

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

MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, June 8, 2022

TIME: 7:20 – 9:11 PM

LOCATION: Virtual via Microsoft teams

EQAC Member Attendance

Name	Present (P) Absent (A)	Name	Present (P) Absent (A)
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)	A
Kenneth Gubin (Dranesville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	P
Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P
Elisa Meara (Providence)	P	Mike Zatz (At-Large)	P
Rich Weisman (Sully)	P	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	P

Staff Attendance

Matthew Meyers, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)

Kelly Naylor, OEEC

Maya Dhavale, OEEC

Susan Hafeli, OEEC

Visitor Attendance

Elizabeth Lonoff

AGENDA ITEMS, DISCUSSION, & DECISIONS

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by Chair Koch.

1. Student Membership

Jacob Hammond--primary

Ms. Basnet as alternate—alternate

Discussion on why so few applicants, only 3 vs. 27 prior years. All 3 came from McLean HS.

Jacob's essay was tied to Fairfax County and included personal impacts. The team thought this personal aspect made for a more compelling essay and suggests modifying future applications to encourage writing why they have interest in environmental issues.

Unanimous acceptance of recommendation. Staff to contact Mr. Hammond about willingness to serve on EQAC.

2. Environmental Excellence Awards update

Only one application so far, period closes July 15.

3. Annual Report on the Environment

Staff presented tables with EQAC recommendations and staff responses with actions. Discussion reviewed each chapter with author comments on the staff response.

Land Use (George)—disagreement on 3rd recommendation, as staff suggested progress was being made and EQAC author suggested more urgency was suggested. Discussion around who recommendations were for, agreement that primarily for Board, although staff would review and respond based on their perspective.

Transportation (Mike)—some agreement with staff response, although EQAC felt the second recommendation was making slower progress and there was concern about accepting proposed numerical goals.

Water (Stella)—similar feelings about staff response and EQAC concerns with environment protection. Not all policy is sufficient. Future EQAC meetings scheduled with Fairfax Water and Upper Occoquan Monitoring Lab.

Waste Management (Clyde)—In process actions are considered delays for action. Chair noted that disagreements with the staff response are acceptable, and this discussion is designed to share author opinions across EQAC membership. Chair's goal is to preview ARE changes for EQAC. Summation is chapter author is unsatisfied with staff responses on Waste.

Parks / Ecological Resources (Rene)—comments in line with others. Some policies do the right thing but may not be sufficient to protect the environment per EQAC observation.

Climate and Energy (Larry)—discussion a few days ago with Staff had more agreement then shown on the matrix. EQAC author expected more support on the topics then the staff response indicates. Dialogue drives better understanding, there was more disconnect then disagreement and clarification might be appropriate. Discussion on business advisory board recommendation—staff felt this should be deferred to the Board. Staff does have a concern that there are 80+ boards and the BOS has been trying to reduce that number.

Air quality (Rick)—staff concurs with recommendation, author will follow-up to get better information.

Wildlife (Bryan)—chapter consulted with staff, significant agreement on response. Requested resources were added by County.

Technology (Ken)—good coordination with Staff and agreement with their response.

Draft chapter reviews:

1. Technology (Ken)—New recommendation will address planimetric data and suggest collecting 4 years vs. current 8-year plan. GIS system usage is increasing, up 22% for one system, 32 % for another.
2. Spotlight on Schools (Rich)—coordinated with McKenzie who reached out to school staff for comment. Chapter includes staff comments. Outdated information was pulled, as data was not updated thru the pandemic. It may be added back next year.
3. Wildlife (Bryan)—last years recommended increase in staff was accepted. Due to increased data collection, another part time person was requested this year.

4. Legislative Proposals

Kelly forwarded email with guidance, proposals are due July 8

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Johna motion to approve, Clyde second
Unanimous approval

6. Chairman Items

No items

7. Council Member Items

Only comments from:

Rene—Spicewood Court property auction in flood plain. Auction ended May 31st. All properties were bought by private interests above market value (41% over assessment). None were acquired by Park Authority or NVCT.

Wetlands board shut down the possibility of developing an RPA site.

Johna—FJLC meeting tomorrow is hybrid.

Elisa Meara—interested in Bamboo legislation, Rene answered that EQAC supported in last years ARE.

8. Staff Items

New employee to start next month: Neely Law

9. Adjournment

Motion: Larry

Second: Johnna

Adjourn at 9:11