

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

COUNTY OF FAIRFAX

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (EQAC)

DATE: March 11, 2020

TIME: 5:10 PM – 8:24 PM

**LOCATION: Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 4/5
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035**

EQAC Member Attendance

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

County Staff in Attendance

Kambiz Agazi	Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)
Joseph Gorney	DPD
Joe Mondoro	County Executive's Office, CFO
Jill Allen	OEEC
Susan Hafeli	OEEC
Kate Daley	OEEC
Juan Reyes	DPWES
Randy Bartlett	DPWES
Marguerite Guarino	Department of Vehicle Services
Laura Grape	NVSWCD

Agency Staff in Attendance

Susan Miller	Fairfax Water
Greg Prelewicz	Fairfax Water

Community Members in Attendance

Norbert Pink	Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter
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The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:10 PM.

1. Joint Meeting with Fairfax County Environmental Coordinating Committee

(1) Welcome and Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

(2) Briefing on the County Executive's FY 2021 Advertised Budget Plan (discussion)

Joe Mondoro, the Fairfax County Chief Financial Officer, presented information regarding the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 county budget. The budget is intended to support the priority areas identified in the county's Strategic Plan. The proposed budget includes an increase in the Real Estate Tax rate of three cents (from \$1.15 to \$1.18 per \$100 of assessed value). Issues discussed included the Schools budget, debt service, and Health and Environment (one of the priority areas of the Strategic Plan). Environmentally-related budget items include and increase in the moneys allotted to the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) and an increase from seven to 12 positions within the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC). The FY 2021 budget is scheduled for adoption on May 5th. Randy Bartlett, Director of DPWES, discussed revenues and various environmentally-related efforts, including wastewater, solid waste, and glass recycling. EQAC members raised issues regarding the age of wastewater infrastructure, contaminants in the wastewater stream (wipes), other health priorities, new staff positions, and the EIP. Mr. Mondoro also mentioned that county revenues are heavily reliant on real estate taxes.

(3) Briefing on the county resiliency and adaptation planning process; potential EQAC letter to Board of Supervisors (discussion)

Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Director of OEEC, presented information to the council regarding Resiliency and Adaptation Planning within the county. He mentioned that he would present information to the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Committee regarding this topic on May 12th. Already the county has begun to consider resiliency and adaptation planning in its ongoing Community-Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP). Resiliency and adaptation planning is expected to consider climate-related risks, flooding, vulnerability, and storm surges on the Potomac River.

(4) Additional Items?

It was noted that the CECAP process began with kick-off meetings in January 2020. The next Task Force meeting would be held on March 31st. The issue of "solar freedom" legislation at the State level was mentioned. It was also mentioned that the next "Green Breakfast," sponsored by the Northern Virginia Solid and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) would be cancelled, due to concerns regarding the growing Coronavirus pandemic. Discussion turned to emergency response plans to events such as hurricanes. Staff emphasized the involvement of multiple jurisdictions and agencies in these efforts.

(5) Confirmation of the next ECC/EQAC joint meeting: September 9, 2020

Dr. Agazi mentioned that the structure of the ECC was being reconsidered. It may be reformed as the Energy and Environmental Advisory Committee. It would still be

comprised of department directors. The intent is for participation to be aligned with the county's Strategic Plan.

The Joint Meeting of EQAC and ECC adjourned at approximately 6:25 PM. The regular Business Meeting portion of the EQAC agenda resumed at 6:40 PM.

2. Briefing on Contaminants of Emerging Concern (discussion)

Susan Miller, the Public Affairs Manager for Fairfax Water, gave a presentation regarding the work of Fairfax Water. Fairfax Water was created in 1957, in order to allow an integrated system for the distribution of water in the county. She discussed the mission, vision, management of Fairfax Water, which serves two million Northern Virginians (approximately 1.1 million retail and 900,000 wholesale). As part of a discussion of water quality, Ms. Miller mentioned Endocrine Disrupting Compounds. Both wastewater treatment and water treatment processes remove almost all of these compounds, which can only be found in trace levels. Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) were also discussed. These chemical, referred to as "forever" chemicals have been used in industrial and home products to resist heat, grease, stains, and friction. None have been detected in Fairfax Water's drinking water. Water sources, source water protection, and water supplies were discussed. Salt in drinking water and streams is a concern. Many tons of salt are applied to roads each year, which ultimately flow into streams and water supplies. Salt cannot be removed through typical treatment processes and requires a desalinization facility to remove.

3. Environmental Excellence Award materials (discussion)

A draft letter regarding nominations for the Environmental Excellence Awards was provided to EQAC members. They were asked to provide Mr. Gorney with any recommended edits.

4. Approval of meeting minutes (tentative)

- January 8, 2020 (issues summary)
- February 12, 2020 (minutes)

The issues summary and minutes were not yet available for review.

5. Chairman items

Mr. Lamb mentioned the video created by Ms. Sparling, which has been posted on the EQAC web-page. It will be sent to school contacts shortly. The video describes the duties of the EQAC student representative and encourages them to apply for the position.

6. Council member items

- Mr. Lanfear announced that he was working on review comments to EQAC for the 2019 Annual Report on the Environment (ARE). Main observations are that the ARE lists and discusses data but should be better at providing suggestions regarding future actions. EQAC might also consider reorganizing chapters to be more closely aligned with the county's Strategic Plan.
- Mr. Healy announced that the Tree Action Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

- Bryan Campbell, the new EQAC representative from the Braddock District, introduced himself. Mr. Campbell has an environmental science background. Paul Pitera, the former Braddock representative, was formerly Mr. Campbell's supervisor.
- Ms. Gagnon announced that a Home Energy Assessment was available through Dominion Energy.

7. Staff items

Mr. Gorney noted the following:

- Input is requested from EQAC members regarding topics for the April meeting. Potential topics include a discussion of the 2019 ARE, water quality controls, and a memo to the Board of Supervisors regarding resiliency. Council members recommended that both Randy Bartlett, Director of DPWES, and Jim Hart, former Planning Commissioner, be invited to the April meeting to discuss the adequacy of the current stormwater requirements and enforcement of those requirements.
- The ECC is drafting responses to the Board of Supervisors regarding the ARE recommendations. The responses will be available in late March.
- A Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Natural Landscaping at County Facilities is proceeding through the review process. A staff report will be published soon, followed by public hearings before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.
- The Fairfax County Restoration Project, a public-private partnership, might be placed under the county Economic Initiatives Office. At a recent meeting, the invasive Spotted Lanternfly was mentioned. It has the potential to spread to this area and decimate grapes and other fruits.
- An airport consultant to expected to speak before one of the committees of the Board of Supervisors regarding the Dulles Airport Noise Contours in the future.
- Minute-takers are still needed for future meetings.
- Laura Grape of NVSWCD is seeking a grant from the State regarding an oyster shell recycling program. These shells are critical structures for developing oyster spat to attach themselves to.

Susan Hafeli introduced Jill Allen, the new EQAC Liaison.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.