

**COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (EQAC)**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 12, 2025

TIME: 7:20 p.m. – 9:47 p.m.

**LOCATION: Fairfax County Government Center - Conference Room 4/5
(12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax, VA 22035)**

The February 2025 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.

EQAC Member Attendance

Name	Present/ Absent*	Name	Present/ Absent*
Larry Zaragoza (Chair, Mount Vernon)	P	Ken Lanfear (Vice-Chair, Hunter Mill)	P
James Albright (Mason)	P	Kathy Alsegaf (Providence)	P
Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P	Johna Gagnon (Franconia)	P
Eric Goplerud (At-Large)	P	Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	P
Andreana Lin (At-Large)	A	Kersey Manliclic (At-Large)	P
Joseph Tso (Student Member)	P	Rich Weisman (Sully)	P
Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	P	<i>Vacant</i> (At-Large)	-

* P indicates present; A indicates absent; V indicates attended virtually

Staff Attendance

John Morrill, Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)

Neely Law, Deputy Director, (OEEC)

Matthew Meyers (OEEC)

Maggie Beetsra (OEEC)

Kelly Zitzer (OEEC)

Kevin Smith (OEEC)

Chandler Crumlin (OEEC)

Lili Pita (OEEC)

Andrea Lewis, Braddock District Office

Brian Nolte, Sully District Office

Chris Herrington, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

Carly Aubrey, Department of Planning and Development

Visitor Attendance

Avril Garland

Dr. Maryam Dadkhah

Call to Order

Chair Zaragoza called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Public Comment Period

- a. Avril Garland spoke on support for electrification of lawn equipment for county workers.
- b. Dr. Maryam Dadkhah expressed concerns regarding the Consolidation of Animal Services adopted with the FY2024 budget approval by the BOS and requested EQAC to stay informed on the status of the wildlife management program through consultation with Dr. Katherine Edwards.

2. Operational Energy Strategy & Climate Plan Updates

- a. Kevin Smith went over the Operational Energy Strategy (OES) goals, reported on OES targets status from FY24 and discussed future funding strategies, such as Private Purchase Agreements, to meet 2030 and 2050 energy goals.

3. Comprehensive Plan Policy Plan White Papers Discussion

- a. Chair Zaragoza provided his key takeaways from the Comprehensive Plan Policy white papers and provided a high level overview of the themes of the content captured in the EQAC Comments document.
- b. Clyde Wilber moved to accept the document as final and to be sent to Planning Commission. Eric Goplerud seconded the motion and the motion received unanimous support by members present with 12-0 and no abstentions with Andreana Lin being absent from the meeting.

4. Discussion on the 2025 Annual Report on the Environment

- a. Vice Chair Lanfear provided a presentation on the 2024 ARE based on feedback from county staff and BOS and presented new changes to the chapter format and content as well as changes to the report as a whole for the 2025 ARE in an effort to reduce the size of the report and increase the effectiveness of the recommendations. Members agreed to keep the Spotlight on FCPS section. Members also discussed author assignments for new EQAC members. The new author assignments include:
 - i. Air Quality Chapter – Kersey Manliclic (lead) with Larry Zaragoza
 - ii. Parks, Ecological Resources and Wildlife Management – Bryan Campbell (lead), James Albright
 - iii. Water—Ken Lanfear (lead), Clyde Wilbur
 - iv. Land Use – Eric Goplerud (lead), Kathy Alsegaf
 - v. Climate – Larry Zaragoza (lead), Ken Gubin, and Eric Goplerud
 - vi. Waste –Eric Goplerud
 - vii. Transportation—Richard Weisman

viii. Spotlight on Schools---Richard Weisman

5. Actions to Make EQAC More Effective Discussion

- a. Members discussed ways for meetings and ARE recommendations to be more effective. General consensus believes interaction with county staff is important. A future planning meeting utilizing a facilitator to help focus and unify EQAC's approach to monthly meetings and ARE recommendation development was proposed. There was general agreement from members to this future meeting.

6. Approval of November 13, 2024 and January 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes, and Acceptance of December 10, 2024 Ad Hoc Group Meeting Notes

- a. No Meeting Minutes were produced for the month of February due to the County closure and EQAC meeting being cancelled as result of inclement weather.
- b. Vice Chair Lanfear moved adoption of the November 2024 and January 2025 EQAC meeting. Johna Gagnon seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 9-0 and 3 members who were not present abstaining from voting, with Andreana Lin being absent from the meeting.
- c. The December 10, 2024 Ad Hoc Group Meeting Notes were accepted at this meeting. There was no vote required to accept these minutes.

7. Chair's Items

- a. Fairfax County EV focus group wants 1 EQAC on Friday, March 28th afternoon 1:30-3pm - James Albright volunteered to represent EQAC
- b. Chair Zaragoza announced that dinner for retiring EQAC members would be the night of the April EQAC meeting prior to the meeting.
- c. Chair Zaragoza will draft a thank you memo to Chairman McKay and Supervisor Walkinshaw for their board matter on Illegal Dumping.
- d. Chair Zaragoza recognized Kelly Zitzer for completing her degree in Environmental Justice Policy and Communications and EQAC members congratulated her for this accomplishment
- e. Chair Zaragoza will send out an email for interest in representing EQAC on the Tree Commission

8. Council Member Items

- a. Vice Chair Lanfear mentioned an upcoming ICPRB presentation in April that will include information estimated water use from data centers.
- b. Eric Goplerud mentioned the issue of the Dominion tree cutting along the W&OD trail as well as Chairman McKay's concern about the issue and offered to author a memo of support of Chairman McKay's concern. Rich Weisman and Kersey Manlicic offered to support writing the letter.

- c. Clyde Wilber announced that he's working with Nature Forward to produce state legislation with regards to landscape architect requirements for transportation projects.
- d. Johna Gagnon requested interest in replacing her as the EQAC representative sitting on the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee (FJLEPC)

9. Staff Items

- a. Planning for tour and Norman Cole. Dates will be in Mid-late May (16, 19, 21), 5-7pm. Dr. Beetstra will follow up with a poll after the meeting so a date can be selected.
- b. Joint meeting with FCPA will be on May 14 from 6-7pm at Herrity Building.
- c. Staff introduced new EQAC member Andreana Lin who was not able to make the March meeting; The BOS have an interest for last at-large member position and are working through approval process.
- d. The new Student EQAC member will be starting in July.
- e. Announced the County release of the Sustain Fairfax Challenge

10. Adjournment

- a. Meeting ended at 09:47 p.m. following a motion for adjournment by Rich Weisman, which was seconded by Vice Chair Lanfear and carried by a vote of 12-0 with no abstentions with Andreana Lin being absent from the meeting.