

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: July 10, 2024

TIME: 7:15 p.m. – 9:27 p.m.

**LOCATION: 12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Conference Room 4/5**

EQAC Member Attendance

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

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

Staff Attendance

Matthew Meyers, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)

Neely Law (OEEC)

Kelly Zitzer (OEEC)

Maggie Beetstra (OEEC)

Chris Herrington, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES)

Matt Adams (DPWES)

Chris McGough, Department of Procurement and Material Management (DPMM)

Samantha Lee (DPMM)

Visitor Attendance

Call to Order

Chair Zaragoza called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Approval of Updated All-Virtual Meeting and Remote Participation Policies

- a. Chair Zaragoza explained the need to adopt the Updated All-Virtual Meeting and Remote Participation Policies and asked for a motion to approve both policies. Ms. Gagon moved adoption and Mr. Healy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (12-0-0) with Dr. Goplerud being absent.

2. Public Comment Period

No member of the public requested to speak.

3. Presentation on the Solid Waste Management Plan

CECAP calls for 90% diversion of waste by 2040, and currently 43.9% of the county waste is diverted from the waste stream. 83% of the municipal solid waste must be diverted to reach the CECAP goal and the 83% of waste is the projected amount of divertible material in the waste stream. Need to target 100% the waste stream to meet the 90% goal. Today we have about 1,176,000 tons of waste now and if nothing is done we expect to have 1,408,000 tons by 2050.

County residents produce currently 5 pounds of waste per day and implementation of the CECAP 90% diversion would reduce waste to 0.5 lbs. per person per day.

Matt Adams, Director of the Solid Waste Management Program, presented the briefing. Have 6 large strategies: Education, Engagement, and Enforcement; Unified Sanitation Districts, Mandatory Recycling and Composting, Pay as You Throw, Comprehensive Commercial and Multifamily Programs and Zero Waste Centers.

Volume is 600,000 tons of waste right now that goes to Covanta. We currently do not have infrastructure to process this waste. NEEDS Regional Compost facilities. Community Zero Waste Centers in each magisterial district. Looking at localized food processing for composting. Organics make up about 30% of the waste that goes to Covanta. Also need Material Recovery Facilities.

Timeline of Milestones shown to DEQ 4/16/2025. In August community wide survey will be out August 1 to Oct 1. Expect delivery of plan to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality in April of 2025.

Some questions:

Ms. Gagnon asked about pay as you go. Said Diaper brigade beat it back last time. And what about churches (cannot be mandated).

Ms. Koch asked about funding. Is run and will continue to run as enterprise fund. Will stay with single stream? Looking for more source separation to get more "clean material" but breaking that behavior will take time.

Dr. Weisman asked about schools. It would be good to have the schools do all of this.

Mr. Wilber asked about losing material to burn as more is recycled and Director Herrington explained that is a tension.

Mr. Wilber also asked about weighing at the curb and just charge per container. Mr. Adams responded that the county is trying to stay away from weighing at the curb, but a container would work.

Director Herrington further noted that if we were to achieve CECAP goal we would be the first in the nation to do so and it would be at a cost is hundreds of millions of dollars. Some cities have achieved 75% diversions. Require more money and more people.

At this point Dr. Weisman introduced our new student member, Joseph Tso.

Also, Mr. Meyers then noted that Dr. Law will be moving on and Maggie Beetstra will be the primary point of contact for EQAC.

4. Member Remote Participation

Chair Zaragoza then announced that Dr. Eric Goplerud had requested to participate in the meeting remotely. Chair Zaragoza read the remote participation language requirements and asked Dr. Goplerud to state his name, location, and reason for remote attendance. Dr. Goplerud shared that he was participating remotely from a Massachusetts due to travel.

5. Presentation on Zero Waste

Ms. Lee provided an update on the county Zero Waste Program. The program calls for a 25 percent reduction of waste from 2018 levels and 90 percent diversion of solid waste from being disposed of as trash. The Zero Waste Team conducted audits this year and found a 45 percent contamination rate. Follow-up and training will be undertaken to address the contamination.

6. Draft Memo for the Countywide Flood Risk Reduction Policy

Chair Zaragoza introduced the memo.

- a. Mr. Healy motioned adoption of the memo, which was seconded by Ms. Gagnon. The motion passed with a vote of 10-0-0 (Mr. Wilber left the meeting and Dr. Weisman stepped out of the room and Mr. Gubin being absent from the meeting)

7. Draft Memo for Data Center Ordinance

Ms. Koch identified a sentence that she found confusing. Ms. Koch offered comment that the language be adjusted to say that data centers should not adversely impact nearby population. Dr. Goplerud then noted that environmental goals should not be negatively impacted.

Mr. Healy moved adoption of the memorandum with adjustments to the language highlighted by Ms. Koch and Dr. Goplerud. Ms. Koch seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 11-0-0, with Mr. Gubin, Mr. Campbell, and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting.

EQAC also agreed to Chair Zaragoza speaking to the Board of Supervisors on EQAC's comments.

8. ARE Progress Discussion and Presentation

Mr. Lanfear asked each chapter author to review their status with an emphasis on asking if anyone needs help.

- Land Use- George....way behind. will be ready for September
- Transportation Rich (thanks Eric) will share draft in August...most recommendations restatements
- Water --Ken, Clyde and Stella be done with Chapter for August. lead in 1% of schools. Is in school spotlight.
- Waste---not done until September...BOS wants options.
- Parks and Ecological Resources -hoped to be ready by August
- Climate and Energy looking at August
- Air Quality - Rick Healy ready for August.
- Scorecard. Template is needed.
- Mr. Tso will prepare the cover to the ARE and Staff will support him with questions.

9. 2024 Legislative Proposals

- a. Ms. Grebe moved adoption of the conservation landscaping in common interest communities proposal. Ms. Koch seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0-0, with Mr. Campbell, Mr. Gubin, and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting.
- b. Ms. Grebe moved adoption of the solar energy collection on buildings and parking lots proposal. Ms. Koch seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0-0, with Mr. Campbell, Mr. Gubin, and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting.
- c. Dr. Goplerud moved adoption of the require public quarterly reporting of data center energy and water use proposal. Dr. Weisman seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0-0, with Mr. Campbell, Mr. Gubin, and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting.
- d. Ms. Koch moved adoption of the cost sharing in the interconnection of private solar energy generation proposal. Dr. Goplerud seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0-0, with Mr. Campbell, Mr. Gubin, and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting.
- e. Dr. Goplerud motioned adoption of the building energy use benchmarking proposal. Dr. Weisman seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0-0, with Mr. Campbell, Mr. Gubin, and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting.
- f. Ms. Gagnon motioned adoption of the revised statewide building energy efficiency standards. Dr. Goplerud seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0-0, with Mr. Campbell, Mr. Gubin, and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting.

10. Approval of March 13, 2024, April 17, 2024, May 8, 2024, June 12, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes and May 8, 2024 Joint Meeting with the Park Authority Board Minutes

- a. Dr. Weisman motioned adoption of the March 13 meeting minutes. Chair Zaragoza seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 7-0-3, with Mr. Tso, Dr. Goplerud, and Ms. Gagnon abstaining (Mr. Campbell, Mr. Gubin, and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting).
- b. Dr. Weisman motioned adoption of the April 7 meeting minutes. Mr. Lamb seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 7-0-0, with Mr. Tso, Dr.

Goplerud, and Ms. Gagnon abstaining (Mr. Campbell, Mr. Gubin, and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting).

- c. Ms. Gagnon motioned adoption of the June 12 meeting minutes. Ms. Koch seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0-0, with Mr. Tso, Dr. Goplerud, Dr. Weisman, and Mr. Lanfear abstaining (Mr. Campbell, Mr. Gubin, and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting).

11. Chair's Items

Chair Zaragoza noted preparation for the September meeting with VDOT and county agencies. He also noted that he will work with Commissioner Cortina to provide some additional guidance for EQAC members to prepare information for the Environmental Policy review.

12. Council Member Items

Ms. Gagnon reported that FJLPC will be looking at fire hazards of lithium batteries in transport from fire risk. Ms. Grebe noted that we should seek an update on Lake Accotink and the Tree Canopy status.

13. Staff Items

Mr. Meyers highlighted the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Committee on July 23.

14. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 9:27 p.m. following a motion for adjournment was offered by Dr. Weisman and seconded by Mr. Lamb. The motion carried by a vote of 10-0-0, with Mr. Campbell, Mr. Gubin, and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting.