

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

**JOINT MEETING WITH THE FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE: February 27, 2024**

**TIME: 11:00 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.**

**LOCATION: 12000 Government Center Pkwy  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
Conference Room 11**

**EQAC Member Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present/ Absent*</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present/ Absent*</b>
Larry Zaragoza (Chair, Mount Vernon)	P	Renee Grebe (At-Large)	P
Johna Gagnon (Franconia)	A	Stella Koch (At-Large)	A
Richard Healy (Mason)	A	Oaklen Kalinichenko (Student Member)	A
Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	A	George Lamb (At-Large)	A
Ken Lanfear (Vice-Chair, Hunter Mill)	P	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P
<i>Vacant</i> (Providence)	-	Eric Goplerud (At-Large)	P
Rich Weisman (Sully)	A	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	P

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

**Board of Supervisors Member Attendance:**

Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay  
 Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn, Hunter Mill District  
 Supervisor James N. Bierman, Jr., Dranesville District  
 Supervisor Patrick S. Herrity, Springfield District  
 Supervisor Andres F. Jimenez, Mason District (Committee Vice-Chairman)  
 Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District  
 Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik, Providence District  
 Supervisor Kathy L. Smith, Sully District  
 Supervisor Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon District  
 Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District (Committee Chairman)

**Staff Attendance**

John Morrill (OEEC)  
 Bryan J. Hill, County Executive  
 Beth Teare, County Attorney

The Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee (BOSEC) invited EQAC members to discuss EQAC’s Annual Report on the Environment as a part of its meeting’s agenda. This meeting was advertised as a meeting of EQAC as three or more members of EQAC planned to attend. This summary summarizes the full BOSEC meeting as three or more EQAC members

may have been present and listening to the meeting prior to and after EQAC's role on the agenda.

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

Committee Chairman Walkinshaw called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

#### **1. EQAC Annual Report on the Environment**

Chair Zaragoza presented the 2023 Annual Report on the Environment (ARE). He presented EQAC's top recommendation to update the employee compensation policy for areas with critical staff shortages such as wastewater and solid waste to attract and retain employees. Additional recommendations included minimizing ecological degradation from development pressure, budgeting and implementing a Zero Waste Plan for the public, adopting a public plan that shows how climate goals are being implemented and achieved, and planning and implementing an electric vehicle (EV) charging network for county residents.

Chair Zaragoza presented the budget priorities in the ARE to set the wastewater treatment fee rate to meet upgrade and maintenance needs for the wastewater collection system and to increase the Stormwater Service District rate in 2024 by at least one-quarter penny, from 3.25 to 3.50 cents per \$100. He then shared EQAC's proposed topics to review in 2024.

Committee Chairman Walkinshaw emphasized the need for EQAC to work with the Planning Commission on the Policy Plan. Chairman McKay commented on the need to increase public awareness of the county's climate goals and progress and asked that EQAC look at the Climate Action Dashboard and consider how it might be augmented. He asked EQAC to look at federal incentives for the maintenance of EV charging infrastructure as well as considerations for the legislative packet that could help address this issue. He noted that EQAC's priority recommendation on environmental degradation needs to account for the older parts of the county in need of revitalization.

Supervisor Bierman recommended that tree preservation and infill development be added to EQAC's list of things to consider, as it relates to the top recommendation in the 2023 ARE. Vice Chair, Ken Lanfear, agreed that tree canopy is a critical issue and noted that tree cover is one of the biggest indicators of heat islands, a concern for low-income communities. Supervisor Jimenez commented on EQAC's budget priorities, noting that any recommended cost increases should be implemented equitably. Supervisor Lusk also commented on the budget priorities, acknowledging the need for compensation for staff. On the tree canopy issue, Supervisor Lusk added that this is a particular concern for mobile home parks and manufactured housing communities in his district. He also noted a need to coordinate resiliency and water needs on military bases in the county.

Supervisor Palchik asked for EQAC's help in engaging with the community on the county's climate goals, particularly in opportunity areas. Supervisor Storck added that the county cannot achieve its climate goals without cross-sector community engagement. He thinks this is an opportunity where EQAC could do more to build lines of connection and community climate champions.

Supervisor Alcorn asked EQAC to consider efficiencies or needs for interdepartmental coordination in county programming and services.

Chair Zaragoza expressed the council's intention to pursue committee suggestions.

2. Climate Action Progress Update

John Morrill, Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) updated BOSEC on the county's climate action progress.

3. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

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