

**FAIRFAX COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 9, 2022

TIME: Start: 7:15 PM End: 10:01 PM

LOCATION: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

EQAC Member Attendance

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

* P indicates present; A indicates absent

Staff Attendance

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

Kambiz Agazi, Director, OEEC

Philip Hagen, Deputy Director, Department of Management and Budget

Kelly Atkinson, Department of Planning and Development

Maya Dhavale, OEEC

Allison Homer, OEEC

John Morrill, OEEC

Visitor Attendance

Andrea McGimsey, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS)

Doug Britt

Elizabeth Lonoff, PE

Eric Goplerud, FACS

Nicki Bellezza

Cindy Speas

Ed Monroe

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Electronic meeting findings and determinations

Vice Chairman Zaragoza read the electronic meeting findings and determinations to state that the Environmental Quality Advisory Council was meeting electronically due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Fairfax County FY 2023 Advertised Budget – Philip Hagen, Deputy Director, Department of Management and Budget presented and discussed the advertised budget. Public Hearings will be held April 12-14, 2022.
 - No increases for Parks Natural Resources are in the advertised budget. Renee Grebe indicated that this budget does not appear responsive to Park Authority requests that have been supported by EQAC.
 - George Lamb expressed concern that the way the budget was presented it could be inferred that the FCPA has not been fully spending their approved bonded projects and if they have inadequate management or staff resources to implement those projects.
 - Land Development Services funding has depended on fees. However, those fees have flowed into the General Fund and then back to LDS. The advertised budget creates an enterprise fund for the LDS fees and separates LDS from the General fund. George Lamb expressed concern that isolating LDS from the General Fund could prevent funds from flowing back to General Fund.
 - Larry Zaragoza expressed concern that the budget does not appear to support CECAP.
 - EQAC also expressed that they will testifying at the budget hearing about these issues.
 - EQAC thanked Mr. Hagen.

3. CECAP Implementation Briefing – Maya Dhavale and Matt Meyers, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC). Maya Dhavale presented CECAP background and progress.
 - The CECAP goal is to achieve carbon neutrality. The BOS is committed to energy carbon neutrality by 2040.
 - 90%+ of the emissions to be controlled are from the private sector.
 - Matt Meyers discussed the Fairfax Homewise program, which focuses on helping homeowners achieve energy efficiency.
 - The county is operating eight separate outreach campaigns under Carbon-Free Fairfax.
 - More detailed plans are expected by the end of 2022.
 - John Morrill discussed the 2022 political reality that has threatened some of the County-planned initiatives. However there have been some wins for net metering and EV charging. John also presented the progress on specific programs.
 - Clyde Wilber comments/questions to be addressed in the future:
 - Thanked the staff for the presentations. Tonight, we heard lots of process and a few specifics. EQAC needs data not just process.
 - What are the most effective initiatives?
 - Is there a quantitative analysis of what can be accomplished by each program relative to the cost and time?
 - What are top 3-4 programs for quantitatively reducing the most GHG?
 - How much money is dedicated to these programs \$/CO2 equivalent?
 - C-PACE was addressed by Kambiz Agazi. It is up and running and it is a tool for medium size companies, but no one has used it. Arlington has one loan.

Fairfax will keep working at it. Kambiz expressed that while Green Bank may ultimately produce more benefit, C-PACE is also useful.

- Renee Grebe – noted that natural resources could overlap with GHG control.
 - Larry Zaragoza expressed concern about the timeline. It is good that some programs are going ahead to present to the Board. EQAC and the people are looking for action now. Do not lose momentum. Present a specific action plan, not a plan to do more planning.
 - Kambiz Agazi indicated that Carbon-Free Fairfax is the program to get things off the ground now. Fairfax did not get everything they wanted out of the General Assembly; however, the county has an extensive program to move forward with communication over the next 18 months. He expects this to last several years.
 - Larry Zaragoza noted that communication is useful, it is not enough. He offered EQAC’s help to turn communication into homeowner ownership and action.
4. Resilient Fairfax Briefing – Allison Homer and Matt Meyers, OEEC. Resilient Fairfax is focused on addressing the impact of climate change and developing adaptation and resiliency actions and an implementation path.
- Discussion:
- Fairfax Water invested in 10’s millions in power backup after hurricanes 10 years ago. However, they are still concerned about their ability to deliver water during future conditions.
 - Tidal wetlands now must consider NOAA tidal flood levels for the project life. It would be helpful to coordinate Resilient Fairfax with the Fairfax County Wetlands Board.
5. Budget Testimony/Letter
- Stella Koch asked for comments from EQAC on the budget testimony. Ken Lanfear will assist in editing.
6. Discussion of FY 2023 Student Member Selection
- Announcement will go out soon and be back by May 4, 2022. Ken Gubin will coordinate this effort.
7. Data Centers and Water Resources
- Stella Koch discussed the need to develop a policy for water use or reuse water at data centers.
8. Status of County Responses to EQAC Annual Report Recommendations
- The response to the BOS will be out by the first week in April and copied to EQAC.
9. Process for EQAC members to Request Information to Support the Preparation of the Annual Report
- EQAC members with direct contacts for their chapter could go ahead and contact them. Keep EQAC staff informed.
10. Approval of February 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Moved by Stella Koch.
- Seconded by Ken Lanfear.

Passed unanimously.

11. Chairman Items – Stella Koch requested that EQAC members please provide Budget testimony material.

12. Council Member Items

- Larry Zaragoza asked when EQAC can meet in-person. The next meeting will be virtual. EQAC will discuss going back to in-person after the next meeting.
- Renee Grebe asked that the chapter presentation dates and the note taker dates be re-circulated.
- Clyde Wilber noted that the Wetlands Board Policy is under review by the County Attorney and it is anticipated that a draft will be presented at the March 30 meeting for subsequent public outreach.

13. Staff Items

- NVRC has a webinar on data centers.
- Please send agenda items for the May meeting to Stella and Larry ASAP.
- Staff is planning a FOIA update and when in-person meetings may be required again.

14. Adjournment Occurred at 10:01 PM

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 7:15 P.M.

Topics: Parking Reimagined

Location: TBD

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 7:15 P.M.

Topics: TBD

Location: TBD

Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at 7:15 P.M.

Topics: TBD

Location: TBD