

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

**MEETING MINUTES
DATE: June 14, 2023
TIME: 7:16 p.m. – 9:49 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	Renee Grebe (Vice-Chair, At-Large)	P
Johna Gagnon (Franconia)	V	Stella Koch (At-Large)	A
Richard Healy (Mason)	P	Jacob Hammond (Student Member)	A
Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	P
Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P
<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)
Sara Girello (OEEC)
Kelly Zitzer (OEEC)
John Morrill (OEEC)
Sara Morgan, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
Carmen Bishop (DPD)
Bill Mayland (DPD)
Corine Bebek, (DPD)
Matthew Hansen, Land Development Services (LDS)

Visitor Attendance

Tyler Ray

Call to Order/Remote Participation

Chair Zaragoza called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. and announced that Ms. Gagnon had requested to participate in the meeting remotely. Chair Zaragoza read the remote participation language requirements and asked Ms. Gagnon to state her name, location, and reason for remote attendance. Ms. Gagnon shared that she was participating remotely from her home in Franconia due to a medical condition. Mr. Lanfear moved to allow Ms. Gagnon to participate remotely. Mr.

Wilbur seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0, with Ms. Gagnon not yet able to vote and Ms. Koch and Mr. Hammond being absent from the meeting.

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Landscaping and Screening Zoning Ordinance Amendment Presentation

Three staff members from the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) were present for this topic (Sara Morgan, Carmen Bishop, and Bill Mayland) with Ms. Morgan taking the lead on the presentation.

Staff presented slides on the current status of the proposed ordinance language. Questions from EQAC touched on:

- Tree canopy requirements, particularly the increase from 5% to 10% canopy coverage in that that coverage percentage, despite being at-par with other jurisdictions, felt quite low.
- Solar canopy requirements
- Maintenance requirements
- Lighting concerns
- Heat island concerns

Mr. Goplerud quoted data regarding shade requirements over payment in order to reduce heat island effects. Mr. Goplerud offered to draft a memo for consideration by council regarding this data in relation to shade requirements of this ordinance language.

DPD has been and continues to gather feedback on the language and will be presenting to the Board of Supervisors' Land Use Committee (LUC) on July 18, 2023. Draft language will posted for review one week ahead of the LUC meeting.

2. Parking Reimagined Memo to Planning Commission & Board of Supervisors

Chair Zaragoza reviewed the purpose and content of the Parking Reimagined memo and highlighted that Parking Reimagined will go to a public hearing at the Planning Commission at the end of July 2023.

Wilbur moved that EQAC approve and send the memo to the Planning Commission and Board. Mr. Goplerud seconded the motion. Discussion followed the motion with the suggestion by Mr. Weisman that we highlight in the memo that net environmental benefit has been considered before in projects. Mr. Wilbur accepted the suggestion as a friendly amendment. Further discussion covered topics including proffers and EV parking.

The motion carried by a vote of 11-0 with Ms. Koch and Mr. Hammond being absent from the meeting.

3. Data Center Memo

Chair Zaragoza reviewed the purpose and content of the Data Center memo and recommended that EQAC seek feedback from staff on the memo prior to sending it. Mr. Wilbur moved approval of the memo and recommendation to seek feedback from staff.

Mr. Lanfear seconded. Discussion followed the motion with a recommendation from EQAC liaison staff from OEEC recommending that EQAC simply finalize the memo and submit it, as staff is currently tasked with reporting back to the Board on additional research before the end of 2023.

Mr. Wilbur withdrew his motion in light of this information. Further discussion included a discussion of water usage at data enters and the suggestion to remove some of the memo language.

Mr. Lanfear moved that EQAC approve the memo with some suggested edits and submit it to staff, along with the list of questions Chair Zaragoza presented. Mr. Wilbur seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 11-0 with Ms. Koch and Mr. Hammond being absent from the meeting.

4. 2023 Legislative Proposals

Chair Zaragoza presented the options EQAC has for submitting legislative proposals. The deadline for submitting EQAC proposals is at subsequent EQAC meeting in July 2023. Draft proposals should be shared with EQAC liaison staff and staff will work with EQAC members to get the content reviewed internally at the County before discussing at the July meeting.

Chair Zaragoza noted that he expects proposals related to EVs, living shorelines, and green buildings. Vice Chair Grebe suggested that she would be considering a proposal related to low-impact landscaping in community associations.

5. Annual Report on the Environment Chapter Presentation –Wildlife Management

Mr. Campbell presented his draft Wildlife Management chapter. Discussion items included questions about how Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) might have an impact on the archery program, control of Canada Geese, and Lyme Disease. A resulting suggestion from discussion referred to addressing the challenges of the archery program due to the prohibition of processing deer with CWD outside of Fairfax County.

Mr. Campbell moved that his chapter be accepted as written and with an additional recommendation to be included regarding consideration of zoning changes to make processing deer within the county easier and the inclusion of two additional concerns (impact on water quality due to geese and Lyme disease). Mr. Healy seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 11-0 with Ms. Koch and Mr. Hammond being absent from the meeting.

6. Review Climate Action Dashboard

Matthew Meyers from OEEC presented updates on the current status of the county's Climate Action Dashboard. Mr. Meyers also took the council through various areas of the dashboard via a live demo. Mr. Meyers stated that the dashboard will be presented to the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Committee in the fall of 2023.

In addition to the feedback received in advance of the EQAC meeting, further feedback

was provided by council members at the meeting, including a discussion of the importance of being able to tell a clear story with the data to visitors of the dashboard.

7. Student Member Selection

Mr. Weisman presented that over twenty student applications were received and that he and student member Mr. Hammond proposed two recommendations for consideration. Mr. Weisman made a motion to offer the EQAC Student Member position to Oaklen Kalinichenko, rising Senior at South Lakes High School, with Adan Eftekhari, a rising senior at Fairfax High School, as an alternate candidate. Mr. Lanfear seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 10-0 with Ms. Koch and Mr. Hammond being absent from the meeting, and Mr. Wilbur having left early from the meeting.

EQAC liaison staff Ms. Girello or Ms. Zitzer will reach out to the students who were and were not selected.

8. Approval of May 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Council members reviewed the minutes and Mr. Lanfear recommended to strike two excerpts from the draft minutes under “Presentation on Data Centers & Discussion on Proposed Memorandum of Recommendations”. The first section suggested to be struck read “Previously, 1 megawatt (MW) was large but new ones are now 250MW and growing to 300+MW. For comparison, a nuclear plant is 3,000MW.” The second suggested excerpt read “Mr. Lanfear added that small site nuclear is a potential option; Hellion Inc is building for Microsoft.” Mr. Healy made a motion to accept the minutes as written with edits as recommended by Mr. Lanfear. Mr. Weisman seconded and it carried by a vote of 9-0-1, with Ms. Koch and Mr. Hammond being absent from the meeting, Mr. Wilbur having left early from the meeting, and Ms. Gagnon abstaining from a vote as she was not present at the May 10 meeting.

9. Chair’s Items

There were no items presented by the Chair.

10. Council Member Items

Mr. Campbell updated the Council that he will be serving on the Lake Accotink Task Force on behalf of Friends of Long Branch. Ms. Grebe reported that Ms. Koch offered that she could attend the first meeting, but that without a sense of length of commitment, having it be a rotating position might be best. Ms. Grebe should be available as an occasional substitute.

Mr. Goplerud raised the question of taking minutes being a function that could be service by EQAC staff liaisons. However, staff responded that they do not have the capacity, but that minutes only need to focus on the actions and do not require a high level of detail.

Mr. Lanfear highlighted that he met with the Fairfax County Water Authority and that, separately, he also had received an informational postcard in the mail with their annual report. Mr. Lanfear expressed appreciation for this information dissemination.

11. Staff Items

Ms. Law announced the following:

- The deadline for the Environmental Excellence Awards was extended to June 22nd. As of this meeting, staff had received ten applications, which was up from two. Ms. Law mentioned that Ms. Koch had volunteered with Mr. Lanfear to review the applications.
- The meeting with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory, and Fairfax Water has been deferred until September.
- Legislative proposals, as discussed, should be submitted to staff as soon as possible to allow time for internal review prior to be presented at the July EQAC meeting.
- Staff inquired about having the county attorney to come to EQAC to discuss living shorelines. Staff received a response from the Office of the County Attorney that legal matters brought forward by EQAC should be directed by the Board of Supervisors. The Board provided a response in 2022 to EQAC's and citizen's concerns. If EQAC continues to have concerns regarding provisions of the Wetlands Zoning Ordinance, it can renew them with the Board, and the Board can determine whether those concerns require the advice of counsel.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Gubin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lamb seconded and it carried by a vote of 10-0, with Ms. Koch and Mr. Hammond being absent from the meeting and Mr. Wilbur having left early from the meeting.