

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

**MEETING MINUTES
DATE: February 7, 2024
TIME: 7:15 p.m. – 10:03 p.m.
LOCATION: Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

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	Oaklen Kalinichenko (Student Member)	P
Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	A
Renee Grebe (At-Large)	P	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P
<i>Vacant</i> (Providence)		Eric Goplerud (At-Large)	P
Rich Weisman (Sully)	P	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	A

* P indicates present; A indicates absent

Staff Attendance

Matthew Meyers, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)
Neely Law (OEEC)
Sara Girello (OEEC)
Kelly Zitzer (OEEC)
Allison Homer (OEEC)
Katie Hermann, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)

Visitor Attendance

Maddy White, Congressman Connolly's Office

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 entering conference code 3476406. The motion was seconded by Mr. Healy, and approved 11-0-0 with Mr. Lamb and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting.

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Update on Fairfax County's Climate Plan Implementation and Budget Overview
 - a. Mr. Meyers presented an overview of climate action plans in Fairfax County. These plans are focused on addressing the causes and effects of climate change. Three plans: 1) Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) which is community wide; 2) Operational Energy Strategy which covers government operations; and 3) Resilient Fairfax which covers both government and community. Mr. Meyers went through the implementation and status of the CECAP and the Operational Energy Strategy plans.
 - b. Ms. Homer provided an overview of the Resilient Fairfax plan, noting that temperature change, flooding, and weather events were the main drivers affecting Fairfax County. Ms. Homer then went through the resilient metrics of the plan. She also highlighted the strategy regarding development codes, policies, and plans, as well as providing an overview of public information and outreach efforts.
 - c. Dr. Law provided an overview of county efforts regarding energy efficiency services, green business partners, the climate champions pilot, and Charge Up Fairfax, a program for electric vehicle charging.
 - d. Ms. Homer then briefed on natural resource resilience efforts in the county.
 - e. Mr. Meyers provided an overview of improvements to county government buildings, facilities, and operations.
 - f. Mr. Meyers then provided an OEEC budget overview. In addition, he discussed supporting agency programs, as well as the OEEC website, and the Climate Action Dashboard. Ms. Homer provided details on the Resilient Fairfax portion of the dashboard.
 - g. There was a short question and answer period on a number of OEEC issues and the OEEC budget.
2. ARE Presentation to the Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee
 - a. Chair Zaragoza lead a discussion of the upcoming EQAC presentation to the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Committee on EQAC's Annual Report on the Environment (ARE). Chair Zaragoza shared a draft slide presentation and there was discussion on what to highlight to the committee.
3. Debrief from the 2024 Public Comment Meeting and Discuss Public Comment Meeting Frequency
 - a. There was discussion on how and when to allow public comment at EQAC meetings. EQAC will implement at its next meeting an opportunity for up to five public speakers to address the council for three minutes each.
 - b. Staff will prepare a protocol for public comment.

4. EQAC Members' Budget Discussion with Staff and Draft Recommendations for FY25 Budget
 - a. There was a discussion on county environmental program funding and gaps in that funding. FY2025 county budget expected to be released on February 20th. Chair Zaragoza encouraged ARE chapter authors to talk to county staff about needs in their areas.

5. 2024 Student Membership and Environmental Excellence Award
 - a. There was a discussion on the size and make up of EQAC committees. Rich Weisman and Oaklen Kalinichenko will serve on the Student Membership Committee and Rick Healy and Eric Goplerud will serve on Environmental Excellence Award Committee, with Chair Zaragoza and Vice-Chair Lanfear serving on both committees.

6. 2024 ARE Chapter Assignment and EQAC Editing Roles
 - a. Chair Zaragoza presented a slide with current ARE chapter authors. Mr. Lanfear will help with the Water chapter and Mr. Goplerud will help with the Waste Management chapter. The Parks/Ecological Resources chapter and the Wildlife Management chapter will be combined into a new chapter. Other chapter authors remain the same as in 2023.

7. Topics for Future Meetings
 - a. Chair Zaragoza presented a slide on EQAC meeting topics for the upcoming year. Supervisor Walkinshaw, chair of the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Committee, has expressed an interest in meeting with EQAC. The Fairfax County Park Authority Board is available to meet with EQAC on May 8th. There was also a brief discussion on topics for future EQAC meetings.

8. Approval of December 13, 2023 and January 10, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - a. December 13, 2023 meeting minutes were presented to the council.
 - i. Ms. Gagnon moved adoption of the meeting minutes. Mr. Lanfear seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 11-0-0, with Mr. Lamb and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting.
 - b. January 10, 2024 meeting minutes were presented to the council.
 - i. Ms. Gagnon moved adoption of the meeting minutes. Dr. Goplerud seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 11-0-0 , with Mr. Lamb and Mr. Wilber being absent from the meeting.

9. Chair's Items
 - a. Chair Zaragoza mentioned that there is a Mt. Vernon District Town Hall meeting this coming Saturday and that he will be attending.

10. Council Member Items

- a. Bryan Campbell noted the testimony EQAC received at the January 2024 public hearing regarding proposed changes to the staff of the county's animal control. The proposed change involves moving animal control staff from the police department to the county's animal shelter. Mr. Campbell noted that civilians can't enforce wildlife laws and outlined concerns with the proposed move of animal control staff, especially his concern that the mission of the animal shelter and the mission of animal control as it relates to wildlife management are in conflict. Mr. Campbell will prepare a draft memo for EQAC to send to the Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed change.
- b. Johna Gagnon noted that she had heard that there was a bill in the Virginia General Assembly to allow volunteer boards and commissions to hold up to 50 percent of their meetings virtual.
- c. Renee Grebe reported on her attendance at a Braddock District Environmental Roundtable. Topics that came up included a proposed bottle bill, park authority funding and structure, CECAP goals, data centers, and wildlife management.

11. Staff Items

- a. Dr. Law noted that the Design and Environmental Achievement Awards ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday February 27th. Sara Girello and Kelly Zitzer are on vacation next week. A notetaker is needed for the March meeting, as well as several other EQAC meetings this year.

12. Adjournment

- a. Meeting ended at 10:03 p.m. following a motion for adjournment by Ms. Koch, which was seconded by Ms. Gagnon and carried by a vote of 11-0-0 .