

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

**MEETING MINUTES
DATE: December 13, 2023
TIME: 7:15 p.m. – 10:15 p.m.
LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

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)	P	Stella Koch (At-Large) <i>(left at 9:30 pm)</i>	P
Richard Healy (Mason)	P	Oaklen Kalinichenko (Student Member)	P
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

Staff Attendance

Matthew Meyers, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)
Neely Law (OEEC)
Kelly Zitzer (OEEC)
Allison Homer (OEEC)
Katie Hermann, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
Jan Shaw Leavitt, Land Development Services (LDS)
Jerry Stonefield (LDS)
Benjamin Aiken, Department of Code Compliance (DCC)
Pieter Anthony Sheehan, Environmental Health, Health Department (HD)
John Friedman (LDS)

Visitor Attendance

Ali Culhane, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
Paul D’Andrade (FCPS)
Paul Scott (FCPS)
Justin Moss (FCPS)
Cliff Pahlavaninejad (FCPS)
Rory Hansen (guest)

Call to Order/All Virtual Meeting

Chair Zaragoza called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm

Chair Zaragoza introduced the requirements to allow EQAC to meet virtually. He asked that all members introduce themselves and following, he MOVED that EQAC certify that the virtual meeting comported with EQAC’s adopted policy for all-virtual meetings. He further moved that

EQAC conduct the meeting electronically through a dedicated video- and audio-conferencing line, and that the public could access this meeting through the Zoom link provided on the agenda or by calling 404-443-6397 or 877-336-1831 (US Toll Free) and enter conference code 3476406. The MOTION was seconded by Mr. Wilber and carried with a vote of 13-0-0.

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. **Presentations on the Updates to the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance, the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance, and the Stormwater Management Ordinance**
 - a. Jerry Stonefield gave background on the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance and proposed amendments; included mature trees, overview on coastal resilience and adaptation to sea level rise; climate change impacts for land development based on range of 30 years; adaptation measures; and other provisions. Amended ordinance is expected to have spring/summer 2024 authorization and PC and Board public hearings. There is a target effective date of September 2024.
 - i. Discussion ensued on:
 1. Resource Protection Areas, their definitions, and their boundaries;
 2. Requirements for the planting and maintenance of trees; and
 3. Communication with the public and property owners.
 - b. John Friedman gave a presentation titled “Consolidation of Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Regulations”. The presentation included background of consolidation regulation with substantive changes; changes to the exemption provisions; requirement for quantity control; County can keep existing limited exemptions only for quality control; no change to impacts of requiring water quality control, no impacts on non-residential projects, no impact on additions that do not require grading plans, can purchase credits; water quality controls for all land disturbances equal to or greater than 2,500 sq ft; CONCERNS of Board of Supervisors-keep quality control or get rid of it; credits don’t provide benefits to county streams;
 - i. Ms. Koch asked if EQAC will have enough notice and information in writing to comment. Ms. Grebe asked Mr. Friedman to reach out once EQAC can comment.
 - ii. Mr. Lanfear asked if Mr. Friedman could report back to EQAC on the possibilities of a stream mitigation credit program that property owners could pay into to fund stream restorations where they may be impacting streams. Mr. Friedman shared he would try to get information to EQAC.
2. **Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Update on Climate Action**
 - a. Ali Culhane presented the FCPS Get2Green program: expansion of paid positions, leaders, support, audit, website with dashboard and resources (<http://get2green.fcps.edu>); also, on X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and have a newsletter.
 - i. Discussion ensued on the Joint Environmental Task Force (JET) recommendations and tracking.
 - b. Cliff Pahlavaninejad presented FCPS progress in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for calendar year 2022: FCPS achieved a reduction of over 38% in

GHG emissions compared to the baseline year of 2008; FCPS had over 28 million square feet of building space where utilities were paid and controlled by FCPS, FCPS had 2,473 vehicles in 2022 that consumed fuel, including 1607 buses, 127 cars, 723 trucks, 16 non-road vehicles; currently 10 schools with solar installation.

- i. EQAC had questions on GHG chart at the end of presentation as well as on FCPS' solar installations and asked for clarification and additional information.
- c. Paul D'Andrade presented on FCPS bus fleet conversion: committed to JET goal to convert fleet by 2035; currently have 28 elected buses in operation and 3 on order; grant opportunities; emissions reduction; partnerships with utility providers/others; planning and implementation; parking-3 depots/140 park outs; reason to phase in replacement, in addition to cost and training, is electric technology will change in future so FCPS won't have all early technology buses.
 - i. Mr. Lanfear commented on the 2035 goal for fleet conversion and discussion ensued with Mr. D'Andrade on meeting the goal.
 - ii. Mr. Lamb asked about the current electric buses and challenges. Mr. D'Andrade shared the only current obstacle has been for charging infrastructure for the buses.

3. January Public Comment Meeting Logistics

- a. Dr. Law presented the flyer and memo advertising public comment; for the upcoming session virtual comment was added and YouTube video option was removed. After discussion, EQAC requested to keep video and virtual options in addition to in-person and written. EQAC reiterated that the 3-minute time limit be listed and emphasized for all four testimony options,
 - i. MOTION: Mr. Wilber moved adoption of the flyer and memo with the addition of allowing video testimony. Mr. Lanfear seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Grebe asked that the three-minute limit be placed under each section on the flyer, and Mr. Wilber accepted her suggestion as a friendly amendment to his motion. The motion was called it carried by a vote of 13-0-0.

4. Approval of November 8, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and Minutes from the November 8, 2023 Joint Meeting with the Park Authority Board

- a. Minutes for November 8, 2023 Regular EQAC Meeting were not available. They will be brought to the January meeting for approval.
- b. Minutes presented for the November 8, 2023 Joint Meeting with the Park Authority Board.
 - i. MOTION: Mr. Wilber moved adoption of the November 8, 2023 Minutes from the Joint Meeting with the Park Authority Board. Mr. Lanfear seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 13-0-0.

5. Outreach for Tidal Wetlands Memorandum, and Illegal Dumping in the VDOT Right of Way

- a. Mr. Wilber presented his memo on outreach that is needed to correct rumors and misinformation about tidal wetlands for property owners of their responsibilities;

outreach is supported by Wetlands Board members but is-not on record with support as a Board. Outreach is supported by Supervisors Storck and Herryty.

i. MOTION: Vice-Chair Grebe moved to accept the memo presented by Mr. Wilber. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Chair Zaragoza shared concerns that given that this memo recommends support related to the Wetlands Board that the Wetlands Board should first articulate a request and specific outreach for contractors should be addressed in the outreach. Discussion ensued. Ms. Koch called the motion to question and it carried by a vote of 12-0-1 with Chair Zaragoza abstaining.

b. Mr. Wilber brought up for discussion the complaints made about illegal dumping in the VDOT Right of Way along Americana Drive; the county is working on this specific issue. Mr. Wilber shared that he wants to confirm that the county is tracking progress and resolution of all complaints, including those with VDOT; he suggested EQAC take this issue, county-wide illegal dumping in VDOT right-of-the-way, for 2024 ARE. During the discussion, some EQAC members also noted the benefits of the county taking over VDOT's Right of Ways and wanting to look more into this. EQAC members agreed that a presentation from VDOT would be helpful to inform next steps. Discussion also ensued on which chapter would own this topic-transportation was suggested; Mr. Lamb shared he didn't think the Land Use chapter would be appropriate but no decision was made.

6. Chair's Items- Priority Meeting Topics for 2024 and Letters of Appreciation for Retiring Supervisors

a. Presented list of possible topics for meetings. EQAC decided meeting topics for January (Public Comment, Flood Plain/Flooding, and finishing the EQAC Charter); February (CECAP-how performing against plan, Resilient Fairfax); and March (Budget presentation, EQAC's testimony on Budget, Stream Restoration). Other possible 2024 topics were discussed: Lake Accotink, follow-up data centers, Development Policy (relationship between land use and environment, etc.), update to Environmental Policy and Comprehensive Plan, Planning Commission, JET performance, wastewater, solid waste (get to zero), planning for future water needs, VDOT, geese management.

b. Presented draft letters of appreciation for retiring Supervisors Gross and Foust.

i. MOTION: Ms. Gagnon moved adoption of the Letters of Appreciation with edits that were presented to EQAC via email on December 13, 2023 for Supervisors Gross and Foust. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 12-0-0, with Ms. Koch being absent for the vote.

7. Council Member Items

a. These members had nothing to report: Vice-Chair Grebe, Dr. Goplerud, Mr. Gubin, Mr. Lanfear, Ms. Gagnon, Mr. Healy, Dr. Weisman, and Ms. Kalinichenko. Ms. Koch was not present.

b. Mr. Lamb reported that the nominating committee had one person for each 2024 position of Chair and Vice-Chair. Nominations can still be received.

c. Mr. Campbell reported that the Lake Accotink Task Force finished and reported to the Board of Supervisors. More information will come in early 2024.

- d. Mr. Wilber reported he talked with Noel Kaplan on the zoning and noise around Dulles Airport. He shared he wanted environmental impacts to be more considered during zoning decisions. Mr. Lamb shared that he has a position in the Land Use chapter on this in the Annual Report.

8. Staff Items

- a. Dr. Law presented the Fairfax County Park Authority Board's approved 2024 meeting schedule; she asked if EQAC wanted to pick a date for the joint meeting or offering a date other than on the schedule. Decision was made to check if June 12 was available, otherwise September 11.
- b. Mr. Meyers reported the Climate Action Plan was presented to the Board of Supervisors. The Climate Action Dashboard and OEEC website were updated. The EQAC webpage was also updated to have 2023 and 2024 materials prioritized and all 2022 moved to archives with 2021.

9. Adjournment

- a. Meeting ended at 10:15 p.m. following a MOTION for adjournment by Ms. Gagnon, which was seconded by Dr. Goplerud and passed by a vote of 12-0-0, with Ms. Koch being absent for the vote.