

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

MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, July 13, 2022

TIME: 7:20 – 9:48 PM

LOCATION: Virtual via Microsoft teams

EQAC Member Attendance

Name	Absent (A)	Name	
Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)		Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon)	
Johna Gagnon (Lee)		Renee Grebe (At-Large)	
Richard Healy (Mason)		Jacob Hammond (Student)	
Kenneth Gubin (Dranesville)		George Lamb (At-Large)	
Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)		Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	
Elisa Meara (Providence)		Mike Zatz (At-Large)	
Rich Weisman (Sully)		Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	

Staff Attendance

Kelly Naylor, OEEC

Neely Law, OEEC

Visitor Attendance

Shannon Curtis (DPWES)

Dongmei Alvi (VT Manager of Lab side)

Shantanu Bhide (PHD student)

Greg Prelewicz (Fairfax Water)

Dr. Stanley Grant (VTProf of Civil and Env and Director of OWML)

AGENDA ITEMS, DISCUSSION, & DECISIONS

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by Chair Koch.

I. Stella introductions

Larry motions, Ken Lanfear seconds

II. Fairfax Water & Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Presentation

Greg Prelewicz (Manager, Planning for Fairfax Water) presented

- Spoke of:
 - Current County Water Demand
 - Salt
 - Emerging Contaminants – PFAS

- Ken – Are [PPT readings of PFAS] in finished or raw waters?
 - **Response:** Finished waters
- Stella – You said that [PFAS] are not easily removed. Does that mean you could design a system to remove [PFAS]? And that you are looking at that?
 - **Response:** Process of conducting initial studies on that issue. There are some advanced processes to remove these, but there are challenges. Major problem is EPAs advisory levels are below the current detection limit for some of these chemicals. You may think you are removing, but you may be still above the EPA advisory level. I mean you may not know you are above the health advisory level even if you think you are removing it. So we're in a state of evaluation. PA has proposed for maximum regulatory levels for PFOA and PFOS by end of 2022.
- Stella – Is the Removing of chemicals chemical specific or is there a process that can remove a broad spectrum? Because if specific, then can get really expensive.
 - **Response:** Working to develop processes to remove group contaminants.
- Stella – Is there a consensus on whether this is here to stay and is going to be a stronger issue in the future?
 - **Response:** It's been in the news more recently. I'm presenting today because more work needs to be done in terms of evaluating the source and monitoring involved and looking holistically community wide.
- Stella – Regarding water supply and water use of data centers. Is there a finite limit to amount of data centers we will allow to not over step our water demand?
 - **Response:** Water use by data centers is not as dramatic as previous literature. However, the issue is not just water supply, but also the process of water-cooling being released back into watershed use of ground water depleting the basin or use of reclaimed water with salts/chemicals to sanitize infrastructure is release back into watershed is the concern.
- Would it be fair to say that you are cautiously optimistic that we can handle forecasted demand at the present?
 - **Response:** Fairfax Water has a variety of customers that have a different profile and we are working to meet their demands.
- Larry – Should we be pursuing the policies that collocate these facilities in a single area so that they will have their wastewater treated before released back into the watershed?
 - **Response:** Salt is not a regulated parameter, so difficult to impose on facilities or on the industry. But reducing at the source both at a voluntary basis and also to the degree to try emphasize within current regulations and advocate changes to our current regulations.
- Rich – [Bromide] Are data centers the main source or bromide load that Fairfax Water are concerned about or are there other sources that are significant sources?
 - **Response:** On Potomac River, sources of bromide from coal fired units at Dickerson power generating facility, now offline.

- Ken Gubin – The video said that sodium from laundry detergents are a significant source of sodium in water? Are there low sodium detergents or are you talking to industrial makers to make low-sodium products?
 - **Response:** Great question and it may be better answered in the next presentation.
- Ken Gubin – You said that your water facilities are dependent on the electrical grid and you have sufficient back up generators? Are you comfortable enough?
 - **Response:** Always a moving target and a balancing act, we believe we are in a much better place since Isabel.
- George – Request for recordation of a.) numbers (like how many data centers can we support) and b.) Ken and Clyde have been far ahead on PFAS issue c.) the numbers are going up. We had no data but now we are getting data and I am concerned about the future.

Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Lab – Dr. Stanley Grant

- Spoke of:
 - Lab Background
 - Watershed Statistics
 - UOSA’s contribution to the reservoir’s water balance
 - Long Term Trends/Contributions of Sodium Build up
 - Stella – What’s the takeaway and what kind of recommendations?
 - Both the sodium from UOSA and de-icer are contributing to the problem. SaMS are great, structural intervention are possible in SWM to treat first flush. De-icer applicators can be better regulated. Storm sewer upgrades a good target. UOSA could do reverse osmosis, but storage or disposal becomes an issue
 - I would like to trial interventions instead of passively monitor existing conditions
 - George – Is there a cost analysis for analysis to reduce cost by economy of scale?
 - Fairfax Water – We’ve looked at very conceptually. Looked at a billion dollar problem.
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III. Annual Report on the Environment Chapter Presentations

- a. Rich Healy presents Air Chapter
- b. Rich moved – Ken Lanfear second, passed unanimously

IV. Legislative Items Discussion

- a. Larry and Ken G. Present
- b. Proposing to maintain climate-related from the 2021 legislative the report
- c. New legislative items for
 - i. Living shorelines
 - ii. State Monetary Incentives for Electric Vehicles
 - iii. Electric Vehicle Charging in Multifamily buildings
- d. Larry moves the legislative package
 - i. Ken Lanfear seconds
 - ii. Unanimous approval

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. George moves
- b. Larry seconds
- c. Unanimous approval

VI. Chairman Items

- a. ARE chapter for next. Have chapters ready for August meeting.
- b. Request for someone to sign up for meeting minutes in November

VII. Council Member Items

- a. George – thanks Larry for discussion
- b. Johnna – thank Larry
 - i. Lee district, now Franconia District
 - ii. Presents Fireworks pollution related to CO2 and should Water and Air Chapters take into consideration
- c. Elisa – Nothing
- d. Jacob – Expresses gratitude for being selected
- e. Ken Gubin – Nothing
- f. Ken Lanfear – Nothing
- g. Larry –
 - i. Updated roster for EQAC.
 - ii. Stella added that staff should send out updated rosters when membership changes
- h. Rich – nothing to add
 - i. Will reach out to Jacob individually about ARE item related to Fairfax schools
 - ii. Discussion of cover for ARE for Jacob
- i. Rick – nothing
- j. Mike Zatz – Nothing
- k. Bryan - Nothing

VIII. Staff Items

- a. Neely
 - i. Introduction / Background
 - ii. BOS Environmental Committee – July 26th – EOCC to present and Legislative items
- b. Kelly
 - i. Environmental Excellence Awards due date
 - ii. Kelly says Goodbye, moving to Agency Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)
- c. Shannon Curtis –
 - i. OWML – conducting SOCs (Synthetic Organic Compound) monitoring in Occoquan watershed in 1982 by EQAC. Contract has lapsed, but looking to renew, but with a twist. To work in the EQAC recommendation of salt and PFAs into the new contract and a recommendation to consolidate into DPWES to coordinate with Lab and handle contract.
 - ii. Concluded at 9:48pm

IX. Adjournment

Adjourn at 9:48