

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 8, 2024

TIME: 7:45 p.m. – 9:42 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	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)	V	George Lamb (At-Large)	P
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)	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)

Chris Herrington, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES)

Joni Calmbacher, Director, Stormwater Planning, (DPWES)

Visitor Attendance

Call to Order

Chair Zaragoza called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and announced that Mr. Gubin had requested to participate in the meeting remotely. Chair Zaragoza read the remote participation language requirements and asked Ken Gubin to state his name, location, and reason for remote attendance. Ken Gubin shared that he was participating remotely from his home in the Dranesville District due to medical reasons. Vice Chair Lanfear moved to allow Mr. Gubin to participate remotely. Ms. Gagnon seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 12-0-0, with Mr. Gubin not yet able to vote.

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Public Comment Period

- a. No members of the public requested to speak to EQAC during this period.

2. Presentation on DPWES Stormwater Planning Stream Restoration Program

- a. Staff from DPWES presented information on the Stream Restoration Program. Topics included information on the program's FY25 overview, DEQ Impaired Waters Monitoring results and new Chesapeake Bay TMDL metrics.

3. Data Center Draft Zoning Ordinance Discussion

- a. Chair Zaragoza lead group discussion for EQAC to draft a memo on the reaction of EQAC to the Data Center Draft Zoning Ordinance. Vice Chair Lanfear provided high level overview of draft memo and the background information on the matter for which formed the proposed arguments and position in the memo. Members discussed the issues of Data Centers contributions to County water-utilization, wastewater production, noise impacts, viewshed impacts and air quality. Members also discussed ideas to address concerns about the proposed ordinance.
- b. Action Items:
 - i. Continue to work on Vice Chair Lanfear's memo to develop it into an expanded white paper to capture comments that fall outside of the purview of the ordinance. The document should also contain background information substantiated with data.
 - ii. Inquire with Director Herrington what would it take to provide recycled water to the data centers that is being considered by the BOS.

4. Discussion on the 2024 Annual Report on the Environment

- a. Members were briefed on the process for presenting member's chapter
 - i. Regarding members inquiry on appendices as a part of the 2024 ARE, the 2024 ARE can have appendices, but they must be formatted to be ADA compliant.
 - ii. Chair Zaragoza stated that there is a list to sign up for presenting your chapter, which will be sent out following this meeting for members to populate.

5. Approval of March 13, 2024 and April 17, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

- a. Chair Zaragoza stated that draft minutes were received, but they were not ready to distribute to members. Chair Zaragoza stated that they will be part of next month's meeting material to be reviewed and voted on.

6. Chair's Items

- a. Requested staff provide an analysis of EJ communities and heat island

- b. Updated EQAC on Tree Commission's coordination with VDOT. Chair Zaragoza suggested to make a request to VDOT to also be afforded the opportunity to provide comments on updated draft VDOT's Landscaping Policy when it's available.
- c. Chair Zaragoza also spoke about the September Trash and Trees Meeting topic and suggested the formation of a subcommittee for selecting the desired invitees, such as VDOT, FCDOT and Department of Code Compliance.
- d. Discussion of preparation for the Planning Commission May 23rd Meeting. Chair Zaragoza recommended members review their chapters and look for matters that could feed into environmental policy part of the comprehensive plan, particularly as it relates to land-use.
- e. Updated EQAC on emails received from citizens submissions to the EQAC email address.

7. Council Member Items

- a. Members updated other members on topics of interest
 - i. Dr. Weisman and Ms. Kalinichenko gave update on the process to select new Student EQAC Representative.
 - ii. Mr. Wilber spoke about Trees and Trash issues within VDOT Right of Way.
 - iii. Ms. Koch, Chair Zaragoza and Ms. Grebe discussed the desire to stay updated on the Animal Services Consolidation efforts and upcoming opportunities to provide additional comments. Chair Zaragoza and Ms. Koch expressed interest in inviting Dr. Katie Edwards, the County Wildlife Biologist, to a future EQAC meeting to provide an update on the program change.
 - iv. Ms. Grebe spoke about a brief conversation she and Mr. Campbell had for combining the Parks and Natural Resource chapter and the Wildlife chapter, but considering the abundance of content this year, both authors decided to table that consideration for another time.
 - v. Mr. Goplerud briefed members on a Guardian report commenting on the status of turning around climate change emphasizing the significance of the climate chapter for this year's ARE. Additionally, members were briefed on Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions had with FCPS and an upcoming meeting with Supervisor Lusk regarding the need for preparational training for more green technology courses in vocational education at the Wish Center. Chair Zaragoza suggests that including information in the Climate Chapter or drafting a memo to BOS. Dr. Weisman mentioned efforts of EQAC to reach out to FCPS on this topic.

8. Staff Items

- a. Dr. Law provided the following staff updates:
 - i. Staff coordination efforts with EQAC
 - ii. Upcoming meetings that may be of interest to EQAC members:
 - 1. May 9th- data center ordinance that may be viewed on Channel 16 and found online.

- 2. May 14th- BOS LU policy plan and flood risk reduction.
 - iii. A lot of work that could be a priority and should start efforts.
 - iv. BOS EC DPWES zero waste and OEEC green banks program
 - 1. Note: Director Herrington recommended feedback before ARE and so separate email would be timely)
 - v. Environmental Excellence Awards- received one application; could use more support in outreach
- 9. Adjournment
 - a. Meeting ended at 09:42 p.m. following a motion for adjournment by Ms. Grebe, which was seconded by Ms. Koch and carried by a vote of 12-0-0.