

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

**DATE: April 13, 2022
TIME: Start: 7:15 pm – End: 9:50 pm
LOCATION: Virtual via 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	Mackenzie Nordai (Student Member)	P
Kenneth Gubin (Dranesville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	P
Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P
Vacant (Providence)	N/A	Mike Zatz (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)

Visitor Attendance

William Mayland, Department of Planning and Development (DPD)

Michael Davis, Land Development Services

Sophia Fisher, DPD

Austin Gastrell, DPD

Louis Nuzzo, Office of the County Attorney

Eric Goplerud, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Doug Britt

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Electronic meeting findings and determinations

Chairman Koch read the electronic meeting findings and determinations and passed the gavel to Vice-Chairman Zaragoza. Chairman Koch then MOVED that:

- The State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for the Commission and the public to attend the meeting in-person and an in-person meeting could not be implemented safely or practically;
- That EQAC conduct the meeting electronically through a dedicated video and audio-conferencing line, and that the public may access the meeting by calling in; and

- That EQAC certify that the matters on its agenda today relate to the COVID-19 emergency itself, are statutorily required, and/or are necessary to continue operations and the discharge of EQAC’s lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

Ms. Gagnon seconded the motion; the vote was called into question, and it carried with a vote of 12-0 (Mr. Campbell was not yet present at the meeting).

2. Presentation and Discussion – Parking Reimagined by Michael Davis, Land Development Services and Austin Gastrell, Department of Planning and Development
Mr. Davis from Land Development Services and Mr. Austin Gastrell from the Department of Planning and Development presented to EQAC on the Parking Reimagined project. Following their presentation, discussion ensued on the following topics:

- Solar installations over parking lots and structures;
- Bicycle parking guidelines;
- Holistic approaches to County initiatives, and the impacts of the project related to the environment and One Fairfax;
- Engagement with businesses and the community;
- The project’s relation to the upcoming landscaping amendment;
- Granting parking reductions;
- The future of parking garages;
- Parking minimums; and
- Potential of exchange of green space for less parking.

3. Data Centers Letter Discussion

Chairman Koch presented to EQAC a proposed draft letter for the Board of Supervisors on data centers. EQAC made several edits to the letter.

Chairman Koch then MOVED that:

- EQAC accept the letter with the proposed edits.

Mr. Lanfear seconded the motion; the vote was called into question, and it carried with a vote of 13-0.

4. Tour of Covanta Discussion on the following topics

- When to tour the Covanta plant?
- What additional topics EQAC would pose on the site visit?
- Provide Covanta with those topics in advance of the site visit.
- Tour would be considered an EQAC meeting and advertising requirements to be followed.

5. Budget Testimony Discussion

Chairman Koch presented the one-page budget testimony

Mr. Wilbur then MOVED that:

- EQAC accept the budget testimony.

Mr. Lanfear seconded the motion; the vote was called into question, and it carried with a vote of 13-0.

6. FOIA and Remote Meeting Policy Discussion

Louis Nuzzo from the County Attorney's Office presented to EQAC on the FOIA and Remote Meeting Policy focusing on the following topics:

- Meeting advertising requirements;
- Fairfax County state of emergency;
- Process to adopt the remote participation policy; and
- Electronic communication guidelines for FOIA compliance.

7. EQAC Annual Report on the Environment: Staff Response Memo to Board and Next Steps

Mr. Meyers explained the process and requirements for the EQAC Annual Report on the Environment.

8. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lanfear MOVED to accept the March 9, 2022. EQAC meeting minutes as written. Mr. Gubin seconded, and Council passed the motion unanimously.

9. Chairman Items

The Chairman requested council members prepare their agenda items for Mr. Meyers before meetings.

10. Council Member Items

Mr. Lamb reported that Barbara Byron was moving to Chairman McKay's office from DPD.

Mr. Gubin inquired if public comment suggestions are evaluated or informational.

Mr. Lanfear reported on his attendance at the American Water Resource National Capital Section data science application conference. He noted that the scientific community recognizes non-stationarity in records; that past data may not be an indicator for the future and the subsequent implications on building designs, stream restoration, etc. Additionally, Mr. Lanfear mentioned he met a Loudoun County representative at the conference. He feels that might provide an opportunity to discuss common issues with neighboring counties.

Mr. Zatz shared that he has investigated the Route 28 bypass in Prince William County as some of the proposed route is in Fairfax County. Fairfax County has been heavily involved in the project since its inception through multiple meetings and into the final project design. The county has not taken a position on the project yet.

Neither Mr. Healy nor Mr. Zaragoza had items to share.

Ms. Grebe mentioned that she will be sending around a Google doc for members to edit the Annual Report on the Environment. Further, she reminded the council that the scorecard will need to be ADA compliant in its formatting.

Ms. Nordai shared that she plans to study biology at Penn State University.

Mr. Wilbur, Ms. Gagnon, and Mr. Weisman had no announcements to share.

Mr. Campbell mentioned the Long Branch Central Watershed Management plan from a public meeting. This is a unique stream restoration project that is addressing the benthic impairment through multiple smaller projects with a focus on public education and outreach.

11. Staff Items

Mr. Meyers mentioned the new EQAC student member applications are due in May. Mr. Meyers reminded the council that as part of the CECAP implementation the county has the Carbon-Free Fairfax educational program running and promoting solar panel installation of residential and commercial properties. CECAP is a community effort to reduce greenhouse gases and Mr. Meyers requested EQAC help in supporting the message.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.