

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

**DATE: March 10, 2021
TIME: 7:16 pm – 9:43 pm
LOCATION: Online / WebEx**

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	Prasi Thapa (Student Member)	A
Ed Monroe (Dransville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	P
Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P
Alex Robbins (Providence)	A	Mike Zatz (At-Large)	P
Rich Weisman (Sully)	P	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	P

* P indicates present; A indicates absent

Staff Attendance

Kelly Naylor
Kathleen Daley
Kambiz Agazi
Christina Jackson
Cathy Muse
Natalie Owen
Ron Shoram
Chris McGough
Ellie Codding
Craig Carinci
Lee Ann Pender

Visitor Attendance

David Guernsey
Doug Guernsey
Steve Crawford

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Electronic meeting findings and determinations

Chair Koch moved, and Mr. Wilber seconded, that each member's voice may be adequately heard by each other member of the Environmental Quality Advisory Council. Passed unanimously.

2. Presentation and Discussion - Fairfax County Advertized Budget - Christina Jackson

Ms. Jackson, the Director of the Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget, provided a slide presentation (available on the March 10, 2021 EQAC meeting webpage) to the council on the Fiscal Year 2022 Fairfax County Advertized Budget. Overall the proposed budget provides a modest 0.55% increase for county operations and schools because the timing and scale of an economic recovery is uncertain. Budget does not include possible funds from the federal American Recovery Plan.

The proposed budget provides modest increases for key programs. There is a proposed increase of \$14 million for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS had asked for more than \$100 million increase). Safety and Security and the Health and Environment functions have the next largest increases at \$11.91 million and \$9.12 million respectively. No pay increase is proposed for county staff in FY 2022. The budget fully funds proposed reserves, including an economic recovery reserve.

The county real estate tax base is growing with residential assessments up. However, the non-residential tax base is down. County staff is monitoring revenues and there is potential for adjustments if the economic recovery picks up. County will seek to maximize the receipt of any stimulus resources that are available. In addition, the FY 2023 budget will be developed based on County Strategic Plan priorities approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Chair Koch asked about the stormwater fund. Ms. Jackson said that while the rate remains the same, the fund could rise because of the increase in residential assessments. Chair Koch asked about any substantive changes in environmental programs and wondered if it would be “business as usual” to which Ms. Jackson replied yes.

Mr. Wilber commented on overall environmental spending; employee compensation, including collective bargaining and potential application of Davis –Bacon; changes in commercial and non-residential real estate as more people work from home; and the drop in license and professional fee revenue. County staff is monitoring and assessing and taking these factors into consideration in developing the budget and any adjustments.

Mr. Weisman asked about budgeting for the Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) in the future. Ms. Jackson replied staff works closely with Kambiz Agazi and that energy and environmental initiatives are important to the Board of Supervisors. No money has been set aside for CECAP initiatives.

3. Presentation and Discussion – Environmental Purchasing Policy – Cathy Muse, Natalie Owen, and Chris McGough

Cathy Muse, the Director of the Department of Procurement and Material Management introduced the staff present for the presentation. Mr. McGough and Ms. Owen provided

an overview of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative. CSR is being deployed extensively in business and being implemented in Fairfax County supply chain. The county is the first in the country to undertake CSR effort. County procurement is about \$1 billion yearly, with top 300 suppliers accounting for about 90% of purchases. County looking to employ CSR tool systematically across supply chain and use it to measure social and environmental impacts of the county's supply chain. CSR is voluntary, not mandatory. County using questionnaire to develop scorecard assessing environmental; labor and human rights; ethics; and sustainability, using Ecovadis sustainability rating. 65 top suppliers participating which represent \$275 million procurement across 40 agencies. County wants to integrate CSR assessments into procurements.

County looking to develop a Supply Chain Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis to estimate GHG emissions associated with county procurement. They are preparing to conduct a tier analysis and obtain recommendations for next steps.

Ms. Muse introduced David Guernsey with Guernsey Services to provide their experience with the CSR program. Chair Koch asked Mr. Guernsey if the CSR lense was beneficial to his company to which he replied yes. Mr. Lamb asked how Guernsey became active in CSR and Mr. Guernsey said it was through the Northern Virginia and Fairfax Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. Wilber asked where the data is on CSR metrics and how they are letting suppliers know about the program. Mr. Lanfear commented on developing sound economic and environmental standards. Mr Zaragoza wanted to know how the county is serving as a model for nongovernmental entities. Chair Koch asked how EQAC can support CSR and what county procurement needs to be successful with the initiative. Chair Koch raised the possibility of EQAC making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding the metrics for the CSR program. Mr. Monroe asked if the county has incentives or was going to set requirements for CSR certification. County staff is looking intently at where and how to deploy CSR as a procurement tool.

4. Annual Report on the Environment (ARE) Chapter Review

Chair Koch asked council members to sign up to have their ARE chapters reviewed at an upcoming EQAC meeting. Kelly Naylor to send around a signup sheet.

5. Report on Conversation with Supervisor Walkinshaw – Bryan Campbell, EQAC

Mr. Campbell reported that Supervisor Walkinshaw would like to see environmental equity considerations in EQAC recommendations. The supervisor felt that program increases are going to be tough in the current fiscal environment. Supervisor Walkinshaw is also interested in solid waste, especially the need to take a hard look at Covanta plant performance and renewal.

6. Approval on February 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Zaragoza moved, and Ms. Grebe seconded approval of the February meeting minutes. Passed unanimously.

7. Chairman's items

- Chair Koch asked Mr. Wilber and Mr. Zaragoza to look at the metrics for the CSR program. There was a council discussion on how the county can enforce CSR, with a possible council recommendation to the BOS on putting CSR information in vender solicitations.
- For the upcoming BOS budget hearings, Chair Koch will sign up to speak and ask for continued support of environmental programs.
- Chair Koch asked for members to review new student member applications and make a recommendation. Mr. Weisman and Mr. Monroe agreed to serve on the review team.
- Chair Koch also asked for members to review applications for Environmental Excellence Awards and Mr. Katz and Mr. Lanfear agreed to serve.

8. Council members items

- Mr. Lanfear had a discussion with Supervisor Alcorn about the Annual Report on the Environment.
- Mr. Monroe spoke to Supervisor Faust about the ARE and CECAP.
- Ms. Gagnon spoke to Supervisor Lusk who asked about LEED monitoring by the county and also asked about the stormwater assessment. Environmental Expo scheduled for April 24th.
- Mr. Campbell related an experience about speaking with a county resident about a private solid waste contractor.
- Ms. Grebe reported on a county staff invasive plant working group. Focus on bamboo right now but looking to expand work on other invasive plants. Also noted that Loudoun County has established an environmental commission.

9. Staff items

- Ms. Naylor recommended that council members use ear buds, Bluetooth, headphones, or similar devices to minimize background noise.
- Mr. Agazi noted that the BOS Environment Committee is meeting Tuesday, March 16th and is scheduled to have the first of four JET presentations and an update on the Fairfax Green initiatives. He is also looking for future funding opportunities for CECAP and other environmental initiatives.

10. Adjournment

9:43 pm – Moved by Mr. Lamb and seconded by Mr. Zaragoza. Adopted unanimously.