



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

September 16, 2024

City Hall, Conference Room 2000

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (13)	Status	Staff
Kishla Askins	P	Adriana Castañeda, T&ES
Dan Beattie	P	Bill Skrabak, T&ES
Eldon Boes	P	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Alexander Clark	E	Jesse Maines, T&ES
Benjamin Cuddy, Vice-Chair	E	Jessica Lassetter, T&ES
Jennifer Debias	E	Camille Liebnitzky, T&ES
Kathie Hoekstra	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Philip Mobilia	P	Yulia Fernandez Marcos, Office of Climate Action
Marta Schantz, Chair	P	
Julia Slayden	P	Guests
James Vandeputte	E	Alfonzo Lopez, Member, 3 rd District, House of Representatives
		Scott Barstow
		Daphne Yuille
		Sean Morrissey

P: Present; **PR:** Present Remotely; **A:** Absent - Unexcused; **E:** Absent – Excused; **N:** Not a Member

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Marta Schantz called the meeting to order; and introductions were completed for all attendees. Chair Schantz noted that administrative agenda items would be completed at the end of the meeting, after city staff presentations.

2. Public Comment

Public comments were held at the end. Mr. Scott Barstow offered to send the EPC Chair his comments to consider, which was accepted.

3. CB TMDL Action Plan, Stormwater presentation

Jessica Lassetter, Senior Environmental Specialist of T&ES/Stormwater Management provided an update to the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), Phase 3

Action Plan. Discussion included an overview of the Stormwater Management program and how the City treats (manages) stormwater to improve our environment. A TMDL is how much pollution a body of water can handle before it starts to degrade. Implementation of pollution reduction requirements, which are part of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL, were passed down to the city to manage. Therefore, the city holds a stormwater permit, called the Municipal Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. For each phase of this CB TMDL, it was required to have a 5%, 35%, and 60% reduction, respectively, to meet the phase-specific TMDL requirements. The city has currently reached the 100% reduction requirement for phosphorus and sediment and are on target to achieve the nitrogen reduction prior to the required deadline.

4. FY25 Legislative Priority Discussion

Delegate Alfonso Lopez provided an overview of his work history, focusing on environmental legislation, initiatives, and successes. Discussion included: examples of current legislative initiatives that did not get passed into law with current administration. From an environmental perspective, plan for upcoming years and successes/possibilities. Recommended the EPC propose legislative initiatives they support – large and small – to continue paving the way for subsequent years. Discussed priorities Delegate Lopez would be supporting that could align with EPC support, related to topics such as worker protection and Virginia Green Banks.

Discussed the EPC's FY24 legislative priorities to identify which priorities the commission wants to continue supporting for FY25, such as Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Reviewed priorities list provided by the Virginia League of Conservation Voters and identified those the EPC would include in this year's legislative priorities letter.

Question: Has the city ever looked into acoustic monitors for noise? NYC has automatic monitors that enforce. City Staff has noise code enforcement with noise meters to ensure we know what the noise source is. Ms. Kishla Askins will send information to Melissa Atwood.

Motion to approve the letter, including the items identified during this meeting: Ms. Julia Slayden. **Second**: Ms. Kishla Askins. **Vote**: Unanimous Approval. Chair Schantz will author the letter. Mr. Eldon Boes will peer review. Final letter will be sent to all EPC members and submitted prior to the deadline of October 4, 2024.

5. Office of Climate Action Community Engagement/Comms Update

Yulia Fernandez Marcos, Community Engagement & Climate Justice Manager, presented on her role in bringing environmental and social justice into policies, initiatives, and actions in the City. Yuli focuses on building relationships with community members, understanding it can take time to build relationships and residents' trust before trying to present initiatives to them. Office of Climate Action initiatives that allow her to reach out to different communities via social media campaign, tailoring messages in Spanish, and participating in community events. Communication Plan metrics include goals to (1) share information with residents, businesses, and visitors on existing and emerging climate programs and (2) listen to new audiences to better inform program and policy

design. Commissioners asked about demographic of followers on social media and interaction with schools.

6. Administrative Items

a) Meeting Minutes

Vote on June 17, 2024, regular meeting minutes, for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Second:** Ms. Philip Mobilia; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

b) Reports from Commissioners/Staff

Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes): First meeting for FY25 is tomorrow, Tuesday, September 17, 2024. Agenda includes discussion on Robinson Terminal North development project.

West End Small Area Plan (Ms. Kathie Hoekstra): Deferred by Planning Commission for 2-3 months.

Beauregard Design Advisory Committee (Ms. Kathie Hoekstra): Discussed different types of architect guidelines for a small area plan to identify what different neighborhoods would incorporate.

Transportation Commission (Mr. Dan Beattie): First meeting for FY25 is Thursday, September 19, 2024. Over the summer, Mr. Beattie was asked (declined offer) to represent the Transportation Commission on the design advisory committee for the new George Mason Elementary School, which is currently in design process. School board will see first rendition (various options) this Thursday. Issues: residents in that neighborhood want to retain the character of the neighborhood, including the school's open space (elementary school's playground area). Could come down to land use versus height. The school board will see the designs and move toward final adoption on Oct 10, 2024.

Update from Ryan Freed:

- Eco-City Homes program starting soon. Soft launch with commissions and city staff in next couple weeks.
- Electric Vehicle Ride and Drive at Chinquapin Park on Sept 28, 2024.
- Tons of Trucks, Saturday, September 21, 2024. First hour is sensory hour.

c) **EAP Steering Committee update:** Prior to Office of Climate Action being created, during Environmental Action Plan (EAP) development and implementation, the steering committee was created. Steering committee members included council members and department directors. This subgroup looked into whether the steering committee should be resurrected. Challenges with starting this group right now, included timing, need, and identifying EPC priorities and needs that would help drive council engagement. Subgroup does not recommend currently reigniting this committee. Other actions are recommended. Requested EPC

members review PowerPoint from subcommittee prior to next EPC meeting. Ms. Kishla Askins will send memo to Melissa Atwood to distribute to all EPC members for discussion in October Meeting.

d) EPC Chair's update on meetings with parallel organizations across NoVa and relevant ALX Commissions/Boards

Met with peer environmental commissions in surrounding jurisdictions to learn how their team works. 'Most of them have a priorities document for their commission. The EPC has an informal list of priorities that commissioners can consider whether to formalize for EPC use moving forward.

Met with city departments to understand what they are working on and if there were ways the EPC could provide support. One initiative was the City Hall renovation, which includes Market Square (with the fountain) upgrades.

Met with other commissions to determine if there was an opportunity and need for joint commission meetings. Possibly change normal monthly meeting to joint meeting, if need arises.

Discussion on EPC vacancies: Two current EPC members were voted back in, Mr. Dan Beattie and Mr. Ben Cuddy. Still have two vacancies.

e) Approval of EPC FY25 Calendar

Motion to approve EPC's FY25 calendar: Ms. Julia Slayden. **Second:** Ms. Kishla Askins; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

7. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Dan Beattie

The meeting was adjourned at 9:48p.m. Next regular meeting is Monday, October 21, 2024.

FY2025 Attendance

FY2025 Environmental Policy Commission Attendance Summary												
Member's Name	2024				2025							% Attendance
	16-Sep	21-Oct	18-Nov	16-Dec	13-Jan	10-Feb	10-Mar	21-Apr	TBD Retreat	19-May	16-Jun	
Kishla Askins	P											100%
Dan Beattie	P											100%
Eldon Boes	P											100%
Alexander Clark	E											100%
Benjamin Cuddy	E											100%
Jennifer Debias	E											100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P											100%
Philip Mobilia	P											100%
Marta Schantz, Chair	P											100%
Julia Slayden	P											100%
James Vandeputte	E											100%