

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission
Draft

Summary of February 25, 2019 Meeting
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Azalea Conference Room

Members Present: Mike Hanna, Claire O’Dea, Mike Mesmer, Gabriel Thoumi, Kimberly Fedinatz, Carol Rakatansky, John Bloom, Sarah Meservey, Charles Girard

Members Absent: Colleen Orr, Jessica Skerritt, Xuan Nguyen,

Guests: Vince Plaxico, Tara Failey, Shawn Norton, Jonathan Morgenstein, Teresa Leonardo

Staff Present: Adam Segel-Moss (DES), Demetra McBride (DES), John Morrill (DES), Joan Kelsch (DES), Rich Dooley (DES)

1. Public Comment

none

2. Roundtable Chat – Matt de Ferranti

Matt de Ferranti provided background to the Commission on his personal and professional experience.

Matt noted that he has over 20 years of experience working to help people build better lives for themselves and their children. He has used his skills as a lawyer in positions at Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together, focusing on improving opportunities for low-income homeownership. He has served in the senior team at the Education Trust, helping close the achievement and opportunity gaps that leave far too many students without the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century economy. He has worked with Feeding America, the country’s network of food banks, seeking to end hunger in America. Matt now works for the National Indian Education Association, where he serves as Senior Legislative Counsel, seeking to improve educational opportunity and outcomes for Native American students.

Matt serves on Arlington County’s Housing Commission (since 2013) and the Arlington Public Schools Budget Advisory Council (since 2014). He is a member of the Joint Facilities Advisory Board, which brings Arlington County, Arlington Public Schools, and the community together to plan for our future. Matt is a 2015 Leadership Arlington Graduate, a 2016 graduate of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership, and a 2017 graduate of Arlington Neighborhood College.

Matt’s first job, after getting his BA from Duke University, was as a teacher in Houston’s Fifth Ward, a low-income community that also happens to be the hometown of civil rights leader and Congresswoman Barbara Jordan. He went on to

get a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Texas School of Law and a Master's degree from LBJ School of Public Affairs. His experience practicing law has included serving as attorney for municipalities in Texas and for school districts in California.

Matt grew up in northern Virginia and has been living in Arlington's Courthouse neighborhood since 2013. Like him, his parents have dedicated their careers to public service. Matt's father worked in the international development field and his mother was a lawyer at the Department of Justice and also taught in D.C. public schools. From his family, Matt picked up a strong commitment to community service, a keen understanding of the importance of improving economic opportunity, and a deep sense of responsibility for leaving things better than they were before.

Matt continued by detailing his commitment to 100% renewable by 2035. He noted that he is very interested in achieving that campaign promise. He also noted that he is focused on supporting actions that achieve net zero energy for Amazon's impending campus buildings through the site plan process.

Mr. de Ferranti also detailed the importance of affordable housing, lower vacancy rates, and economic development. Matt detailed the importance of the Amazon incentive agreement with the County to reach community goals. This agreement will help grow the economy, tax base, and help fund subsequent schools. It will also help the County realize long-term planning goals and growth that the community has identified. Matt shared [this infographic](#) with the Commission to highlight key details.

John Bloom asked about sustainability, energy efficiency, and renewable conversations with Amazon and more broadly, including whether Amazon could be net zero on the campus. Matt expressed that he doesn't feel that NZE will be in the performance agreement. The distance between having it as a value and putting it in agreements is large. It isn't something for the performance agreement at this time.

Mike Hanna noted that the site plan process is the best way to address this. The County's Green Building Incentive Program will allow for Amazon to apply for density and make binding commitments that result in more energy efficient or net zero energy buildings.

Charles asked if Dominion has been involved in any conversation regarding energy efficiency? Matt noted that it is a separate conversation with Dominion about energy efficiency. Because of the dynamics of the Amazon agreement, they haven't been involved in this level of conversation.

Gabriel noted that the Board has a very interesting opportunity for change. He suggested that DVP be asked how they are going to ensure that Amazon can meet

their sustainability goals. What is DVP going to do to support Amazon, an increasingly large and visible stakeholder in Virginia? Matt thinks that is a good point. Matt noted that he would like to see the Board do as much as it can to address climate change and transform the energy sector in Arlington and Virginia.

Matt noted that he has been focused on the residential utility tax (RUT), CEP update, and whether a resolution on 100% renewable by 2035 can be achieved. He noted the importance of getting himself educated on the issues by staff and looking at how to move forward appropriately.

Matt noted that a climate or renewable resolution is possible by the Board, but the timing around the CEP adoption is uncertain at this time. There could be another option to explore a tandem resolution during CEP adoption, that has actionable items as part of the resolution.

John Bloom expressed that he understands that the budget is hard to correct in one year, especially given fiscal pressures. That said, in the last several years AIRE was funded through the RUT. John pressed Matt as to whether AIRE could continue to be funded through the RUT even if some revenue sharing is required. Matt noted that the Board is open to all ideas.

Matt noted that the Board is looking at all options right now. They are trying to balance a very tight budget with competing priorities. That said, he noted that this is on the radar of the Board as they move forward through the budget process.

Mike M. noted that E2C2 sent a letter last year and asked that some data or metrics be provided on how the RUT split is being spent. Matt noted that the Board is aware of the request and has requested the info by staff.

Matt thanked the Commissioners for their service. He looks forward to serving as the Board liaison over the coming years to create much change.

3. Community Energy Plan Letter Review

The Commission discussed the draft CEP letter and approved it unanimously as amended.

4. Stormwater Update

Aileen Winquist provided an update on stormwater projects that are under construction or about to start. She noted that rather than coming for each project it is helpful to bundle them and provide broad updates at once. Some of the projects Aileen detailed include:

- * Four Mile Run Project
- * Storm Sewer Upgrades
- * Williamsburg and Kirkwood Green Streets
- * Windy Run stream restoration

- * Stormwater Permit audit
 - * NC Green streets
 - * Ballston Pond Project – Summer 2019
 - * Tributary B - Fall 2019
- The last time Aileen gave an update the Four Mile Run project was still under construction. It has since been completed. The project naturalized the banks along the corridor and improved access to the stream through overlooks and terracing. It also replaced rip-rap with vegetation and created a Living Shoreline on the Arlington side. The project also established historical tidal wetland conditions in Four Mile Run Park in Alexandria.



The Arlington Living Shorelines project removed invasive plants, replanted with natives, added a viewing platform, and rebuilt the bike trail.

Aileen detailed two new storm sewer upgrades:

- * 24th and Rockingham St
- * West Little Pimmit Run (John Marshall Drive area)

These projects update 850 and 1,600 linear feet of sewer projects respectively.

The County recently finished the Williamsburg green street project. This project is located on Williamsburg Boulevard between 33rd Rd North to 35th Street North, and N. Harrison Street to N. Edison. It was completed in conjunction with a neighborhood conservation project. It treats about 2.2 acres of impervious area at a cost of \$1.5 Million.

The Kirkwood Green Street project was recently completed as well. It was completed in conjunction with a DOT project. It treats 0.4 acres of draining area.

Windy Run is a project to update 500 linear feet of stream. Work includes:

- Re-align sanitary line and repair a severely eroding outfall
- Stabilize the stream around the pump station
- Install a stream wall to protect the existing trail

- Add stone structures in the stream to direct flow away from the banks and towards the center of the stream
- Control invasive plant species and replanting a diverse community of trees, shrubs and groundcovers



Windy Run

The Ballston Pond Project is finally moving forward. There was a community meeting on 1/30/2019. Plans have been finalized and the project is beginning the process of permitting and procurement. It is likely to start in the Fall of 2019.

Mike asked if the project changed at all since the community engagement process. Aileen noted that nothing substantive had changed. The advisory committee narrowed the plan down to 1 option that offered the best water quality treatment. Participants were supportive of this.

* Arlington County TMDL credit:

- *N* – 767.03 lbs/yr
- *P* – 116.16 lbs/yr
- *TSS* – 106,592 lbs/yr

This pond will treat about 450 acres. It is one of the largest wetlands in Arlington.

Donaldson Run -Tributary B

- * Completed stream restoration on Tributary A in 2007; neighborhood applied for NC funding for work on Tributary B
- * Approximately 1300 linear feet
- * Construction likely to start in fall, 2019
- * Construction time 6 months

Aileen concluded by noting the following upcoming projects:

- * Sparrows Pond – Community Meeting March 14
- * Gulf Branch stream restoration
- * Waverly Hills Storm Sewer upgrade
- * Pershing Street green streets

5. POPS Letter

The Commission discussed the draft POPS letter and approved it unanimously as amended.

6. Meeting Summary Review – January

Approved unanimously.

7. Old / New Business

Mike Hanna noted that the draft Bike Element letter is in process. He will send it out in advance of the next meeting.

Claire noted that at the last NRJAG meeting the Bike Element was discussed as it relates to Audubon Society comments that were delivered at the last meeting. Alonso and Mike are going to discuss some of these issues. They need to balance good connectivity with the importance of keeping natural areas dark/natural.

John Bloom raised the issue of budget for Commissioners to discuss. John solicited input from the Commission on the budget to inform testimony at the upcoming hearing. He and Mike H. noted that Greg Emanuel, the DES Director, agreed to attend the next meeting to discuss the budget further. John also noted that at the next EC meeting they will welcome Cathy Lin to discuss APS-related energy issues.

Sarah M. noted that the OD and 26th street Taskforce is considering multiple designs, including one that consolidates salt storage and support operations underground and provides for more open space at street level. The community is very active and the County is taking significant input.

Mike M. is working to onboard new members and share the Work Plan. Finished reviews with potential applicants. Mike will be out for the March meeting.

Kimi noted that the SPRC Kirkwood and Washington Boulevard site project is active. The VFW site will be affordable housing and dedicated to preference for veterans.

The Commission asked if staff could give an update on Earthcraft vs. LEED at a future meeting. Adam is looking into this and will report back.