered that there might be funding available for public sector charging stations. I just want to put that on the table, that we are making sure that we are looking for sources of revenues and funding that we could use to supplement what the county will also be spending.

**Gross:** This seems like a request of information that can get back to us in the form of a memo.

**Kambiz:** I am happy to do that. Staff is following that.

**McKay:** I would like to see an itemized list of these expenses too. There are available funds out there, but are there also available vendors who are willing to do this? Because I am unconvinced that this has to cost us anything. Vehicle manufacturers install these all over the place; they generate revenue from them, and pay for the equipment. We are buying electric fleet vehicles in the future, and this should be something that is on the table. There is a financial incentive for companies to put these in, and they can make revenue off of them. There is a huge Tesla charging station at the Springfield Town Center and it is massive- it didn't cost the Town Center one penny. We need to be careful about this and make sure we are looking at other models across the country and not assuming, necessarily, that there is a cost that we have to take on with this. I am not convinced of that.

**Agazi:** This is a great point. I forgot to mention this was another third quarter request, to initiate the EV infrastructure for the county. The money that is being requested is not for the charging stations; that will probably be free. The money requested is for construction. For instance, here at the Government Center, we have to possibly- because Dominion doesn't want us to use the existing transformer - we may have to purchase and install a separate transformer. There will be trenching involved. There is construction work associated at each of these various sites, so the money that is being requested is to make these sites EV-ready: to design, to permit and to construct these sites, not for the actual equipment.

**McKay:** I was looking at the total cost. I understand that there is construction and equipment cost. I just want us to be as flexible as we can be, because there is an appetite for these to be installed by industry, and we should be taking advantage of that, including construction cost, if we can negotiate that.

**Gross:** We are going to switch Agenda Item IV, the presentation on the SolSmart Program with Agenda Item V, the presentation on Environmental & Energy Organization.

#### **Item IV Environmental & Energy Organization**

The fourth item to come up before the Board was a presentation from Joseph Mondoro, Chief Financial Officer, who provided an update on a proposed organization for environmental and energy coordination.

Mondoro began by stating that the Board has been discussing a review of the County's environmental and energy coordination since last spring. Since that time, staff have been looking at the resources that have been allocated to environmental and energy initiatives within county government operations, the way coordination is organized (or not organized), and all of the projects and initiatives that are on the horizon. Staff researched what other jurisdictions are doing, looked at the County's own resources, came up with a proposal that will be included in the FY 2020 advertised budget, and have recommended funding, pending the discussion the Board will have about the budget.

Mondoro stated that in addition, staff has been looking at how to elevate the conversation about energy and the environment within the county organization. There are a number of groups that have been established over time. Staff are recommending maintaining those groups and adding discussions at the department head level. There are roles for a number of departments in the projects moving forward, whether in Vehicle Services, Department of Public Works or Park Authority. Having conversations with the appropriate agency directors and their staff will allow for County-wide recognition of the priorities that the Board has identified; ensure that, as funding is allocated and projects are added, these priorities will be completed in a timely manner; and ensure that staff provide timely progress reports for these priorities.

Mondoro then presented on specific recommendations related to the organization of environmental and energy coordination within the County. Staff are recommending the formation of an Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, and recommending that this office be located within the Office of the County Executive to maintain the high profile nature of the work and to ensure that it is cross cutting across much of the County organization. Consistent with the changes that County Executive Bryan Hill made last year, the office will report directly to Mondoro. Staff needs for this office are being identified. These resources will be dedicated to current county environment and energy priorities and initiatives. Staff will report back to the Board as new initiatives are adopted and additional resources are needed.

County staff has recommended seven positions for the proposed Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination. To make up this office, staff has identified: four existing positions that currently deal with environmental initiatives (some full time, some not); new positions that are necessary (in some cases, positions exist but are vacant and not funded; staff are putting funding in place); and ways resources can be directed from other areas of the organization. The total cost for this office is just over a million dollars. The net new cost included in the budget is about \$450,000.

The proposed Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination will have three major service areas. The first will focus on policy evaluation and administration. This central group will work on existing coordination initiatives and oversee the implementation of the projects in place. The policy group will coordinate cross-agency projects and push forward the priorities of the Environmental Vision. The group will also be responsible for regional coordination, both within the County and with regional partners. There are a number of baseline items that need to be maintained, such as VEPGA, for which this team will be responsible. The group will also be providing a more comprehensive and coordinated promotion of County interests, at the federal and state level, as they relate to the County's Environmental Vision, to make sure that the County has the authority to move forward

The second service area of the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination will focus on County government operations, making sure implementation plans for the Operational Energy Strategy are consistent with the Board's long term goals, from an economic and environmental perspective. The group will make sure that the Board has the analysis it needs to make decisions on moving plans

forward. The division will be responsible for moving specific initiatives like the Environmental Improvement Program forward, (which will have additional advertised funding in FY 2020 for projects). The division will support coordination between departments by focusing on department head level conversations, and ensuring that the right folks are at the table as recommendations and implementation plans are generated and provided to the Board.

The third service area of the office will include a community programs team. Staff is consolidating support for a lot of the interaction that is spread throughout the County. For example, EQAC support is located within the Department of Planning and Zoning. It will be moved to this new organization. The liaison within Public Works, Planning, or Parks will continue, but it will be coordinated out of this office. Similarly, efforts like the C-PACE program and other kinds of community-oriented initiatives such as Energy Action Fairfax and EV infrastructure will be focused out of this office.

Mondoro then presented other issues related to advancement of the Environmental Vision. The Board put in place additional funding of \$4.5 million dollars last carryover. Staff is working very hard to make sure that those projects are implemented in a timely manner. In addition, there is an increase in support for EIP in the Advertised Budget, which will be part of the baseline to help move the County forward. There are immediate opportunities in terms of legislative action at the state and federal levels, but especially state. The environmental community has been partnering really effectively with the County.

To sum up, this recommendation puts into place the organization and the staff that are necessary to accomplish the environmental initiatives that the Board has already identified. Clearly there are other things cued up. As additional directives or suggestions come from the Board, staff are committed to being clear in what an investment might mean for projects like lighting conversions, or in consulting and staff dollars, so that decisions are fully informed. Finally, the County has a significant opportunity to work with community partners, take better advantage of regional partnerships, and look at additional tools- in terms of internships or other collaborations- in a much more deliberate way than has been done in the past.



**Board Discussion:**

**Gross:** From my perspective, we have been working for such a long time, trying to figure out how to do this most efficiently and put resources toward it. It's been very fragmented. This proposal puts it all together and takes some of the burden off of our Environmental Coordinator. Looking at the expertise we have in the County departments and pulling various staff members together, I think it is going to be just smashing. We will have to discuss this during our budget meeting.

**Bulova:** We will hear more about this as part of the budget presentation. The Board is already endorsing moving forward with this approach - addressing environmental, energy and climate issues. It would be great if staff could say a few words about timing.

**Bryan Hill, County Executive:** We listened to and heard the Board of Supervisors over the past year. The budget presentation on February 19 is going to be a portion of a lot of different things that we've heard and tried to wrap into our FY 2020 request. Much of the discussion will happen during the Budget Committee meetings, talking about certain sections where we have thought about changes and how we do our organizational structure. Everything is on course to start July 1. We do have funding mechanisms to make sure that can happen.

**Gross:** Our next Environmental Committee Meeting is on April 2, 2019, during our budget deliberations. We can put this on the agenda for additional discussion.

**McKay:** This is very good and critical for a lot of things, not the least of which is to help us accomplish the elements of the Board Matter we just approved last week. I think this is the type of staff framework I mentioned then that is going to be necessary to make sure the right monitoring happens. I want to emphasize the last point Joe made: the communication strategy is critical for this - communication strategy in a lot of different areas. The data and how its communicated out to the community is important. We need to raise awareness in the community on county initiatives and legislative strategy. We need to be educating our residents on fundamental things they can be doing and consolidating messages from different departments that already send information out. I am hoping that one of these positions works to tell a story about our work, educate people about legislative hurdles we face, and educate them on what they

can do to help the environment. It is one of the most important components: educate, communicate, and raise awareness of these things in our community.

**Gross:** I have always said Fairfax County does more than Arlington County—they just have a better press operation. They make more news even though they are very small.

**Hill:** We are covering 406 square miles. We have to be one communicating body, and we are working on that concept. It's going to take us some time to get there.

**Foust:** This is great work. I think the priority for the Board that has emerged over the past year is on the climate side. I was hoping to see a separate group focused on climate, with a second group for environment. As I calculate it, the community programs team could be one person- I think it's going to end up being the half-time person we have in DCCS. There's not enough resources to deliver the community wide climate and energy plan that we've asked for. [Do we] pick up a consideration item to pick up this study?

**Mondoro:** Organization funding requests are for current identified Board priorities. As other projects are identified, staff will return with additional investment requests.

**Gross:** We will discuss budget and staff in our next Environmental Committee Meeting. This gives us a structure we can build on, as needed.

**Bulova:** The office will provide needed focus. On [the recommendation related to] separate offices proposed for climate and energy, [climate, energy and the environment] are all interrelated. We need to be holistic.

**Storck:** I don't think anyone is disagreeing that this needs to be a major issue; the issue is how much and how quickly. I see some things that truly move us forward and for that I am appreciative. I think it is holistic and we have to have all those elements. I appreciate your explanation about what you have initially now, and what we need or could add on as we identify other initiatives- I think there are clearly other initiatives. I think CECAP is an essential initiative for the county collectively. Public-private partnerships are the essence of this. The core issue is having enough staff to coordinate. This office clearly starts the process for the connectivity part of the county. I'm pleased that it's going to be part of your office, Joe, and I think you've demonstrated your own ability to do that

effectively. Kambiz, we appreciate the years that you've spent trying to move some of these things forward. This is your time to help drive us forward even more quickly than we've been. I know that I'm going to be a relentless advocate to do more than we have. I appreciate the efforts that we made today. I think we're off to a good start.

**Gross:** Thank you, Dan. Thank you to Joe, Brian and Kambiz. I'm very excited about this one. We're going to move back to Agenda Item IV, the County participation in the SolSmart Program. We have an item that we've like to move on to our February 19 Board Matter.

### **Item V**

#### **Fairfax County Participation in the SolSmart Program**

The fifth item to come before the Board was a presentation from Jessica Lavender, Utility Analyst, Cable and Consumer Services, who presented on SolSmart, and what is required for the County to participate in the program.

Lavender, who is also the Energy Action Fairfax Program Manager, described SolSmart and how it recognizes cities and counties that make it faster, easier and more affordable to install solar panels. Members receive points in categories such as permitting, planning and zoning, inspections, community engagement and market development. Points the County could receive for things it has already done include waiving the solar permit fee, running a Solarize campaign, and having staff attend a SolSmart training about planning and zoning best practices. The County would be working toward points for the creation of a solar permit checklist to post online and a review of zoning ordinances for requirements that could restrict solar development. There are a number of neighboring jurisdictions that are designees. These jurisdictions hold a range of levels, which include Bronze, Silver and Gold. If a jurisdiction gets a lower level, they can apply for a higher one later. Staff are asking the Board to endorse participation in this program. In May, pending Board endorsement, County staff will apply for designation and implement the necessary actions in order to achieve as many points as possible. Supervisor Gross is planning to do a Board Matter on February 19, 2019. After that, Chairman Bulova would need to sign a solar statement affirming commitment. Providing a signed solar statement is a requirement to be designated.

**Board Discussion:**

Gross: Are there any questions? Looks like there are no questions. If staff will help me with the Board Matter on Tuesday, February 19, we will just move forward. Thank you Jessica!

**Item VI  
Running Bamboo**

The sixth agenda item was a presentation on running bamboo from Jack Weyant, Director, Department of Code Compliance.

Weyant began by referencing a Request for Information that staff received from Supervisor Cook and Supervisor Smith in January on outreach and education options related to prohibiting the planting of new bamboo. Weyant worked with an interagency staff team to put together an information sheet for the Board. Weyant will work with Invasive Species and Park Authority to come up with a flyer and make that available to the public. Staff will provide technical support.

Weyant's research found that there are a lot of bamboo ordinances in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio. Many of these ordinances allow bamboo to remain, but require property owners to maintain it. Some ordinances allow bamboo to remain but require maintenance and containment through underground measures. Some ordinances require a full ban; if a property owner has bamboo, jurisdictions tell them to get rid of it. Last month, the Board opted for outreach education in lieu of bamboo ordinance. If the Board does decide on a bamboo ordinance, it would be complaint driven and not proactive. There would need to be a discussion on whether or not plantings of new bamboo should be prohibited and how that would be enforced. Enforcement could mimic other jurisdictions, where bamboo is allowed to remain, but maintenance is required. Maintenance means identifying the amount of feet that must be present between bamboo and property/ right of way lines. Violations and fines can be issued to property owners who do get a complaint. The County does not want to be involved in taking measures to remove the bamboo, as is done in the grass ordinance.

**Board Discussion:**

**Gross:** Thank you Jack. We need a time frame for creating a bamboo flyer, which would be available for distribution through the board's monthly newsletters and distributed to the citizens.

**Weyant:** I can have something for everybody to look at within a month.

**Gross:** I appreciate the research that you and other county staff did to figure this out. Let's do the education and see what happens. Thank you.

**Item VII**

**Use of the Tree Preservation & Planting Fund**

The seventh item on the agenda was a presentation from Hugh Whitehead, Urban Forester, Urban Forest Management Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, who provided an update on the use of the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund.

Whitehead began by referencing a 2016 decision by the Board to authorize the Urban Forest Management Division to administer the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund. Prior to this change, the disbursement process required Board approval for each project and funds had not been utilized. Since then, the Urban Forest Management Division has used over \$19,000 of the funds. Currently, there is about \$79,000 available. Whitehead shared an update of a plan created last year for Mantua Elementary School. Staff and students have planted ten trees, or half of the seedling area depicted on a map on Whitehead's presentation slide. Students get instructions on planting and learn about the benefits of trees. Talks are interactive to be more engaging and give the students an opportunity to ask questions and demonstrate what they learned in related classes. Another plan that has been fully implemented in three phases is at Dogwood Elementary School. There was another project at the Government Center organized by Suzie Foster, a Landscape Architect with Stormwater Planning. It is above the pollinator meadow. Whitehead shared a list of all the projects implemented by Urban Forest Management since the division began administering the fund. A total of one hundred trees and one hundred and twenty seedlings have been planted. Under the tree planting program, students and volunteers learn skills and acquire knowledge they can take home with them. They gain confidence in supervised

planting projects, which enables them to undertake projects at home to maintain and expand the county's urban forest.

**Board Discussion:**

**Gross:** Thank you Hugh. We wanted the Board to know that this planting preservation fund is being used to good effect. There is more money in there to do additional tree planting.

**Smyth:** When we set this up in 2005, this went along with development, with rezonings. At that time, the idea was that the money coming from one district would stay for projects within that district. Are we doing that?

**Whitehead:** I know there is a lot earmarked for Providence District. I am not aware there are other districts where money has been earmarked.

**Smyth:** That was part of the proffer.

**Whitehead:** Yes.

**Smyth:** Mantua is in my district, that is good.

**McKay:** There is this remaining balance. If we don't have proffer money coming in, are there other sources of revenue going into it? Do you have a pipeline of projects? There are strategic opportunities we want to be able to make sure we can take advantage of. We don't want to hamstring this to the extent that there are opportunities we are missing. What is the history of the currently available balance? So we know whether there are sufficient funds going into this to accomplish the projects and address community interests.

**Gross:** Kambiz, it seems this is a request of information. If we could get a brief memo that outlines what some of the additional projects are and how the fund gets replenished.

**Storck:** Do you have an estimate on the timeframe from request to completion of a project? Are there any restrictions on these projects?

**Whitehead:** Several of these projects involved twenty-five to thirty-five trees. We don't want to plant those all at once. We don't want planting to get ahead of

our ability to maintain them at least through establishment. We will spread those out over four or five planting seasons.

**Gross:** Sounds to me you do it in phases. You may not do the entire school at the same time. You would do it in one planting season and more in the next planting season.

**Whitehead:** It takes two to three years in some cases.

**Storck:** If I made a request today for something, when might I be able to expect the first trees would be planted?

**Whitehead:** If you made a request today, we may be able to plant in the spring, in mid-May.

**Storck:** Any restrictions?

**Whitehead:** The fund is limited to projects on County properties, in common open space, or to projects that are organized by non-profits.

**Gross:** Kambiz, could you include more information on the memo that comes back to us? Thank you. Our next Environmental Committee Meeting is on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 11:00 AM. I want to thank our community partners who are here.

James Patteson, will you please come up? As you all know, James is retiring from the County Service. We hope he will come back at some point. He has served for years as Director of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. We talked about the streetlight issue earlier today- a lot of work that was done with Dominion and at the regional level was done by James. He had a tremendous effect on that. The Board will recall the work done on Covanta, not only the contract originally, but then on the fire. James has been outstanding. This may be his last Environmental Committee Meeting. On behalf of the Board, I want to thank James for all of his wonderful work. It has been a pleasure working with you and I hope we continue. Thank you, James. We are adjourned at 12:48 PM.