

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

**MEETING MINUTES  
DATE: October 12, 2021  
TIME: 12:00 PM – 2:32 PM**

**LOCATION: Fairfax Government Center, Conference Room 11**

**EQAC Member Attendance**

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

\* P indicates present; A indicates absent

**Staff Attendance**

Board of Supervisors  
County Executive Bryan Hill  
Chris Herrington, Director of DPWES  
Kambiz Agazi, Director of OEEC  
Stephanie Cornejo, OEEC  
Matt Meyers, OEEC  
Kelly Naylor, OEEC  
Kelly Atkinson, Department of Planning and Development

**Visitor Attendance**

None.

**Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes**

**EQAC Prep Meeting with BOS**

Stella: Questions should be framed as “**IS** it possible that the Board would consider...”

Stella mentioned her suggested question, “We understand that in the CECAP process, you're going to be looking at the comp plan to change some language with regards to green buildings. Is it possible to look at the notion for land use in general within the comp plan to do that kind of change in other places where you could add language that would go towards requirements for resiliency or aid for climate change?” and asked for comments.

No objections or comments from members.

Ken: We have a unique opportunity due to present Board that appears more willing to address environmental concerns and listen to opinions on the matters.

Shift from “What we are doing to climate” to “What climate is doing to us today”

Renee: Bill Hicks presented Planning Commission Joint Meeting “Parking Rate Study and the Perspective Initiative” with discussion of environmental stewardship as a factor in the decision-making process.

This presentation as an example of \*Every decision on land use has implication on environment\*

Ken: BOS stated, “We are not afraid of stretch goals.” Appreciate the council to “Ask the hard questions.”

Kambiz – BOS approved on 10/5 the Carry Over budget. BOS approved historic (\$15million) which included 1,1mil for CECAP, 1.1 million for Zero Waste Initiative, Operating Strategy (LEED) for Government Buildings.

Agenda of Meeting Recap

### **1:30pm – Joint EQAC / BOS Meeting**

1. Stella introduces Council members
2. Stella thanks BOS for support
  - i. 2021 Operational Energy Strategy
  - ii. CECAP
  - iii. Green Initiatives
  - iv. Resilient Fairfax
  - v. Carbon Neutral Declaration
  - vi. Disposal tax for plastic bags
  - vii. Legislative support for electric vehicles
  - viii. Vote Carry Over Budget for CECAP and Resiliency, etc....
  - ix. Balancing need social justice and need for climate action during COVID

Do not have the ARE in front of you because of requirements for public release stalled our ability to provide it to you today.

All council members in review of respective chapters noted going back to influence of Resiliency and Climate Change. Noting that we have a unique opportunity to discuss further the topic of Resiliency and Climate Change.

Interested to hear more on the BOS position on these issues

Stella – “We understand that in the CECAP process, you're going to be looking at the com plan to change some language with green buildings. Is it possible to look at this notion of land use and the comp plan to do that kind of change in other places where you could add language that would go towards requirements for resiliency or aid for climate change?”

McKay – Highlighted a lot of these efforts that were result of a lot of teamwork and a lot of advocacy.

Thanked EQAC for their efforts, particular through the pandemic. Turned it over to Environmental Committee Chair Sup Stork.

Stork – Thanked EQAC. Emphasized importance of moving more expeditiously than we have in the past in upon us. We’re looking for more input from EQAC to help us advocate and initiate more steps that elevate the County’s leadership in those areas. Highlighted Joint Environmental Task Force as part of CECAP and Resilient Fairfax.

For CECAP, Challenge EQAC to focus on Implementation of to have true community Countywide Engagement Initiative.

We feel connect so many sectors, but County can't do it all. Involve specialist in Hospitality, Transportation and Land-use, residential and commercial. How community and government can work together to meet goals.

McKay – Wants to respond to Stella's question. Please highlight where the question is located in the working draft.

Stella-Question is not in the ARE. It was separate question evolved from group discussion coming into meeting. It came from recent personal discovery of the plans to revisit language in the comp plan for green buildings

McKay – Value of parking; cost (financial and environmental impact) of parking. Staff brought on consultant to analyze. Looking for insight and recommendations from groups (EQAC, citizens and businesses) through engagement and outreach.

Kambiz – Introduction. Everything is on the Table. CECAP accepted – More than 250 activities across all sectors that working group came up with. Staff to take a hard look at both policies and implementation from these efforts especially as it relates to climate and resiliency mitigation. Results of staff to be presented to BOS in early 2022. Will include implementation of short term and long-term ideas. Lots of work b/c of community and businesses. But will call on behavioral changes, updated and new policies, changes in legislation and incentives. OECC not just leader in every sector, but more of a facilitator role to help move it along.

Kelly Atkinson – will be focusing on green building initiatives through redevelopment applications and looking at the BOS Sustainable Development policy which does have targeted energy efficiency and net 0 guidelines. Looking to see how the county and DPWES is able to address that as part of their applications? And then expanding to be more county-wide.

George– Land Use – Question. Are you familiar with the term Net Environmental Benefit as we are looking at development and redevelopment? Need more consideration in the 5-10year framework to include resources outside the fragile lands outside of RPA lands. Expanding into redevelopment to get benefit because you get better protections to incorporate to improve biodiversity and climate change adaptation/sustainability. Really important framework moving forward.

McKay – Recognizes challenges for redevelopment with consideration to include net environmental benefit because of every site is different.

Kelly Atkinson – Yes. NEB applied to Environmental Quality Corridor designations during entitlement. IF BOS would like us to take a closer look at LDS and DPWES.

Stork – Need to have 2 scorecards to look at this. One on the improvements versus not ideally the way you like. And the other with working with the County on business/consultants involved. Desired land-use versus land-use as a natural place. Maybe also looking at buying carbon tax or credits as mitigation.

Alcorn – Support of Scorecard concept. Offsetting Impacts open to seeing it additional things like planning to comp plan. Both are inherent in comp plan process and implementation of it. already not as much in permit process etc.... Reminder that Fundamental land-use strategies were already crafted with the environment in mind. Big picture ideas such as protection of Occoquan watershed and difficult Run watershed as well as transit-orient

development strategy in order to channel growth to areas already developed to reduce more impervious surface and reduce auto-dependency. Those big picture drives land-use policies.

Gross – Because we live in VA, we need attorneys to consult by law what can be protected under current law and what might need additional legislation to protect with regards to “fragile lands” outside of the RPA.

McKay – Way we apply our individual land-use strategies to individual land use cases when they come forward when they exist. Net out case specific to what if can’t meet all of Environmental Standards. Example: If redevelopment of old area to today’s standards better or worse Env Net Benefit from leaving within its current condition. If redevelopment can’t meet all of County’s Environmental Standards, then what Net Environmental Benefit does the redevelopment have over leaving in current condition? Like to have a scorecard of NEB/cost scored against the redevelopment for community need. Ultimately BOS will support of the community need depending on level of need against (NEB). Look at strategy from staff on how to consider scenarios like that.

Larry – Happy to hear BOS request for EQC provide recommendations to these issues. Recognizes the challenges to development of infrastructure to support E-cars. Challenging because there are lots of ways to implement this work. Important that County coordinate these strategies with the collective group. Thoughts of BOS of how advisory groups like EQAC and other localities can be involved in the implementation process. Because implementation to be a success needs to happen wider than just within Fairfax County but needs to happen across the state.

McKay – Despite successes in Richmond allowances to County, we recognize the hurdles that still need to be confronted to achieve localized goals.

Walkinshaw – EV charging stations @ County facilities. Legislative packages prioritize to Richmond is support for VA to adopt the 2021 IECC building code by EV ready for multifamily buildings.

Land-use -stream line permitting process for Commercial facilities to incorporate EV charging. Welcome continued support of EQACs con support in that effort

Kambiz – Hurdle is at Rec Centers. Moving forward with EV at parking garages. Will provide schedule for other buildings. FX leader in permitting process for EV and information to the public. Has major policy to have new buildings to be EV ready

McKay – Document he was referring to was beyond EV. It addressed number of hurdles County faces in Richmond. Full implementation of the solar program and more. The importance of sharing that information on what help we can get from EQAC and the community to support regulatory issues in Richmond that stopping County being as bold as desired in Env goals.

Stella – Conversation of Wastewater/SWM, intensity/pressure of storms/weather patterns. List of shifts and changes to protect infrastructure? Wanted to make BOS aware of the pressure on infrastructure as result in these shifts and intensities of these weather patterns.

McKay- Agree. Problem is the cost of implementation is used as to why not to implement and we’re not assessing what the cost of no action is.

Stork – Resilient Fairfax – Core of that initiative is what kinds of actions will be needed to respond to climate events. Can we remind people of Resilient Fairfax?

Kambiz – Resilient Fairfax Recap – Vulnerability and Risk assessment with Equity lens.

Sustainability – Social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Once vulnerability

is identified with Partner with utilities and authorities. Community advisory group with community members with expertise and very robust staff planning team. We'll be presented Roadmap of priorities to risks to property, health, critical services, and infrastructure.

DPWES (Herrington) – Already taking steps existing facilities. Directly coordinating with OEE staff with Resilient Fairfax planning. Taking steps to protect critical infrastructure like Norman Coal – Wastewater Treatment Plant. Keep up with stormwater infrastructure and wastewater infrastructure. Long term Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and Workforce Request not enough resources to retrofit and resolve existing and new land use for response to these large storms. “In some places, no matter how big a pipe I place, it will not be able to contain [the surges it receives]”

Ed – Urgency to deal with climate change. What financial mechanisms are available for receiving and distributing funds related to climate mitigation, such as incentivizing EVs?

Stork – Green Banks (example). Additionally, funds related from COVID funding. Energy consolidating funding pool- invigorating the natural talents and entrepreneurship and flexibility our communities have and harness to move ideas forward.

Kambiz – Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CBASE) program for small and middle-sized commercial business and non-profit. Home wise program – weatherize low-income households via demonstrate BMPS and implementation and supply materials.

Clyde – We are a council that advises based on data, not rumor or gut feeling. Example Covanta study approach. Question on whether Covanta was of benefit or not with respect to greenhouse gas. Proven to be more efficient for emitting greenhouse gas, but study found that locally presents a smog issue. Covanta and County took steps to improve. Need that type of study for recycling. To look into establishing Environmental Purchasing numeric targets so evaluate the effectiveness.

Kambiz – OEE can share what proposed Environmental purchasing targets

Hill – Have targets established to identify with metrics.

Stella – thanks and Request BOS to provide a sheet of requests for EQAC to discuss.

Johnna – Reminder about EQAC's 50-year anniversary this year.

McKay – Important team effort to help Fairfax drive to change state law. This working draft is hybrid version to work with staff and Stork's Environmental committee to make sure we are responsive. That report and advocacy with community with real world that we can see negative environmental impacts sadly before our will be the drivers in our work moving forward. Appreciate partnership with EQAC.

Stork – This is too big for any committee or group of us to do alone. We need partners who self-motivated and passionate and are self-organized to move issues along. Decades of involvement in the credibility that you have in the community as well as your own relationship to environmental issues. Your own personal passion in the hundreds, thousands of hours that you've given to us and given to this issue. You're an essential part of process and we will have a lot of work to do. Because we have so many initiatives right now. Establish superstructure help everyone connect to prioritize and move issues and communicate all levels of community.

McKay – will follow up with specific request to CECAP to EQAC on developing strategies for community awareness. Sometimes it's through the BOS and County and sometimes it's a

peer-to-peer discussion and we recognize a real grass roots element for this to be a success. And certainly, take all the help we can get from EQAC on these efforts.

Stella – Thank you.

McKay – Thank you and much appreciated [END]

Stella – Thanks to members.

1. Chairman's items

None.

2. Council Members Items

None.

3. Staff Items

None.

4. Adjournment

2:32 p.m.