

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

**MEETING MINUTES
DATE: April 17, 2024
TIME: 7:15 p.m. – 9:56 p.m.
LOCATION: 12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Conference Room 2/3**

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)	A	Stella Koch (At-Large)	V
Richard Healy (Mason)	P	Oaklen Kalinichenko (Student Member)	V
Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	P	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) (virtual)
Sara Girello (OEEC)
Kelly Zitzer (OEEC)
Katie Hermann, Department of Planning and Development (DPD) (virtual)

Visitor Attendance

Mary Cortina, Commissioner, Planning Commission
John Carter, Commissioner, Planning Commission

Call to Order

Chair Zaragoza called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and announced that Ms. Koch and Ms. Kalinchenko had asked to participate in the meeting remotely. Chair Zaragoza read the remote participation language requirements and asked the virtual attendees to state their names, location, and reason for remote attendance. The virtual members shared that they were participating remotely due to medical reasons (Ms. Koch from her home in Great Falls), (Ms. Kalinchenko from her home in Reston). Vice-Chair Lanfear moved to allow virtual members to participate remotely. Mr. Healy seconded the motion, and it was carried by a 10-0 vote with virtual members not able to vote and absent members being absent from the meeting.

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Public Comment Period

Staff reported that public comment periods are now on EQAC's in-person meeting agendas. No speakers signed up to speak in April.

2. Draft FY25 Budget Recommendation Memo

Modifications to the budget memo distributed at the meeting were discussed.

Ms. Grebe moved adoption of the draft distributed at the meeting with renumbering to provide clarity. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a 12-0-0 vote.

3. Discussion on 2024 Annual Report on the Environment

Vice Chair Lanfear provided a list of goals for the ARE. A presentation was conducted that addressed objectives of accessibility, the ARE template, figures tables, charts graphs and figure text descriptions, references, working with staff, and production.

Vice-Chair Lanfear moved, and Ms. Grebe seconded a motion that the on-line version will be the version of record. Hard copies can be made available; however, the accessibility of links will be reduced from the on-line version. The motion passed unanimously with by a 12-0-0 vote.

Ms. Zitzer provided accessibility requirements under the ADA and how templates provided for each chapter will address how the ARE will comply.

4. Update on Policy Plan Progress

Commissioner Cortina and Commissioner Carter provided a presentation on the Comprehensive Plan and Environmental Policy Plan updates. EQAC will have a joint meeting with the Environment Committee of the Planning Commission on May 23.

Chair Zaragoza asked that each EQAC chapter author identify environmental issues and policies that should be updated during the review of the Comprehensive Plan.

5. Preparation for Joint Meeting with Park Authority Board

Chair Zaragoza noted that the joint meeting will address budget and priorities. Recreation, especially for disadvantaged communities, appears to be the top priority and not the environment and invasive species.

6. Approval of March 13, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

These minutes are expected for the next meeting.

7. Chair's Items

No items

8. Council Member Items

- a. Mr. Gubin – The allowable virtual meetings have been increased to 50%. The details of how to conduct these meetings is being developing.
- b. Dr. Weisman – Happy Earth Day
- c. Ms. Koch and Ms. Kalinichenko – no comment
- d. Vice-Chair Lanfear – Reported a request through the EQAC email address to address non-degradable sod retention mesh because it is harmful to wildlife. Vice-Chair Lanfear has also been invited to the next Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, (ICPRB) meeting on various Potomac River water supply planning issues.
- e. Mr. Lamb has been working on removing invasive ivy to preserve trees. Land Development Services, (LDS) directed that they stop removal of English Ivy from the Resource Protection Area (RPA). Chair Zaragoza indicated that he would raise the question of invasives removal on Park Authority land directed by staff to LDS.
- f. Mr. Goplerud works on the Reston State of the Environment Report. This report is being cut back in length. The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions is requesting nomination for its environmental awards.
- g. Mr. Wilber
 1. requested comment on his draft letter to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on trees and trash. The letter would be used to invite VDOT and the Fairfax Departments of Transportation, DPWES, Health, and Code Compliance. A meeting is requested with these invitees can be scheduled as soon as possible to prevent further tree loss, and address trash issues in the VDOT Right-of Way (ROW). VDOT ROW trash is an issue in One Fairfax areas.
 2. The EQAC and Wetlands Board recommendations to provide outreach to tidal wetlands property owners appear stalled. At the EQAC BOS meeting on the presentation of the ARE in February, Supervisor Herrity requested a report on the progress of this initiative. Recognizing the benefits of coordinating messaging and reducing the administrative burden to permit applicants, requests to the LDS director began in August of 2023. LDS and Department of Planning and Development (DPD) staff have been discussing the issues and have met to discuss the recommendations with the Wetlands Board Chair (Mr. Wilber). While the Wetlands Board has requested consulting services no commitment to provide the required consulting services has been forthcoming. Mr. Wilber noted that DPWES attempted to provide support by producing a model wetlands permit, but concluded it was incapable of completing the task. Mr. Wilber will continue to reach out to the LDS and DPD directors for their support. If no definitive support is provided, Mr. Wilber will prepare a report for the BOS on the lack of progress.

- h. Mr. Campbell – An Environmental Scavenger Hunt is planned for the Long Branch project. All are welcome this Saturday.
- i. Ms. Grebe - The Data Center Zoning update process is moving quickly. There are four town halls scheduled. Chair Zaragoza will coordinate those who want to attend. Please email Chair Zaragoza if you want to attend. Ms. Grebe also noted on the zoning change requests, it is disconcerting that plans once approved are no longer viewable.

9. Staff Items

Ms. Girello noted:

- a. Environmental Excellence Awards application period will open in April.
- b. Student member applications are open, none received.
- c. If you want to participate virtually in any future meetings contact staff; and
- d. Supervisor McKay's reception should not require public notice.

Mr. Meyers noted:

- e. Applications are being accepted for the "Charge Up Fairfax". An OEEC programs to promote multifamily EV charging installations.

10. Adjournment

- a. The meeting ended at 9:56 p.m. following a motion for adjournment by Mr. Lamb which was seconded by Mr. Goplerud and carried by a with by a 11-0-0 vote, with Ms. Koch no longer present at the meeting and Ms. Gagnon being absent from the meeting.