

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

DATE: December 14, 2022

TIME: 7:15pm – 10:19pm

LOCATION: Online / Microsoft Teams

EQAC Member Attendance

Name	Present Absent*	Name	Present Absent*
Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	P	Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon)	P
Johna Gagnon (Franconia/Lee)	P	Renee Grebe (At-Large)	P
Richard Healy (Mason)	P	Jacob Hammond (Student Member)	P
Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	A
Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P
Elisa Meara (Providence)	P	Mike Zatz (At-Large)	P
Rich Weisman (Sully)	P	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	P

* P indicates present; A indicates absent

Staff Attendance

1. Neely Law (OEEC)
2. Matthew Meyers (OEEC)
3. Austin Gastrell (DPD)
4. Michael Davis (LDS)
5. Sara Girello (OEEC)

Guest Attendance

1. Willie Woode (NVSWCD)
2. Eric Goplerud (Faith Alliance)
3. Rick J.

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Electronic meeting findings and determinations

Chairman turned over gavel to Vice Chair Larry Zaragoza. Stella Koch read the electronic meeting findings and determinations to state that the Environmental Quality Advisory Council was meeting electronically due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

MOTION to Approve: Stella/Clyde 13-0-0

2. Parking Reimagined presentation (Austin Gastrell, DPD and Michael Davis, LDS)
Developing parking regulations that work with diverse land use in Fairfax County. Started initially in October 2021. Focused on equity, affordability, environment, land use site design, and economics. Includes parking for bicycles. Calculation of off-street parking. More flexible for shopping centers and office use. Made available for public review in 2022 for the community through Supervisors' Town Hall meetings. A Parking Reimagined white paper is available on the Fairfax County Government website. In 2023 there will be an open house and public hearings. February 14 the Board of Supervisor's Land Use Policy Committee will have presentation. The website (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/zoning-ordinance/parkingreimagined>) has project details, FAQ, and presentation. Stella commented that parking hasn't been looked at since 1978 and there is a trend to look at parking. Asked if staff looked at surrounding jurisdictions: Loudoun County, Alexandria City, Montgomery County.
3. Update on CECAP Implementation Plan (Neely Law and Matt Myers, OEEC) First ever Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction plan developed by and for the community. Presentation on how CECAP related to other environmental plans and policies. Goal is to be Carbon Neutral by 2050; Fairfax County Carbon Neutral by 2040. All GHG inventory came from the Metro Council of Government (COG). Reduction has already been seen and the Grid is getting cleaner. Three approaches for community bases approach to implementations: climate champion, community programs, county government operations including schools. There are pilots for: Faith based and nonprofits, business and industry, and industrial outreach.
Sara mentioned the Board of Supervisor Environment Committee web page and the December 13 committee meeting. The CECAP Implementation Plan Action Table has 99 actions overall with 61 ongoing.
4. 2023 ARE Follow up discussion and 2022 ARE Priorities
Stella and Larry reported on meeting with Supervisor Storck. The Board of Supervisors wants to focus on a few recommendations by EQAC that will need a lot of work to be implemented. This year's Annual Report on the Environment had 29 recommendations. The Board wants to know which recommendations are new and which are priority recommendations. However, in order to help move recommendations that are stalled, perhaps because it is unclear how the recommendation could be implemented, the Board is asking County staff to work with EQAC on a few, perhaps 2-4 recommendations, so that progress will be made on these priority recommendations. This process would not drop recommendations but would prioritize the top 2-4 recommendation in a particular year. The Board and Staff are trying to make the process more efficient. Stella suggested EQAC pick four and asked what EQAC members think are the four most important. Discussion on recommendations that require funding should go to the Board of Supervisors via a memo. **DECISION:** Larry, and maybe George (absent), will work on to bring back to January EQAC meeting.

5. Discussion on issues (CECAP, Living Shorelines) (Clyde and Larry)

New guidance that came out by the Fairfax County Wetlands Board. Fairfax County has tidal shorelines. Since the 2020 law, Living Shorelines requires where suitable. Stella said EQAC commented in August as part of the proposed legislative agenda where the Board of Supervisors decided to keep an eye on how the legislation is implemented; and EQAC will continue to as well.

6. Consideration of Support of Tree Commission letter (Bryan and Renee) The Tree Commission is discussing how to improve the tree canopy. The Tree Commission submitted a letter to the Board of Supervisors and Renee drafted a letter in support for discussion and approval. The topic is on linear projects being exempt and if this a requirement for the county or not. Ken L. asked if stream restoration would qualify under the Chesapeake Ordinance; and the answer was they don't apply. Discussion of memo Renee drafted. Rich W. commented about offsetting environmental improvements. Larry suggested changing memo to give more context or attach the original correspondence from the Tree Commission. It was agreed that the original correspondence would be attached to EQAC's letter. **MOTION to Approve** memo with a few changes: Renee/Rick H **12-0-1**

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOVED to Approve both sets of minutes - April 13, 2022 and November 9, 2022: Clyde/Rich W. **12-0-1**. One correction was to remove the "TBD" on Nov 9, page 1 for Staff Attendees.

8. Chairman's items

January, EQAC will vote for Chairman and Vice-Chairman. George is handling the nominations. Several people have indicated interest.

9. Council members items

Renee, Larry, Ken L., Rich W., Jacob – nothing to report

Bryan– announced there will be a January 10 meeting on updates from the Charles Smith presentation about the Long Branch Central Watershed Management Area Project.

Ken G – asked if there was an update on his request last month for EQAC to be able to use Zoom instead of Microsoft Teams. Staff replied that their office has access to WebEx, but not Zoom. EQAC could change to WebEx. Several members commented that Microsoft Teams and WebEx were similar. After some discussion including what issues resulted in preferring Zoom, it was recommended Council members with questions or problems contact Sara for assistance with Microsoft Teams.

MOTION to Stay with the county's platform Microsoft Team: Clyde/Ken L. **12-1-0**

Asked about required notice to move from in-person to virtual meeting. Sara Girello said, after checking with the County Attorney's office, EQAC will need advertise at least 3 days in advance. It may be possible for special or emergency to get the meeting moved with less than 3 days' notice. The chairman noted if that were to happen, the meeting probably be cancelled. She could only recall of couple meetings being cancelled in the past couple decades, and usually the county offices were closed for the weather or emergency.

Rick H.– announced Supervisor Penny Gross will be retiring the end of 2023 and recognized her major contributions to the environment.

Michael Z.– announced he will not be in attendance at the January 11, 2023 EQAC meeting.

Elisa–announced she will not be in attendance at the January 11, 2023 EQAC meeting but may participate remotely if allowed

Clyde–announced the Wetlands Board has 2 openings and is looking for people to apply

Johna –announced a link to EQAC website was added on the FJLEPC website. She emailed to Staff for distribution to members the highlights from the Dec 8 FJLEPC meeting & the approved minutes for the Oct 11 FJLEPC mtg. Also announced she was reappointed by the Board of Supervisors to EQAC.

10. Staff items

Neely will send out the FJLEPC email with minutes. She will send out links to CECAP and the white papers. The 2023 meeting dates will be on the EQAC website.

Neely provided information about the January 11 Public Comment meeting and shared the flyer/meeting notice for distribution. Speakers (in-person, phone, or video) signup must be done by January 6. Speakers will speak in the order they signup.

Note takers are needed for 2023 EQAC meetings.

2 people are needed to take notes for the January 11 meeting.

Announced staff change: Kelly Z. is replacing Kelly N

Matt and Sara – nothing to report

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:19 PM.