

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 8, 2021

TIME: Start: 7:15 PM End: 10:25 PM

**LOCATION: Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway,
Conference Room 106/107, Fairfax, VA 22035**

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

* P indicates present; A indicates absent

Staff Attendance

Stephanie Cornejo
Mathew Meyers
Kelly Naylor
Amanda Novotny
Katie Edwards
Christopher Harington
Charlie Forbes

Visitor Attendance

Jennifer Cole – Clean Fairfax
Toni Genberg
Tom Blackburn

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

- I. Masks were required for this meeting.
- II. Introduction of new Dranesville District representative Kenneth Gubin. Mr. Gubin is member of 350 Fairfax and the faith alliance. EQAC welcomed Mr. Gubin.
- III. Stephanie Cornejo, staff to EQAC has accepted a promotion to be the Long-Range Planning Section Chief. This will be her last meeting.

- IV. The Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) Program for Community Cats was presented by Amanda Novotny, Communications and Outreach Manager, Fairfax County Department of Animal Sheltering.

Ms. Novotny provided an overview of the TNR program including categories of cats found outdoors, the TNR program, hurdles, and recommendations.

The County Shelter attempts to intake cats for adoption that are not “community cats”. Community cats are mature cats that live outdoors full time and are not socialized to people. Community cats are the principal target of the TNR program. The TRN trains volunteers to bring cats to the county where they are neutered and vaccinated. The TNR program has addressed about 500 to almost a 1,000 cats per year.

The program faces issues of staffing, funding, and lack of consistent messaging and comprehensive approach.

There was a discussion of the benefits of the TNR program. Reduction of the impact on wildlife (particularly birds) was discussed.

EQAC members asked if data was being collected to indicate benefit to the environment of the TNR program. Currently such data is not being collected or compiled. Renee Grebe indicated that there was substantial national data on the benefits of programs like TNR and that collecting local data may not be needed to justify the program.

- V. The County Deer Management Program and Other Wildlife Management Issues was presented by Dr. Katherine Edwards, Wildlife Management Specialist, Fairfax County Police Department.

Dr. Edwards provided an update on County Deer management. Fairfax County is in the Commonwealth’s category for deer control reduction. The County is 12th highest deer problem county out of 75 counties keeping statistics. In the past the principal motivation for deer control was traffic accidents with deer. Other issues such as over browsing of natural resource areas are now also recognized as important.

Most deer collisions happen in October and November (mating season) in the early morning hours. Deer collisions have been decreasing over time. Excessive vegetation browsing has also been decreasing. Camera surveys have shown significant reduction of deer in specific parks.

Deer harvesting greatly increased after archery became a principal part of the program in 2010. Up to 1,000 deer per year have been harvested. Most deer taken are female. Most deer harvested are kept by hunters for food. The remaining are donated to other people or “Hunters for the Hungry”. As the population deer in parks reduces fewer deer are being harvested and it is taking more hours of hunting per deer taken.

Deer Chronic Wasting Disease has not been identified in Fairfax County; however, it has been detected as close as Loudoun and Fauquier counties.

It has been found that deer can contract Covid-19. There are currently no local statistics or evidence of transmission. Hunters have told the transmission precautions should be taken.

Rich Weisman asked how deer are impacting the transmission of Lyme disease. Dr. Edwards indicated this question would be best addressed by the health department. Studies are inconclusive that deer control can effectively reduce Lyme disease.

Coyote deer predation while possible is not expected to have a major impact simply because there is so much other easier to obtain food.

VI. Fairfax County Litter Task Force Recommendation

The Litter Task Force (discussed in previous EQAC meetings) has completed a draft report to the Board of Supervisors. Clyde Wilber participated in the Task Force and provided for EQACs consideration a draft memorandum recommending the report to the BOS.

The memorandum commends the Litter Task force and supports their report. The memorandum also reinforces previous EQAC recommendations to the BOS on litter abatement and provides the BOS with several comments on specific Litter Task Force recommendations.

There was a vigorous discussion of the memorandum with questions and suggestions from EQAC members as well as comments by Christopher Harrington, Charlie Forbes and Jennifer Cole. Concerns were raised that the memorandum may be viewed as criticism of the Litter Task Force Report. Clyde Wilber indicated that if the memorandum came across that way, it should be revised.

George Lamb agreed to work with Clyde Wilber to revise the memorandum to provide the proper tone and to allow for flexibility in addressing Litter enforcement.

A vote on acceptance of the memorandum was tabled unanimously until the next meeting.

VII. Establishment of a Nominating Committee for EQAC CY 2022 Officers

George Lamb and Rich Weisman will comprise the nominating committee.

VIII. Preparation for EQAC Public Comment Meeting on January 12, 2022

Alex Robbins will take notes for the public hearing. Renee Grebe will take notes for the regular meeting.

IX. Note Taker Sign-up for 2022

No discussion.

X. November 10, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Larry Zaragoza will provide summary notes.

XI. EQAC discussed email distribution of the Annual Report on the Environment Presentation to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Report Distribution. It was agreed that as in the past, the report should be emailed to a wide range of stakeholders.

X. Chairman Items – No items

XI. Council Member Items

- A Resilient Fairfax report will be out soon.
- The February EQAC meeting will include an update on air quality and on Airport Noise (and a potential County Plan Noise Amendment). EQAC asked for speakers to address the state of monitoring in the County including NOx monitoring and ground level ozone. Potential speakers include MWCOG, VDEQ and County Health Department.
- Renee Grebe is working with FCPA on funding for natural resource area maintenance. An EQAC letter may be warranted.
- A Wetlands Board meeting is Scheduled for December 13 that will include the development of policy to implement the new VRMC living shoreline requirements.
- A recommendation was made to officially share electronically the ARE with the Planning Commission and the FCPA. Consensus.
- Fairfax Peak is an indoor ski recreational project in a public private partnership in Mount Vernon that EQAC may be interested in.

XII. Staff Items

- The annual Environmental Excellence Awards were issued on November 9th. All awards were delivered to the recipients.
- Staff will send out final version chapters to EQAC members in the next week.
- The Board of Supervisors received the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment in both electronic and hard copy formats.
- Jan 12 public meeting- website is updated and staff is working with other groups
- Stephanie stated she enjoyed working with EQAC and hoped to work with everyone again soon.
- Matt advised that he and Kelly will be the primary staff contacts to support EQAC until they hire a new staff member.

XIII. Adjournment

Next Meetings

Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 7:15 P.M.

Annual Public Comment Meeting

Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 9/10

Wednesday, February 9, 2022, at 7:15 P.M.

Air Quality and Airport Noise Policy Comprehensive Plan Amendment 2020-CW-3CP

Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 9/10