

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: July 9, 2025

TIME: 7:16 p.m. – 9:35 p.m.

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

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)	A	Kathryn Alsegaf (Providence)	P
Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P (arrived at 9:20 p.m.)	Alexis Dickerson (At-Large)	A
Johna Gagnon (Franconia)	A	Eric Goplerud (At-Large)	V
Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	P	Andreana Lin (At-Large)	V
Kersey Manlicic (At-Large)	P	Nishka Shah (Student Member)	V
Rich Weisman (Sully)	P	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	V (left at 8:58 p.m.)

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

Staff Attendance

Matt Meyers Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)
Maggie Beetstra (OEEC)
Kelly Zitzer (OEEC)
Kate Daley (OEEC)
John Silcox (OEEC)
Jodi Calmbacher, Director, Stormwater Management (DPWES)
Paul Reynolds, Asst Division Director, Stormwater Management (DPWES)
Charles Smith, Stormwater Management (DPWES)
Andrea Lewis, Supervisor Walkinshaw's Office
Soren Trimble, Supervisor Walkinshaw's Office
Brian Nolte, Supervisor Smith's Office
Elliot Meyer, Supervisor Storck's Office
Willie Woode, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD)

Visitor Attendance

Stella Koch

Call to Order

Chair Zaragoza called the meeting to order at 7:16 pm

Chair Zaragoza introduced the requirements to allow EQAC to meet virtually. He asked that all members attending virtually 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: 468 054 506#. The motion was moved by Dr. Weisman, seconded by Vice-Chair Lanfear, and carried with a vote of 6-0-0.

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Public Comment Period

No members of the public made comments.

2. Stormwater Updates Presentation

- a. Mr. Reynolds of DPWES delivered a presentation on Fairfax County's stream restoration work, with emphasis on recent projects at the Fairfax County Government Center. Topics covered included progress toward the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), benthic surveys as a measure of impairment, sediment and nutrient reductions, invasive species management, community-driven restoration priorities, and design considerations. Fairfax County has met the 2028 MS4 requirement. The County also has local TMDLs to address streams and water bodies. Restoration techniques have evolved over the last several decades as more is learned. Geology, hydrology, and biology are all considered in evaluating streams. Projects are well distributed across the county and the community vulnerability index is included as part of project prioritization. Community requests and issues like trail erosion and utility impairment also influence priorities. Work is funded through the storm water service district tax as well as state grants which have totaled around \$60 million. Mr. Reynolds also clarified that the Virginia Department of Transportation has separate TMDL requirements and they are making progress. Stormwater Management also works with the Department of Planning and Development to identify potential stream impairments that could result from proposed development. Stormwater management seeks to work cooperatively with private owners when land is sought for stream restoration and while the county can acquire land by eminent domain for stream restoration, the county has not done so.
- b. Mr. Wilber stressed the importance of focusing on community benefit rather than the continued framing of projects around Chesapeake Bay goals given Fairfax's compliance and given the approximate ballpark cost of \$1500 per linear foot of restoration. He also complemented the recent PFAS report done by the Department and praised the techniques being used in the restorations.

- c. Ms. Alsegaf inquired about invasive species management and legacy infrastructure like gabion baskets. Mr. Reynolds discussed how invasive species monitoring is planned for three years but sometimes extends beyond that. Stream restoration sites are also inspected at 5 years. Gabions are sometimes needed due to proximity to existing structures.
- d. Dr. Goplerud asked about stream design stability considering future climate and land use changes. Staff mentioned design longevity, improved vegetation strategies, and adaptive monitoring.
- e. Ms. Koch praised the work of the Stream Restoration team.

3. 2026 Legislative Proposals

- a. Chair Zaragoza reminded members that the pre-read included information about the format for legislative proposals. He asked that members review the county's programs on the web and consider what may be missing and to focus on recommendations in the Annual Report on the Environment (ARE). Topics mentioned for potential legislative proposals from EQAC were discussed including data center reporting, building energy efficiency, and proposals from Dr. Goplerud on a plastic bag ban and authorization for food waste composting. Mr. Wilber discussed a possible proposal to ban PFAS in personal care products and Mr. Wilber and Dr. Goplerud agreed to work together on including this topic in the ARE as well. Already drafted proposals not yet circulated will be sent out after the meeting and a request was made to include a link to the county's legislative program. Chair Zaragoza indicated he will circulate drafts of any additional proposals for review ahead of the August submission deadline.
- b. EQAC's deadline for submission is August 14th, the day after the next EQAC meeting.

4. Memorandum: Battery Energy Storage Systems

- a. Chair Zaragoza introduced a draft memo on battery energy storage systems. Ms. Alsegaf had proposed an addition on transitional screening after initial circulation of the memo. Mr. Wilbur also proposed a change to acknowledge concern over fire and safety. Both changes were incorporated.
- b. Dr. Manliclic moved adoption of the memo as amended. Mr. Gubin seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0-0, with Mr. Campbell absent from the meeting during the vote.

5. Reimagining the Annual Report on the Environment

- a. Mr. Silcox, OEEC's Public Information Officer, was in attendance to answer questions about possible options for converting the Annual Report on the

Environment (ARE) into a web-based format. Ideas discussed included hybrid models, staggered updates, and external linking. Mr. Silcox noted that he would need more details be able to speak to the level of effort required and any related workload concerns.

- b. Possible web formats discussed in more detail included the effort required to manage updates and the need for the ARE as a tool for promoting community understanding. The discussion covered that this year's report is clearly identifying priority recommendations, considering audiences (Board of Supervisors, County Executives and Staff and the public), the need for justification for the recommendations, the need for an opening that sets the context, and an emphasis on succinctness. All agreed the format is evolving and a request was made to further explore moving certain components to the web for next year. Chapters need to be completed by August to keep to schedule.
 - c. County Staff agreed they will circulate the web metrics from last years ARE.
 - d. Chair Zaragoza and Vice-Chair Lanfear will circulate a note summarizing the approach for this year.
6. Approval of June 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- a. By a motion made by Ms. Alsegaf, seconded by Vice-Chair Lanfear the regular EQAC monthly minutes for June 11, 2025 were approved with a vote of 9-0-0 (with Mr. Wilber having left the meeting and Mr. Campbell not yet present).
7. Chair's Items
- a. Chair Zaragoza noted that the Park Authority asked if EQAC members would be interested in a meeting to discuss budget. Let Chair Zaragoza know if interested in attending such a meeting.
 - b. The Sully District Citizens Association had reached out to Chair Zaragoza as they were holding a meeting on data centers. Chair Zaragoza attended and shared EQAC's resolutions on data centers.
 - c. Minutes from the June 18, 2025 EQAC retreat were provided in paper to all in attendance and will be sent out electronically. Chair Zaragoza asked all to review for technical accuracy and also to consider the ground rules established for the retreat and how we may want to continue using those in meetings going forward.
8. Council Member Items
- a. Vice-Chair Lanfear noted the Sierra Club issued a report on data centers in Virginia and quoted the 2024 ARE section on data centers and water use verbatim. He also noted that the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin is expecting to come out with a water use report in August 2025.

- b. Dr. Goplerud thought it would be beneficial if the OEEC could give EQAC a briefing on the impact or expected impact of the Federal government cutbacks. He also indicated he thought EQAC should be briefed again on the update to the Comprehensive Plan. Updates to Plan Forward are due out in the fall with a public comment period following release. Chair Zaragoza agreed to coordinate with Dr. Goplerud to follow up with the Planning Commission on this.
- c. Mr. Campbell informed members that there is an upcoming meeting on the Lake Accotink Preservation Feasibility Study at Kings Glen Elementary School in Springfield next Saturday (July 19).

9. Staff Items

- a. Dr. Beetstra reminded members the August meeting is fully virtual and asked members who were at the retreat to fill out the survey provided on the Woodlands Stewardship Education Center and return it to her.
Dr. Beetstra noted former EQAC members Stella Koch and George Lamb were interviewed for the EnviroPod podcast this week to reflect on their time on EQAC. Both will be honored by Chairman McKay at the Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday, July 15th. The podcast link will be sent out to members.
- b. Ms. Zitzer reminded members of the importance of providing her any materials for upcoming EQAC meetings no later than the Wednesday before the meeting to allow sufficient time for the public to review. She requested that materials not provided by that deadline be brought to the meeting for distribution.
- c. Mr. Meyers reminded members of the AC Rescue program to help obtain air conditioners for low- and moderate-income Fairfax County residents who do not qualify for other cooling programs. He also highlighted the new Energy Compass program which is a concierge service to help residents navigate energy efficiency upgrades. Members will be provided the web link to both and are encouraged to share them.

10. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 9:35 p.m. following a motion for adjournment by Dr. Weisman, which was seconded by Dr. Manlicic and carried by a vote of 10-0-0 (Mr. Wilber being absent for this vote).