

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 13, 2023

TIME: 7:15 p.m. – 10:49 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	Renee Grebe (Vice-Chair, At-Large)	V (arrived 9:07 p.m.)
Johna Gagnon (Franconia)	V	Stella Koch (At-Large)	P (left 9:08 p.m.)
Richard Healy (Mason)	P	Oaklen Kalinichenko (Student Member)	P
Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	P
Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	A
<i>Vacant</i> (Providence)		Eric Goplerud (At-Large)	A
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)

Visitor Attendance

Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

Greg Prelewicz, Fairfax Water

Call to Order/All Virtual Meeting

Chair Zaragoza called the meeting to order at 07:15 p.m. and announced that Ms. Gagnon had requested to participate in the meeting remotely. Chair Zaragoza read the remote participation language requirements and asked Ms. Gagnon to state her name, location, and reason for remote attendance. Ms. Gagnon shared that she was participating remotely from home in the Franconia

District for medical reasons. Dr. Weisman moved to allow Ms. Gagnon to participate remotely. Mr. Healy seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 8-0, with Ms. Gagnon not yet able to vote, Vice-Chair Grebe and Mr. Lamb not yet present at the meeting, and Messrs. Campbell and Goplerud being absent from the meeting. (Mr. Lamb arrived after the vote.)

The above action was repeated at 9:07 p.m. when Vice-Chair Grebe joined the meeting virtually. She stated she was participating in the meeting from Front Royal, Virginia for personal reasons, as she was at a business meeting. Ms. Koch moved approval to allow Vice-Chair Grebe to participate remotely, Mr. Healy seconded, and it carried by a vote of 9-0 with Dr. Weisman and Mr. Wilber not present for the vote and Messrs. Campbell and Goplerud absent from the meeting.

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Drinking Water in the DC Area: Past, Present and Future Presentation by Michael Nardolilli, Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB). (PowerPoint available in advance.)
 1. The District of Columbia (DC) and Arlington have only 1-day supply of water off the Potomac River.
 2. Both the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) and ICPRB believe in the long-term, the region needs another source of supply: e.g. reservoir or reuse. Potomac Basin will get wetter, but variability will increase. Key message for today is, “Use water wisely.”
 3. Study on water supply has been authorized by Congress but has yet to be funded. Has support for regional Congressional delegation.
 4. **Ask:** Support by EQAC to recommend Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) support for federal appropriation of \$500,000 for study of the water supply. Ms. Koch prepared a draft memo to the BOS (distributed in advance). See motion below.
 5. Questions:
 - i. Mr. Wilber asked a question about Corps of Engineers responsibility for the problem. Discussion followed.
 - ii. Chair Zaragoza asked if there is a concern for water consumption from data centers water needs. Mr. Nardolilli agreed that there is a concern for the water needs from data centers that needs evaluation.
 6. Ms. Koch prepared a draft memo (distributed in advance) to the BOS supporting Federal funding for a regional water-supply study.
Motion: Ms. Koch moved adoption of the memo with minor editing. Mr. Wilber seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0 with Vice-Chair Grebe not yet present at the meeting and Messrs. Campbell and Goplerud absent from the meeting.

2. Discussion with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services – Chris Herrington.

1. DPWES is suffering a severe shortage of personnel. 21 percent of skilled positions in solid waste are vacant, wastewater is 32 percent. Having a lot of difficulty hiring engineers: 25% vacancy. Front-line, lowest pay positions have the highest vacancy. 25 percent of merit employees do not earn enough to rent a 1-bedroom apartment in Fairfax County.
2. **Ask:** EQAC should ask the BOS to reevaluate its compensation policy. We are 10% less than 4 of the 7 regional comparatives. Discussion followed that this recommendation is partly covered in the draft 2023 ARE chapters. There was general agreement that the draft Water and Waste chapters' recommendations should be revised to reflect this need, and that the introduction to the report (i.e., where the most important recommendations are mentioned) should reflect these revisions. (See later motion regarding ARE.)
3. Mr. Herrington described the changes being considered in the county's solid waste management plan. The likely plan will be very different from the past, involving behavioral change and recovery.
4. Noman Cole sludge is incinerated. We need to come up with another strategy. We are good for a while, but it is time to think about the future.
5. Mr. Wilber noted a minor revision in the draft ARE Waste chapter recommendations on litter control which was to remove the recommendation for using the structural controls, Bandalong. Operation Stream Shield is more cost-efficient. Consensus agreement.

(Vice-Chair Grebe arrived at the meeting at 9:07 p.m. (see Call to Order/All Virtual Meeting section above for motion). Ms. Koch left the meeting at 9:08 p.m.)

3. Annual Report on the Environment (ARE) Chapter Presentations

1. Mr. Lamb presented the draft Land Use Chapter, distributed previously.
Motion to accept with minor editing, and resolution of minor comments.
 - i. Mr. Lamb moved adoption of the motion. Vice-Chair Grebe seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0, with Ms. Koch having left the meeting and Messrs. Campbell and Goplerud absent from the meeting.
2. Vice-Chair Grebe presented an updated draft Parks and Ecological Resources Chapter. Vice-Chair Grebe had made changes to the Chapter's recommendations presented previously at EQAC's August meeting.
Motion to accept the modified Chapter with minor editing and resolution of minor comments.
 - i. Vice-Chair. Grebe moved adoption of the motion. Mr. Healy seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0, with Ms. Koch having left the meeting and Messrs. Campbell and Goplerud absent from the meeting.
3. Chair Zaragoza opened a discussion on preparing the introduction for the ARE. He asked members to identify those recommendations that should be listed as priority.
 - i. Mr. Wilber noted the discussion held earlier in the meeting with Director Herrington. **Motion:** Ms. Koch and Mr. Wilber to draft language for recommendations in the Water and Waste Chapters concerning the need to

look at the county personnel compensation policy in light of severe staffing shortages. These will be priority recommendations.

1. Mr. Wilber moved adoption of the motion. Mr. Lanfear seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 10-0, with Ms. Koch having left the meeting and Messrs. Campbell and Goplerud absent from the meeting.
 - ii. Other priority recommendations, adopted by consensus:
 1. Improve Processes to Minimize Ecological Degradation from Development Pressure
 2. Budget and establish an accountable Zero Waste plan.
 3. Need for Fairfax residents to have access to EV charging.
 4. Adequate funding for the implementation of the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and Resilient Fairfax Plan.
 4. Cover for 2023 ARE.
 - i. Ms. Kalinichenko presented her draft of the cover. Members noted the stream is along the Gerald (Gerry) Connolly Cross-County Trail. Accepted by consensus.
 5. Mr. Lanfear volunteered to provide final content editing of the chapters and Mr. Gubin and Dr. Weisman volunteered to provide copyediting.
4. Preparation for Planning Commission Meeting
 1. The status of the Sept. 28 joint meeting with the Planning Commission's Environmental Committee is uncertain.
 5. EQAC Charter
 1. Last revised September 1981. Mr. Healy based a draft revision (distributed prior to meeting) based on this and on the model template. Staff has some recommendations. EQAC members will send their comments to Mr. Healy for discussion in November. After EQAC adopts the proposed bylaws there will be further steps needed before they go into effect, including Board of Supervisors approval.
 6. Approval of August 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes
 1. Mr. Wilber moved adoption of the August 9, 2023 meeting minutes. Ms. Gagnon seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 9-0-1, with Mr. Healy abstaining from the vote, Ms. Koch having left the meeting, and Messrs. Campbell and Goplerud absent from the meeting.
 7. Chair's Items
 1. Chair Zaragoza mentioned some thoughts about the annual report's role, and how we provide information to the BOS.
 8. Council Member Items
 1. Mr. Gubin asked about printing the report. Chair Zaragoza noted we will print a limited number.

2. Vice-Chair Grebe asked about webinars. Staff noted that public notice is required if three or more EQAC members attend, even if the webinar is a public meeting by another agency.
 3. Vice-Chair Grebe noted that Ms. Koch and Mr. Campbell share the responsibility to attend Lake Accotink meetings. They are held weekly with sub-committees.
 4. Vice-Chair Grebe reported that the Tree Commission is working on memo regarding the Tree Commission's charter.
9. Staff Items
1. Ms. Girello reminded EQAC that it is currently scheduled to meet with the Park Authority in November.
10. Adjournment
1. Meeting ended at 10:49 p.m. following a motion for adjournment by Mr. Lamb, which was seconded by Mr. Healy and carried by a vote of 9-0, with Misses Kalinichenko and Koch having left the meeting, and Messrs. Campbell and Goplerud absent from the meeting.