

**COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (EQAC)
MEETING SUMMARY
DATE: AUGUST 11, 2021
TIME: 7:15 PM – 10:55 PM
LOCATION: FAIRFAX COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, ROOM 9/10**

EQAC Member Attendance

Name	Present Absent *	Name	Present Absent*
Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	A	Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mount Vernon)	P
Johna Gagnon (Lee)	A	Renee Grebe (At-Large)	P
Richard Healy (Mason)	P	Mackenzie Nordai (Student Member)	P
Ed Monroe (Dranesville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	A
Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	A
Alex Robbins (Providence)	A	Mike Zatz (At-Large)	P
Rich Weisman (Sully)	P	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	P

* P indicates present; A indicates absent

Staff Attendance

Chris Herrington, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Matt Meyers, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
Kelly Naylor, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
Stephanie Cornejo, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

Visitor Attendance (presenters)

Maya Dhavale, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
Allison Homer, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
David Kepley, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

Mask Policy

Larry reminded meeting attendees that a mask policy is now in effect for use at Fairfax County facilities.

Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP)

Matt Meyers introduced the team working on CECAP and Resilient Fairfax including himself, Maya Dhavale, Alison Homer, and Stephanie Cornejo. Each team member provided a brief background of their professional experiences.

Maya gave a briefing about CECAP using PowerPoint slides (slides are available on the EQAC web site) and discussed each of the sector-based strategies. Many recommendations were noted as being incentive-related. She noted the next steps as public outreach and implementation, including public survey (first year); development of an implementation plan; and creation of community implementation partnerships.

Maya said the CECAP report was briefed to the BOS in June and July. She said that the BOS is expected to adopt the report at its September 14 meeting.

Ken asked if the county was planning to adopt measures of success for CECAP, noting their importance in keeping the BOS focused on results (as distinguished from Cool Counties). Maya described CECAP as a model with associated uncertainties.

Clyde commended the county on CECAP's being a great start but noted concern about lack of numbers supporting the findings (i.e., lack of data) and leading to difficulty for EQAC to support the report. He gave an example of composting as recently getting feedback that it may be detrimental to GHG emissions due to associated transportation.

Rich asked about further engaging with the business community and the importance of getting that community energized to help with implementation, including identification of champions. Larry noted that one of his recommendations is in further support of expanded engagement with the business community. In addition, Larry referred to data related to the VA Clean Economy Act; Maya referred to that as data that could affect the BAU scenario. Maya discussed additional efforts ongoing to engage with the business community.

Maya spoke about asking for EQAC's feedback about whether the CECAP is a useful resource. Mike spoke about how EQAC could use the ARE recommendations as a means to further support the CECAP strategy. In regard to incentives, Mike noted a possible incentive as reduced personal property tax for purchasing EVs. The report could talk about both the costs and "associated pain points".

Renee asked about the next steps in terms of priorities. Maya said that in the next steps, county staff will be examining specific actions.

In response to Ed's question, Maya said that COG updates the GHG inventory every three years.

Matt said there is \$15.5 million in the carryover budget to begin CECAP implementation including 2 staff members.

Resilient Fairfax

Allison gave a briefing about Resilient Fairfax using PowerPoint slides (slides are available on the EQAC web site) and discussed the top impacts from climate change to Fairfax County as extreme heat (i.e., urban heat islands) and extreme precipitation events. She gave a metaphor for vulnerability as a person getting sunburned – exposure (sunlight) times sensitivity (sensitive skin) times adaptive capacity. The plan is expected to be finalized in June 2022.

Ken asked if the extreme heat examination is tied in with the One Fairfax activities. Allison noted this was being performed.

Ed asked about the slide on extreme heat and whether the county can also go back 20 years to see how it changed over that period. Matt said the data are based on ranges of years with additional data in the report.

Rich made a suggestion that the county include examples of the actual costs for past county incidents like the example of the 2019 storm that cost about \$15 million. Clyde noted the potentially large costs for mitigation measures and suggested focusing on impacts affecting public health or safety. Matt introduced Chris from DWPES who gave an example of \$40 million that was spent to build a levee that protects a modest number of homes.

Invasive Plant Memo

Renee discussed a draft memo about supporting additional tools for management of invasive species including running bamboo. Larry suggested an edit to develop options to address invasives and noting other counties' efforts as good examples of this authority. Mackenzie suggested considerations about volunteer groups adding labels at nurseries. Clyde suggested adding an ask that one or two EQAC members (tentatively Renee and Ed) be allowed to participate in county staff meetings. Clyde moved the memo with the minor changes discussed and Rick seconded. Passed unanimously.

Legislative Initiatives

Larry drafted two legislative initiatives – one about electric vehicles where the state did not include funding for tax incentives. The other is about providing EV charging in multi-family buildings. Rick made a motion to support the initiative about electric vehicle tax incentives and Clyde seconded. Passed unanimously. Clyde made a motion to support the initiative about EV charging in multi-family buildings and Rick seconded. Renee suggested this item be a position statement rather than a legislative initiative. Suggested revise from apartment buildings to multifamily. Mike suggested adding a cross-reference to CECAP goal. Passed unanimously.

A third legislative initiative was discussed about a bag litter abatement bill. This was previously approved by the state and action is now needed by the county. This initiative was tabled by EQAC.

Review of ARE Chapters

Rick discussed the chapter on air quality and noted the regional nature of this topic as well as the temporary improvement to air quality in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Clyde asked about a potential tradeoff about NOX emissions from Covanta vs local ozone concerns. Mike suggested adding a recommendation to reference the two recommendations listed in the transportation chapter. Rick offered to change his comment #1 to a recommendation including an explicit reference to the CECAP report. Rick moved the chapter and Rich seconded. Passed unanimously.

Renee suggested a general chapter structure of introduction, current status, recommendations and justification, and additional information (i.e., stating facts).

Mike introduced the transportation chapter recommendations as supporting the CECAP transportation goals about increased EV use and increased use of transit and non-motorized commuting, with the recommendations focused on requesting the county to develop formal implementation plans for both goals. Mike discussed the one about EVs and Rich spoke about the one about transit and non-motorized commuting. Mike discussed an additional possible recommendation of a subsidy for EV purchasing. We could include interim targets between now and 2030 (say where we want to be by 2025). Larry noted that the state has legislation of 18% new sales as EVs by 2030. Mike suggested adding in use of possible financial incentives. Renee suggests reducing length of justifications. The council agreed to relook at this chapter in September.

The chapter about wildlife was discussed despite Brian not being present to discuss (it had been provided in advance to council members). Ken moved to accept and Mike seconded. Passed unanimously.

Clyde discussed the waste chapter, noting the need for increased enforcement of recycling and further consideration of sanitary districts. He noted the glass recycling has been ongoing since 2019 and been found to be successful. Clyde noted a potential concern about a lack of education about recycling by private haulers. Clyde moved the chapter and Rich seconded. Passed unanimously.

Mackenzie will be working on the cover and will share a draft before the next meeting.

Minutes from July

Rick said that the item about welcoming Mackenzie should refer to Ed instead of Rick. Renee offered to make revisions to the minutes, including striking a sentence about Larry and living shorelines. Renee moved the minutes as amended and Ed seconded. Passed unanimously. Clyde abstained.

Chairman's Items

None.

Council Member Items

Ed spoke with Supervisor Faust about concerns for agritourism with regard to the Occoquan Policy.

Clyde participated in a wetlands meeting last night that covered changes related to living shorelines.

Staff Items

Next meeting will be in room 4/5.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 PM.