



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

January 22, 2024

Virtual via Zoom

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (13)	Status	Staff
Dan Beattie	PR	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Eldon Boes	PR	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Alexander Clark	E	Bill Skrabak, T&ES
Benjamin Cuddy	PR	Adriana Castañeda, T&ES
Jennifer Debias	PR	Erin Bevis-Carver, T&ES
Kathie Hoekstra, Chair	PR	
Anna Marino	PR	Guests
Philip Mobilia	PR	Sarah Foschi
Michael Olex, Vice-Chair	PR	
Theresa Romanosky	PR	
Marta Schantz	PR	
Julia Slayden	PR	
James Vandeputte	PR	

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

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Kathie Hoekstra called meeting to order. Ms. Julia Slayden provided a brief introduction to the commission. No other introductions were needed, no public present.

2. Public Comment

Sarah Foschi, Air Force Officer that is working on Masters in Sustainable Management. Request to see if City has a Capstone Project she can work on for her degree.

3. Administrative Items

a) Vote for Vice-Chair

Mr. Michael Olex’s term on the EPC ends January 31, 2024. Ms. Marta Schantz volunteered and has assumed the vice-chair role for the remainder of FY24.

b) Request for Commissioners: Provide topics and/or focus areas for retreat and select date.

EPC will hold their annual retreat on Saturday, April 27, 2024.

c) Meeting Minutes

Vote on December 11, 2023, regular meeting minutes, for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Philip Mobilia; **Second:** Ms. Jennifer Debias; **Vote:** Unanimous approval, with Ms. Marta Schantz, Ms. Julia Slayden, and Mr. Benjamin Cuddy abstaining.

d) Reports from Commissioners

Updates from Chair Hoekstra:

IRA State Funding: IRA state funding that goes through the state Department of Energy is in the planning stage of getting funding. Actual rollout of money expected around January 2025.

VA League of Conservation Voters meetings regarding legislative sessions:

Summary of information from last meeting, included: (1) New chairs and vice-chairs for committees, as well as extent of new members in each committee; (2) New bills focused on data centers, putting distributed solar on parking lots and expanding rooftop solar, energy efficiency, keep clean car legislation (cars sold after 2035 need to be electric); (3) Budget, including attempts to put REGI back into the budget. (4) Areas they are working on with the various committees, include agriculture and conservation bills, climate bills, and voting rights. (5) Bill extending the deadline for AlexRenew to comply with combined sewer overflow project.

Discussion/presentation ideas/requests for future EPC meetings included:

- T&ES Director coming back.
- Housing/Affordable Housing in Alexandria
- Health Department – Healthy Homes Initiative & intersection between sustainability and public health. HD scheduled to attend in March.
- APCS - work on climate change, energy efficiency, and renewable energy initiatives. Discuss work they have already done.
- P&Z has requested to attend several upcoming meetings to discuss various topics related to the Entertainment District.
- P&Z – discuss updates to EPC/PC joint letter dated Feb 7, 2023.

Update from Ms. Marta Schantz:

World Wildlife Foundation, in collaboration with the Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia is putting on a concert, called Elements of Earth, on March 3rd at 5:00pm at the Masonic Memorial. Looking for non-profit organizations and government agencies with community engagement outreach programs related to the environment. City staff is interested and may be able to participate.

Transportation Commission (Mr. Dan Beattie):

Discussed various grant letters, all were approved unanimously:

- Three grant support letters, each under USDOT or State of Virginia DOT related programs to obtain grants for AlexWest and West Seminary Road.
- Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) grant for various capacities, such as capital and operating projects.
- MWCOG had two grants for transportation, land use and regional roadways that are largely focused on Seminary and Edsall Road corridors, submitted in coordination with Fairfax County.

Upcoming considerations for the Transportation Commission:

- March – Commission will consider the transit strategic plan for DASH.
- April and May – Commission will consider the transportation long-range plan.

e) Requests from Staff (Melissa Atwood)

Request for pictures of solar panel arrays in City: Request for pictures and/or addresses of larger/more visible solar panel arrays in the city for staff to use in a presentation. Please send to Melissa.

Request for Ellen Pickering Award selection committee member: Ms. Jennifer Debias volunteered and will represent EPC.

4. Coal-Tar Gasification Plan Remediation Plan update

Erin Bevis-Carver, Division Chief of Sanitary Infrastructure Division provided a brief presentation on the Oronoco Outfall Remediation Project related to the former Alexandria Town Gas (ATG) site. Presentation covered background information of the site, a remediation project overview, and components of the consent decree entered into the courts with the Potomac Riverkeeper Network. This presentation was provided in response to an EPC members request.

5. Discussion on strategic planning for EPC over next 6 months and fiscal year, including review of initiative priorities for each EPC member

EPC members reviewed the list of initiatives, by category, that were submitted to Chair Hoekstra as an action from the December 2023 meeting. Categories were energy, buildings, transportation, and other. Each member was allotted a certain number of votes per category. Chair Hoekstra will consolidate the top initiatives from each category and send it out for EPC members to review.

6. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Marta Schantz; **Second:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37p.m. Next regular meeting is Monday, February 26, 2024.

FY2024 Attendance

Member	Sept 18, 2023	Oct 16, 2023	Nov 11, 2023	Dec 11, 2023	Jan 22, 2024 <small>(virtual only)</small>	Feb 26, 2024 <small>(virtual only)</small>	Mar 18, 2024	Apr 15, 2024	Apr 27, 2024 <small>(Retreat)</small>	May 20, 2024	Jun 17, 2024	TOTALS
Dan Beattie	P	P	P	P	P							100.0%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P							100.0%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P	E							100.0%
Benjamin Cuddy	P	P	P	E	P							100.0%
Jennifer Debias	P	E	P	P	P							100.0%
Cynthia Elliott	P											100.0%
Oleksandr Faryga	A	E										50.0%
Kathie Hoekstra	E	P	P	P	P							100%
Anna Marino	P	P	P	A	P							80%
Philip Mobilia		P	P	P	P							100.0%
Michael Olex	P	E	P	P	P							100%
Theresa Romanosky	P	P	E	P	P							100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	E	P							100%
Julia Slayden					P							100%
James Vandeputte	P	P	P	P	P							100%