

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

DATE: July 14, 2021

TIME: START 7:15 PM – 10:00 PM

LOCATION: Herrity Building, Conference Room 106/107

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)	A	Renee Grebe (At-Large)	P
Richard Healy (Mason)	A	Mackenzie Nordai (Student Member)	P
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

Kambiz Agazi, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
Chris Herrington, Stormwater Planning Division, DPWES
Matt Myers, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
Kelly Naylor, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
Stephanie Cornejo, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
Katie Hermann, Department of Planning and Development, DPZ

Visitor Attendance (presenters)

N/A

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Setting a mask/no mask policy for EQAC meetings. Please do bring a mask with you.

Chairman Stella Koch asked members of the council and attendees if everyone was okay with continuing the meeting unmasked. No one objected to proceeding unmasked. Bryan Campbell stated that he did not have any objection to others being unmasked as long as no one else had an objection to him continuing wearing his mask. No objection was made.

2. (Moved from Item #9 on Agenda) New staffing - Matt Meyers and Stephanie Cornejo

New staff to OECC was announced. New staff to DPWES was introduced as well. EQAC staff introduced themselves. New EQAC Student Member was introduced as well.

3. Presentation Plan Amendment (2013-CW-9CP), Coastal Resource Management/Tidal Shoreline Erosion Control - Katherine Hermann, Environmental Planner III, DPD

Ms. Hermann provided an overview of Plan Amendment.

2011 Senate Bill 964 directed VMRC to encourage living shorelines as the preferred alternative for stabilizing tidal shorelines. Same year Board authorized to investigate if changes to the policy plan to comply with SB 964

- Renee Grebe asked approximately how many miles of tidal shores does Fairfax have?
 - Approximately 75 miles - 65% of which is privately owned.

2020 Senate Bill 776 requires VMRC and local wetlands boards to approve only living shoreline approaches for shoreline stabilization, unless the best available science shows that such approaches are not suitable.

Fairfax County Wetland Zoning Ordinance (116) requires permit to use or development in tidal wetlands. Based on SB776, VMRC directed all local wetland board to update Code and ordinance with State Bill 776.

Proposed changes include:

- Comprehensive Plan and Policy Plan Amendments such as inclusion of definition of "Living Shoreline"
 - Modify Fairfax County Wetland Zoning Ordinance (116)
 - VIMS getting more roles in determining types of wetlands.
 - Role in E&S rate based on habitat determination
 - VIMS provided Development of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Coastal Resource Management Portal – Is a product of Virginia Institute of Marine Science and provides access to information and tools to assist Fairfax County with implementation of tidal shoreline laws and policy established by the Virginia General Assembly.
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- Stella Koch asked can anyone visit the website?
 - Renee Grebe asked to restate the name of the portal?

- Stella Koch asked about EQAC statement of support of stronger language in policy not going into staff report but going to planning commission as a comment. Does Staff have issue with this approach?
 - Ms. Hermann stated DPD doesn't have concern and likes having stronger language for living shorelines. Board will see report and checklist as well.
- Renee Grebe stated IF Board supports this stronger language than, will this allow for stronger language in ordinance?
 - Ms. Hermann stated No. That's done on the comprehensive side
- Ken Lanfear stated enforcement of agreements and enforcement provisions has been a problem with policies like these. That may be a growing problem – enforcement of living shoreline construction and conservation of it once constructed.
- Stella Koch stated Ken's comments may want to be considered as a recommendation. This is a comprehensive plan amendment, not an ordinance.
 - Ms. Hermann reiterated the ordinance only states living shoreline is preferred approach for shoreline stabilization. Local Wetlands Board must consider this approach before requesting any other approach.
- Larry Zaragoza stated the policy should clarify that language differentiate when it's appropriate for wetland's board to require versus recommend living shoreline implementation.
- Stella Koch asked IS there County compensation. If not, it would be useful incentive.
 - Ms. Hermann stated she wasn't aware of a specific program.
- Bryan Campbell asked whether VMRC's mandate has been discussed with federal coordination agencies such as NOAA, EPA and USACE?
 - Ms. Hermann said she wasn't certain, but could follow up. Mr. Myers said that this is being directed by EPA and is consistent with revised CBPA regulations.

4. Agritourism -EQAC follow up possible support for the establishing of an Advisory Committee to review standards and guidelines for activities impacting the R-C District. Other actions.

Kudos to Renee and group for efforts on Zoning Amendment. Board made 7-2 to accept the amendment with some revisions to the language. Revised back to and approved as by-right instead of using special exception process. Amended to 5 farmed acres. Established Advisory Council with the purpose of reviewing for special exceptions scenarios. BOS required a staff status update report in 18 months.

- Renee Grebe recommends requesting at the EQAC / BOS meeting to reconsider if the amendment is really protecting the watershed.
- Stella Koch stated EQAC should consider asking BOS if the Vision of the Water Supply Protection Overlay District policy has changed.
- George Lamb states "seems fatalistic" to address the BOS as a whole. Maybe go one on one and not as a group to find out individually each BOS perspective.
- Stella Koch recommends everyone should contact their supervisor to explain their decision making process on this amendment and WSPOD policy to aid in future EQAC recommendations regarding WSPOD policy.
- Mr. Agazi stated the work plan for the amendment was presented to land use committee and not the environmental committee for comment.
- Stella Koch stated that land use issues should be also passed through Environmental committee. Then stated she felt the board's focus is with climate change and most other issues are taking back seat.

Unanimous decision was made to have EQAC members have talks with Supervisors regarding the amendment vote.

5. Discussion of proposed Chesapeake Bay Protection Act Ordinance changes and possible EQAC response.

Renee Grebe presents ordinance update. Still at State Level, but once at county level Renee will debrief council.

6. Discussion of Annual Report on the Environment (ARE) format, scorecard and review of ARE chapters due in July.

Wildlife chapter presentation. Discussion of how chapters and ultimately ARE should be formatted.

- Ken Lanfear stated ARE chapters should state What are the issues that might bite you (BOS). What's the request from EQAC and County Staff?
- Mr. Agazi stated for BOS and Staff, recommendations are the most important parts of the ARE
- Mike Zatz recommended format of chapter should be Mission Statement, Issue is X, and the Recommendation is Y then include supportive narrative.
- Renee Grebe and Ed Monroe will make template to send out.
- Renee Grebe requested to be shown from staff how to edit to make ADA compliant.
- Mr. Agazi stated staff can conduct August training to make report ADA compliant.
- Mike Zatz asked if there was a cheat sheet available
 - Mr. Agazi stated that working with Microsoft Word and PowerPoint have functions / tutorials to assist with ADA compliance. He will look into it for a cheat sheet to distribute.
- Mike Zatz, Ken Lanfear, Renee Grebe, and Stella Koch agree forget scorecard this year.

7. EQAC Legislation Support

Nothing presented at meeting. Acknowledged that this information is typically associated with ARE as Appendix which doesn't appear to ever be publicly available. Further discussion needed on whether to include in 2021 ARE.

8. Minutes from June 9, 2021

Stella asked if someone would move the minutes of June 9, 2021. Ed noted that the minutes needed to be revised with correct spelling of Mackenzie Nordai. Ed moved the minutes with the revision. Larry seconded the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

9. 2021 Meeting

August 11th – Stella Koch will not be present and Larry Zaragoza will reside in her place. All EQAC members must be prepared to present chapters.

10. Chairman items

N/A

11. Council Member Items

- George Lamb –

- Concerns regarding Park Authority's organization regarding tackling the issues on the Justice Park project.
- Renee Grebe –
 - BOS voted to continue to support FCPA. Question of whether should EQAC inquire whether FCPA mission has changed. Perception of choices being more revenue driven and lacking accountability for board members
 - Storck proposes plastic bag ordinance and will be voted on by BOS in September. Larry and Clyde are to draft an EQAC memo in support of the ordinance.
- Larry Zaragoza-
 - Highlighted Supervisor McKay pledge to be carbon neutral in all Gov't facilities by 2040.
 - Stated that the Climate Change chapter will be pushed from August to September
- Ed Monroe –
 - Highlighted Get to Green YouTube Channel was re-launched.
 - Welcomed to Mackenzie and new staff
- Mackenzie –
 - Excited to be here and learn.
 - (Was informed that she would be responsible for the photo on the cover page.) Stated she has a camera and would be happy to do so.
- Mike Zatz - None
- Stella Koch – Welcome to Mackenzie and new staff

12. Staff Items

- Kelly – None
- Kambiz –
 - This would be his last regular EQAC meeting.
 - He will coordinate with staff behind the scenes and follow up on the ADA information for interested EQAC members.
 - If members needed assistance with contacting staff for presentations, please continue to feel free to contact him.

13. Adjournment