

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

**WETLANDS BOARD MEETING WITH EQAC ATTENDANCE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE: January 30, 2024**

**TIME: 7:00 p.m. – 8:05 p.m.**

**LOCATION: Gerry Hyland Government Center  
Room 217 (Mount Zephyr)  
8350 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309**

**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)	A
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)	A	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)*	P
<i>Vacant</i> (Providence)	A	Eric Goplerud (At-Large)	A
Rich Weisman (Sully)	A	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)*	P

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

**Wetlands Board Attendance**

Kim Larkin (virtual)  
John Collins (virtual)  
R. Dean Costello  
Bert Cramer  
Steve Shappell  
Clyde Wilber\* (also serves on EQAC)  
Bryan Campbell\* (also serves on EQAC)

**Others in Attendance**

Katie Hermann, Department of Planning and Development  
Marc Gori, Office of the County Attorney (virtual)  
Khadijah Payne, Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
Larry Zaragoza\* (also serves on EQAC)  
Jason Kelley

This meeting of the Wetlands Board was advertised as a meeting of EQAC as three or more members of EQAC planned to attend. Three members of EQAC did attend, two of which serve on the Wetlands Board, which constituted an EQAC meeting. However, the meeting held was chaired by the Wetlands Board Chairman and the agenda was that of the Wetlands Board. Chair Zaragoza of EQAC provided comment during the meeting to encourage outreach so that tidal waterfront property owners can understand expectations and to recommend that Wetland Board

decisions on properties include operation and maintenance provisions, especially for living shorelines.

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

Chair Wilber called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Wetlands Board voted on their Chair and Vice Chair.

#### 1. Future Tidal Wetlands Outreach in 2024

The Wetlands Board held discussion on future tidal wetlands outreach in 2024.

Chair Wilber suggested that the county promote living shorelines by making the installation of living shorelines easier for tidal wetlands property owners.

Chair Wilber described the following proposals:

- *“First Reduce the Burden by calling on DPD and LDS to work together to do the following:
  - o Create a County Checklist covering Chapters 116, 118, and any other areas of regulations impacting a living shoreline application.
  - o Provide One permit application for all County Regulations where a living shoreline is proposed.
  - o Provide maximum possible reduction in application burden where a Living shoreline is proposed.
  - o Provide a Model permit that demonstrates what is needed in an application and guides the applicant to the required information.”*
- *Conduct Outreach
  - o Internal to County Staff – publish a permit writers guide.
  - o Yearly Mailing to all tidal wetlands owners
  - o Yearly Public Outreach information meetings”*

The Wetlands Board heard from two speakers, Chair Zaragoza of EQAC and Jason Kelley, noted below, and discussed the following:

- Floodplain impacts or possible implications, and how this may relate to the County’s Code Chapter 118
- The role of different county agencies between the implementation of County’s Code Chapter 118 and 116.
- Difference in submission requirements for County’s Code Chapter 118 and 116.
- The county Tax Dept might be able to communicate this in yearly mailings.
- Encouraging Wetlands Board members to meet with the Supervisor who appointed them on this topic.

EQAC Chair Zaragoza noted concerns about property loss for living shorelines projects and noted the need for residents to be able to maintain living shorelines in the long-term.

Jason Kelley spoke about his experiences of working through proposed projects through County's Code Chapter 118 and 116.

The Wetlands Board took a vote to support Chair Wilber's proposal. The motion and vote were both approved unanimously, with no abstentions.

2. Permit Application Coordination with the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Ordinance

Chapter 118 is being updated (Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Ordinance) by the county's Department of Land Development Services (LDS). In 2020, the General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia requiring changes in the ordinance, which the county has to adopt by October 2024. Tidal wetlands are included in this coordination. These changes will allow living shorelines to be implemented in Fairfax County. LDS is hosting a Town Hall meeting to discuss this, and the Board must adopt it by the end of September 2024.

3. Status Update of Routing Permit Applications

Katie Hermann presented a map and gave updates on routing permit applications for 9437 Ferry Landing Court and 5201 Burke Drive.

The Wetlands Board then went into Closed Session at 8:05 p.m. and at that time EQAC Chair Zaragoza left the meeting. The Wetlands Board came out from Closed Session, requested that Marc Gori review their October 12, 2023 meeting minutes, and then Chair Wilber adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.