

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

DATE: September 14, 2022

TIME: 7:15pm – 10:44pm

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 (Lee)	P	Renee Grebe (At-Large)	P
Richard Healy (Mason)	P	Jacob Hammond (Student Member)	P
Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	P
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. Craig Carinci (DPWES)
4. Catherine Torgersen (DPWES)
5. Joanne Fiebe (DPD)
6. Katherine Hermann (DPD)
7. Brian Keightley (UFMD)
8. Hugh Whitehead (UFMD)

Visitor Attendance

1. Cindy Speas
2. Jeanne Kadet
3. Perry Rhodes

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Electronic meeting findings and determinations

Chairman 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.

2. DPWES Flood-Risk Reduction & Floodplain Plan Presentation

Craig Carinci (Director, Stormwater Planning Division of the Department of Public Works & Environmental Services (DPWES)) presented to council. Discussion topics included a look at recent significant storms and their financial impact in terms of the cost to the county in terms of repairs, increased flooding relating to changing land use conditions (e.g. increased impervious cover) especially due to infill, floodplain encroachment, inadequate overland flow, and with climate change projected to make stormwater impacts even worse. The county cannot eliminate flood risk, but it can reduce

risk to life and property. Strategies to do so include regulations, programs, and projects. The county will incorporate resiliency and equity into these regulations, programs, and projects. Following Board approval of the proposed level of service, staff will initiate the countywide flood risk reduction plan. Staff is aiming to present information to the Board in the spring of 2023. Mr. Carinci took questions from council members.

3. DPD and UFMD Proposed Alternative Tree Planting Standards for Urban Trees
JoAnne Fiebe (Urban Designer, Office of Community Revitalization, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)) and Brian Keightley (Director, Urban Forestry Management Division, DPWES) presented to council. Discussion of the new proposed alternative tree planting standards included where the new standards would apply, the goal of planting more street trees, the roles of trees in urban areas (e.g. mitigate heat island affects), what the various levels of standards would be, and visual examples of planting which would and would not qualify. Staff took questions from council members.

4. 2022 Annual Report on the Environment (ARE) updates

Council discussed the timeline for finalized remaining chapters and scorecard content. Council also discussed the content for the ARE introduction. Upon remaining content being finalized, member should email Ms. Grebe. Ms. Grebe will combine the content and format a draft report to be emailed to Ms. Law during the week of September 18th, 2022. Ms. Law will provide final formatting and review prior to publication.

Mr. Lamb presented the Land Use chapter and moved that it be accepted as discussed. Mr. Wilber seconded. Council passed the motion unanimously.

Mr. Wilber presented the Waste Management chapter and moved that it be accepted as discussed. Mr. Lanfear seconded. Council passed the motion unanimously.

Mr. Zaragoza presented the Climate & Energy chapter and discussed clarification on CECAP priorities (Strategy 5). The CECAP priorities stand as approved from the August meeting.

5. Environmental Excellence Awards

Mr. Zatz presented the selections for the awards. For county employees, three people were nominated: Dr. Katie Edwards, Charles Smith, and Brandy Mueller. For county residents, two people were nominated: Elizabeth Lardner and Will Friedman. Mr. Wilber moved that the selections made by the committee be accepted and Mr. Zatz seconded. Council passed the motion unanimously.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Wilber moved to accept the August 10, 2022 EQAC meeting minutes as written. Mr. Zaragoza seconded. Council passed the motion unanimously.

7. Chairman's items

The Chairman had no items for discussion.

8. Council members items

Ms. Gagnon highlighted that the Board's September 12, 2022 meeting included a discussion of waste management challenges in the county.

Mr. Wilber reported that the Fairfax County Wetlands Board has draft tidal wetlands guidelines out for review, with a new policy likely by October 5, 2022. He anticipates responding to those documents. Mr. Wilber also suggested topic ideas for letters/memos to the Board of Supervisors such as informing homeowners of being in the floodplain, suggesting tree planting standards include stormwater BMPs, information about PFOS and PFAS, transmission of climate change priorities, and follow up from UFMD regarding the alternative tree planting standards.

Ms. Grebe proposed that EQAC and the Tree Commission work together to draft a response letter regarding the alternative tree planting standards presented at tonight's meeting and at the September 1, 2022 Tree Commission meeting. Ms. Grebe will collaborate with Tree Commission and bring a draft to the October 12, 2022 meeting. Mr. Zaragoza offered to review the draft letter and assist with editing.

Mr. Healy announced that the Tree Commission and UFMD staff will be hosting the next "Community of Practice" Zoom meeting on September 28, 2022. This meeting brings together Tree Commissioners, county staff from a diverse set of departments, non-profit organizations and others to discuss trees.

Mr. Lamb encouraged EQAC members to talk to the Supervisor of the district they represent and to think of yourself as one of their team. He courage members to speak with them whenever the opportunity arises (e.g. summer concerts, events).

9. Staff items

Ms. Law updated council on possible changes to meeting virtually and that council may be returning to in-person before the end later this year. Upon returning to in-person, in order to convene a meeting, seven members must be physically present at the meeting. Members may be able to attend virtually if approved by EQAC (e.g. physical impediment of more than 60 miles, family member's medical care). Fully-virtual meetings are still permitted, but there can be no more than 3 in a year and they cannot be consecutive. Ms. Law also raised the question of when the best time would be to present the ARE to the Board. Options included November 1, 2022 or December 6, 2022 at a full Board of Supervisors meeting or December 13, 2022 at a Board Environmental Committee. Ms. Law will reach inquire and provide an update at the October meeting.

10. Adjournment

10:44pm (Moved by Mr. Zaragoza, seconded by Mr. Lanfear)