

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

**MEETING MINUTES  
DATE: August 13, 2025  
TIME: 7:18 p.m. – 9:18 p.m.**

**LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

**EQAC Member Attendance**

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

\* P indicates present; A indicates absent

**Staff Attendance**

John Morrill, Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)  
Matthew Meyers (OEEC)  
Maggie Beetstra (OEEC)  
Kelly Zitzer (OEEC)  
Willie Woode, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD)  
John Peterson (NVSWCD)  
Rhonda Bitterli (NVSWCD)  
Brian Nolte, Supervisor Smith's Office  
Vanessa Simpson, Chairman McKay's Office

**Visitor Attendance**

Barbara Bacon  
Phil Loar

**Call to Order**

Chair Zaragoza called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm

Chair Zaragoza introduced the requirements to allow EQAC to meet virtually. He asked that all members introduce themselves and following, he moved that EQAC certify that the virtual meeting comported with EQAC's adopted policy for all-virtual meetings. He further moved that EQAC conduct the meeting electronically through a dedicated video- and audio-conferencing line, and that the public could access this meeting through the Microsoft Teams link provided on

the agenda or by dialing in by phone at 571-429-5982 with the phone conference ID: 967 802 770#. The motion was seconded by Council member Wilber and carried with a vote of 13-0-0, with Member Weisman being absent from the meeting.

### **Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes**

#### 1. Annual Report on the Environment (ARE)

- a. Chair Zaragoza goes over the process for finalizing the ARE, highlighting that tonight's meeting is to discuss and vote on the chapter recommendations. Chair Zaragoza and Vice Chair Lanfear will recommend priorities to present at the next meeting where members will vote. Any redundancies in chapters and recommendations will be addressed by the editor.
- b. Vice Chair Lanfear led the discussion for each of the following chapters - Land Use, Water, Waste Management, Climate and Energy, Air Quality, and the cover. Transportation and the Spotlight on Schools were postponed until the next meeting so the author could be present.
  - ii. Discussion of addressing redundant recommendations will be addressed from an editorial decision
  - iii. Clarification on recommendations requesting additional funding; these recommendations will be a consideration in prioritization
  - iv. If members have comments on recommendations, send to staff by end of next week to collect and provide to author
  - v. Comments on green law and offer reference on EV lawn equipment

#### 2. 2026 Legislative Proposals

- a. Chair Zaragoza reviewed draft legislative proposal approval process. Authors of each legislative proposal provided an overview of their respective proposal.
- b. Member Goplerud moved accepting of the Solar energy legislative proposal. Member Gagnon seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 13-0-0, with Member Weisman being absent from the meeting.
- c. Member Wilber moved acceptance of the Forever Chemicals legislative proposal. Member Gagnon seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 13-0-0, with Member Weisman being absent from the meeting.
- d. Member Goplerud moved acceptance of the Plastic Bag Tax Ban legislative proposal. Member Gagnon seconded the motion. During discussion, Member Wilber made a friendly amendment to emphasize carryout bags and remove the 5 cents on paper bag, which was accepted. The motion carried by a vote of 13-0-0, with Member Weisman being absent from the meeting.
- e. Chair Zaragoza moved acceptance of the Data Center legislative proposal. Vice Chair Lanfear seconded the motion. During discussion, a friendly amendment was made to replace the phrase "quarterly reporting" with "at least annual reporting", which was

accepted. The motion was carried by a vote of 13-0-0, with Member Weisman being absent from the meeting.

- f. Member Goplerud moved acceptance of the Composting legislative proposal. Vice Chair Lanfear seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 13-0-0, with Member Weisman being absent from the meeting.
- g. Chair Zaragoza moved acceptance of the Building Energy Efficiency legislative proposal. Member Gagnon seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 13-0-0, with Member Weisman being absent from the meeting.

After voting on the legislative proposals, Chair Zaragoza recommended prioritizing the proposed legislation for the Boards consideration, which was suggested to be from top priority to least: Data Centers, Forever Chemicals, Composting, Plastic Bag Tax Ban, Building Energy Efficiency, and Solar Energy. Member Goplerud moved adoption of the legislative priorities. Member Alsegaf seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 13-0-0, with Member Weisman being absent from the meeting.

### 3. EQAC ARE Planning Discussion

Staff discussed the next steps for ARE and schedule. Staff will double-check with the BOSEC on the schedule for deliverables and verify their preference for electronic or a printed copy of the report. The question of providing printed copies at other public locations will be further evaluated. Staff will provide members with data on the number of visitors of the 2024 report from the OEEC website. Chair Zaragoza discussed planning for 2026 ARE will be required to begin early if members are still in favor of changes to the format of the report. The option for the facilitator again was presented and members were unanimously in favor of a facilitated discussion.

### 4. EQAC Representation on the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Commission (FJLEPC) discussion.

Chair Zaragoza asked if anyone on EQAC would like to take the position and in the absence of a volunteer he offered himself. Member Gagnon moved to have Chair Zaragoza as the EQAC representative on the FJLPC, Member Manlicic seconds the motion, and it carried a unanimous vote 13-0-0 with Member Weisman being the only member absent at the time of the vote.

### 5. Stream Cleanup Resolution Discussion

Chair Zaragoza introduced a draft resolution from Braddock District staff. As Member Campbell explained, the resolution was drafted by the Virginia Water Preservation Alliance, a student-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit group dedicated to preserving Virginia's waterways. The Board of Supervisors are working to pass the ceremonial resolution drafted by the group.

- a. Member Campbell moved for EQAC to draft a letter of support to the BOS on this resolution. Member Manlicic seconded the motion, and it was carried by a vote of 13-0-0, with Member Weisman not present.
6. Approval of July 9,2025 Meeting Minutes, July 9, 2025 Stream Improvements Tour Minutes, and June 18, 2025 EQAC Retreat Minutes
    - a. Vice Chair Lanfear moved adoption of the July 9, 2025 meeting minutes. Member Manlicic seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 9-0-4, with Member Weisman being absent from the meeting and Members Gagnon, Dickerson, Albright, and Campbell abstaining due to absence at the July 9, 2025 meeting.
    - b. Member Alsegaf moved adoption of the June 18, 2025 meeting minutes. Vice Chair Lanfear seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 11-0-2, with Member Weisman being absent from the meeting and Members Gagnon and Goplerud abstaining due to absence at the June 18, 2025 meeting.
    - c. Member Manlicic moved adoption of the July 9, 2025 stormwater tour meeting minutes. Member Wilber seconded the motion. A friendly amendment was made to omit Member Gubin from the attendees and then the motion was carried by a vote of 8-0-5 with Member Weisman being absent from the meeting, with Members Gagnon, Goplerud, Shah, Dickerson, and Gubin abstaining due to absence at the July 9, 2025 meeting.
7. Chair's Items
    - a. Chair Zaragoza and Vice Chair Lanfear met with Loudoun's EQAC leadership and provided a recap of the conversation. There was lots of discussion around data centers.
    - b. Chair Zaragoza mentioned the pending meeting with the FC Park Authority Board being scheduled in which interested EQAC members are attending. The meeting will be publicly noticed after being scheduled.
8. Council Member Items
    - a. Member Goplerud informed the members that the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Climate Crisis Forum is scheduled on October 5<sup>th</sup> and would be focused on data centers.
    - b. Member Gagnon provided updates from FJLPC including the annual hazmat pipeline event with a report on the event due in October. She then informed EQAC that solar panels will be delivered to Dulles airport.
9. Staff Items
    - a. Staff reminded members that legislative items with the revisions voted on incorporated into the final version are due by Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

- b. Staff announced that 21 nominations for the Environmental Excellence Awards were received, and staff would be sending them to the selection committee shortly.

10. Adjournment

- a. Meeting ended at 9:18 p.m. following a motion for adjournment by Vice Chair Lanfear, which was seconded by Member Manlicic and carried by a vote of 13-0-0, with Member Weisman not present.