

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

**DATE: April 14, 2021
TIME: START 7:15 PM – 9:50 PM
LOCATION: WebEx**

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	Prasi Thapa (Student Member)	A
Ed Monroe (Dranesville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	P
Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P
Alex Robbins (Providence)	P	Mike Zatz (At-Large)	P
Rich Weisman (Sully)	P	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	A

* P indicates present; A indicates absent

Staff Attendance

John Friedman
Jerry Stonefield
Craig Carinci
Brian Keightley
Ellie Ku Coddling
Heather Ambrose
Jan Leavitt
Kathleen Daley
Kelly Naylor
Kambiz Agazi

Visitor Attendance

Cathy Ledec

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Electronic Meeting Findings and Determinations

Chairman Koch passed the gavel to vice-chair Larry Zaragoza and asked all members to confirm that they could hear by using the chat box. She then moved that the committee agree to the requirements for electronic meetings and her motion, which was seconded by Ken Lanfear was unanimously adopted.

2. Update on stream and stormwater work in the County-Craig Carinci, Director, Stormwater Planning, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

Mr. Carinci provided an overview of stream and stormwater work in the county. He noted that the County's MS4 permit has expired, and we are in the process of renewal. His presentation is posted along with these minutes. Mr. Carinci also noted that the stream physical assessment from 2003 started an update in 2019 and will take years to complete. He also highlighted the fact that the inventory of pipe that needs repair/replacement is growing. 40% of the pipe has an estimated repair/replacement that is over 50 years.

Fairfax County has done well competing for local assistance, which has provided 50% in matching funding for projects. Thus far, Fairfax County has received 21% of funding statewide and 50 million dollars is expected this year.

The stormwater tax will bring in 86 million dollars this year.

There was a discussion of tree removal that takes place during stream restoration prompted by a question from Ken Lanfear. Tree removal is needed when they have been undercut and restoration is needed. While there are significant benefits to stream restoration, the removal of trees as part of stream restoration is controversial. George Lamb noted that there has been pushback on restoration work in Alexandria and the Mount Vernon District.

Eric Monroe follow up asking about big storms and LIDs and Mr. Carinci noted that LIDs are overwhelmed with big storms.

3. Update on Chesapeake Bay Regulations-Jerry Stonefield, Site Code Research and Development Branch Permitting and Code Administration, Land Development Services

Mr. Jerry Stonefield summarized proposed legislation for the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance, which will require changes to Chesapeake Bay Regulations, including preservation of mature trees and coastal resilience and adaptation to climate change. The new regulations will prohibit granting exceptions for projects with 50

seaward feet of the buffer/100 feet of the Resource Protection Area (RPA).
Comment is being requested for this legislation.

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) is looking at funding as the state requirements not only specify what must be done but also how.

Stella Koch asked if there is no flexibility on the buffer then would there still be an exception review committee? Mr. Stonefield said yes.

George Lamb noted that the new regulations seem stronger for the environment and asked why not simply support the regulations? Mr. Stonefield said that is why comment is being sought.

Bryan Campbell asked about the application of the 100-foot buffer and Mr. Stonefield noted that there is some confusion that will require clarification.

4. Consideration of recommendations to Board of Supervisors on changes to Chesapeake Bay Ordinance

Renee Grebe prepared a letter to address changes to the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance. Stella Koch moved the letter with comment on the Chesapeake Bay draft regulations. Renee Grebe seconded the motion. The letter was amended as follows:

- EQAC recommends the Board of Supervisors submit comments to DEQ in support of these amendments prior to the May 3, 2021, deadline...
- As Fairfax County LDS staff joins DEQ Stakeholder Advisory Group to discuss the proposed regulations....

Renee moved the letter as amended and Stella seconded the motion. All agreed but the two members of the Exception Review Committee (i.e., Ken Lanfear and Ed Monroe).

5. Budget Testimony from EQAC

Stella Koch presented a letter to support her Budget Testimony and highlighted that she wanted to make 1 change to the letter.

- Under Wastewater Rate Increases, the second sentence down instead of saying that the county has a maintenance schedule that includes hundreds of miles of wastewater pipe she wants to say that the county has thousands of miles of convince pipe and maintains hundreds of miles each year—she said she would adjust the language to make it clearer.

Stella Koch moved letter with adjustments and George Lamb seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

While Clyde Wilbur could not attend, he wanted an issue about buildings meeting the LEED standard to be raised, Kambiz suggested bringing staff in for a discussion.

Stella Koch introduced a second and third letter and made a motion to send a note to the Planning Commission to say the EQAC plans to submit comments on the proposed amendments to Chapter 118, (Bay Preservation Ordinance) of The Code of the County of Fairfax, Virginia (County Code) and Chapter 12 (Tree Preservation) of the Public Facilities Manual (PFM). Based on a straw poll of the committee, Stella suggested that we give the planning commission a heads up on the fact that we will likely write comments on the proposed amendments to Chapter 118. Both items should be part of our next agenda. Next month the agenda calls for solid waste alternatives—impacts on climate change and net environmental benefits. George and Renee to work to prepare materials following discussion with county staff to address the tree preservation issue.

6. Minutes from March 10, 2021

Larry moved the minutes Johnna seconded the minutes of March 10. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Chairman's items

None

8. Council members items

Larry noted that he will be meeting with Supervisor Stork soon and plans to mention the letter that we all received. Still noted that now is the time to think about the format of future EQAC annual reports.

9. Staff items

Kambiz noted that LEED certification is not expected in all areas of the county and that this issue could be a recommendation for comment on the Green Building Policy.

He noted that the climate resiliency meetings are about to start up and noted that EQAC members should not say anything about EQAC issues in these meetings.

Kelly noted that the Board's Environmental Committee will be meeting and discussing the JET.

10. Public Input

11. Adjournment

Stella motioned adjournment at 9:50 pm and all agreed.