

**FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021**

PRESENT: Mary D. Cortina, Braddock District, Chairman
John A. Carter, Hunter Mill District
Walter C. Clarke, Mount Vernon District
Daniel G. Lagana, Lee District
Julie M. Strandlie, Mason District
Timothy J. Sargeant, Commissioner At-Large

ABSENT: Andres Jimenez, Commissioner At-Large, Vice Chairman
John C. Ulfelder, Dranesville District

OTHERS: Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner, Providence District
Matthew Meyers, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)
Kathleen Daley, OEEC
Maya Dhavale, OEEC
Allison Homer, OEEC
Catherine Torgergen, Stormwater Planning Division, Department of Public Works
and Environmental Services (DPWES)
Shannon Curtis, DPWES
Craig A. Carinci, Director, DPWES
Kambiz Agazi, Director, OEEC
Corrine Bebek, Planning Division (PD), Department of Planning and
Development (DPD)
Joseph Gorney, PD, DPD
Kelly Atkinson, PD, DPD
William Marsh, Land Development Services (LDS)
Leanna O'Donnell, LDS
Keisha Strand, Senior Deputy Clerk, Planning Commission

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Office of Environmental and Energy PowerPoint Presentation: Overview of Office, Programs, and Initiatives
- B. Department of Public Works and Environmental Services PowerPoint Presentation: Watershed and Stormwater Management in Fairfax County

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Chairman Cortina called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

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Chairman Cortina MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

- MAY 20, 2021

Commissioner Sargeant seconded the motion which carried by a vote of 6-0. Commissioner Lagana was absent from the vote. Commissioners Jimenez and Ulfelder were absent from the meeting.

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Commissioner Cortina began the meeting and stated that Joseph Gorney, Planning Division, Department of Planning and Development, was the primary point of contact for the Environment Committee. She then thanked Mr. Gorney for his assistance with preparing the meeting.

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Mr. Gorney announced that there would be two presentations, one from staff at the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) to discuss the various ongoing initiatives and one from staff from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) to discuss watershed health and stormwater. He then introduced the staff from OEEC and DPEWS who would be giving the presentations and answer any outstanding questions.

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Kathleen Daley, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC); Maya Dhavale, OEEC; and Allison Homer, OEEC; gave a presentation on the goals, programs, and initiatives of the OEEC, a copy of which is included in Attachment A, which covered the following topics:

- The history, goals, mission statement, and ongoing initiatives of the OEEC;
- The OEEC's core areas of focus;
- The OEEC's analysis and management on energy strategy and environmental issues;
- The OEEC's various outreach initiatives and community engagement programs;
- The OEEC's Climate Change Planning and Action Plan initiative, as well as the various strategies for implementation ;
- The OEEC's Resilient Fairfax initiative, as well as the agencies involved;
- The existing climate hazards impacting the County; and
- The role of the Planning Commission in the OEEC's initiatives.

There was a discussion between Ms. Homer, Ms. Dhavale; Kambiz Agazi, Director, OEEC; and multiple Committee members on the following issues:

- The OEEC's outreach efforts to minority communities;
- The OEEC's efforts to educate the public on its various initiatives, including non-English speaking populations;
- The local and national organizations with which the OEEC coordinated;
- The role of the Planning Commission and the Department of Planning and Development in addressing environmental issues;
- The challenges associated with addressing environmental issues during the planning review process;

- The extent to which the County supported LEED certification programs;
- The extent to which achieving LEED certification was voluntary in certain development applications;
- The extent to which environmental policies and goals were adequately reflected in the Comprehensive Plan;
- The extent to which developers adopted environmental friendly policies;
- The existing and incentives for implementing solar power and the sale of electric vehicles;
- The Planning Commission efforts to raise awareness environmental issues with the public;
- The OEEC's role in improving the infrastructure for electric vehicles;
- The OEEC's efforts to share reports on its initiatives with the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors; and
- The existing policies for communicating environmental standards to the Planning Commission, developers, and property owners.

Shannon Curtis, Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), and Catherine Torgergen, Stormwater Planning Division, DPWES, gave a presentation on the current challenges and opportunities regarding watershed and stormwater management in Fairfax County, a copy of which is included in Attachment B, which covered the following topics:

- The current conditions and health of the County's watersheds and streams;
- The impact of significant development on watersheds and streams;
- The opportunities for improving the condition of the County's watersheds and streams;
- Potential solutions to various issues surrounding stormwater management;
- A case study in stormwater management with the development of the Fairfax County Public Safety Headquarters; and
- Other ongoing stormwater management challenges and opportunities throughout the County.

There was a discussion between Mr. Curtis; Ms. Torgergen; Craig A. Carinci, Director, DPWES; and multiple Committee members on the following:

- The extent to which the Comprehensive Plan established policies and expectations for stormwater management measures, protecting environmentally sensitive areas, and mitigating the impact of development on streams and watersheds;
- The ongoing efforts to establish or improve the County's standards for stormwater management, flood mitigation, and environmental protection;
- The role of the Planning Commission and the Department of Planning and Development to encourage applicants to improve stormwater management and environmental protections commitments;
- The issues associated with developers utilizing off-site credits and the site-plan review process to address stormwater management and environmental protection issues;
- Clarification on potential opportunities to re-evaluate developed sites to improve stormwater management and environmental protection, as well as the challenges associated with such efforts;

- The role of the Planning Commission, the Department of Planning and Development, and OEEC in encouraging applicants to implement measures to reduce environmental pollutants in conjunction with developments;
- The efforts by the County to raise awareness and educate the public on the importance of stormwater management infrastructure;
- The effectiveness of the County's stream restoration efforts;
- The issues with certain stormwater management efforts in urban areas and infill sites;
- The types of stormwater management and green building practices that developers tend to oppose compared to practices they tend to favor;
- Clarification on ongoing efforts to pursue development within resource protection areas;
- The extent to which the Embark Richmond Highway project adopted adequate stormwater management and environmental protection policies; and
- The County resources utilized for identifying and studying issues related to stormwater and environmental protection during redevelopment efforts.

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Chairman Cortina thanked staff and adjourned the meeting.

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The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 p.m.
Mary D. Cortina, Chairman

An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Planning Commission Office,
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 552, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

Approved: 09/22/2022

Jacob Caporaletti

Jacob Caporaletti, Clerk
Fairfax County Planning Commission

County of Fairfax
Commonwealth of Virginia

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 16th day of May 2021, by

Bobby Lee Vaught

Notary Seal

Signature of Notary

Notary registration number: 8050601

Commission expiration: 07/31/2027



