

Joint Environmental Taskforce Chinaka Barbour Kenny Boddye, Vice Chair Jennifer Boeder Lonnie Harris Lucas Hisghman Paige Thacker Matthew Villareale Jessica Weimer Julius Williams Lisa Zargarpur

Meeting Minutes February 20, 2025 6:00 PM

Room 3011 Kelly Leadership Center 14715 Bristow Rd Manassas, VA 20112

<u>**Present:**</u> JET Appointees – Chinaka Barbour, Kenny Boddye, Jennifer Boeder, Paige Thacker Matthew Villareale, Jessica Weimer, Julius Williams

Giulia Manno – Director Office of Sustainability, Salita Gray – Administrative Specialist, Yi Sun – Greenhouse Gas and Sustainability Analyst

Absent: Lonnie Harris, Lucas Hisghman, Lisa Zargarpur

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum: Quorum Present

Public Comment Time: None

<u>**Consent Agenda</u>**: Approved December 12, 2024 meeting minutes with a change to Jennifer Boeder being absent [VOTING RECORD: Motion J Williams; Second J Weimer Ayes-by acclamation; Nays- None]</u>

## Old Business:

- An update on the school and public facilities walkability gap study was given. Volunteers are currently working with county staff to continue to find the gaps.
- Approved resolution to amend bylaws to allow remote participation. [VOTING RECORD: Motion P Thacker; Second M Villareale, Ayes-by acclamation; Nays- None]

## New Business:

• G Manno presented the county draft FY26 sustainability budget items. The sustainability office has requested two positions: Green Buildings Manager and Climate and Resiliency Manager. The county schools CIP funds were requested for additional solar, LED lighting upgrades, and HVAC upgrades.

- The Virginia General Assembly bills related to county and school division environmental sustainability were discussed. The school division and county government are paying attention to a house bill for grant programs and a senate bill for solar interconnection fees.
- Potential impacts of federal Executive Orders on local and regional sustainability initiatives were discussed. Currently there are no changes.
- Discussion of potential joint proposal on study of impacts of federal changes on county and school sustainability initiatives.

## Member Time:

- P Thacker mentioned doing program planning for Spring is Here to engage schools in site visits. Working on helping Manassas Park meet nutrient management plans. Mentioned a Well Class coming up to test well water for metals.
- M Villareale provided an update on the process of getting contracts approved for rooftop solar projects on 3 county buildings.
- J Williams mentioned schools focusing on indoor air quality and getting some of their buildings' HVAC systems upgraded.
- J Boeder announced the Virginia Military Institute Environment Virginia Symposium is set for April 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. Suggested focusing on the issue of salinization of the watershed and potential collaboration on staff training. Announced events for Earth Day and spring garden prep.
- C Barbour provided an update on the Sustainability Commission. Randy Freed is now Vice Chair and Martin Jeter is Chair.
- K Boddye updated they are working on mitigating salinization of the Occoquan River. Updated the HB2050 passed both houses. Met with Supervisor Mike Turner of Loudon County Ashburn district regarding Data Center development.

## Departmental Reports:

• G Manno updated on the Sustainability Office moving forward with projects using CIP funds. They are in the design phase for a large instillation of EV chargers by the county's

Development Services Building, solar projects for 3 county buildings, and an electrification study for 10 county buildings. Entering 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Solarize Prince William Program that helps residents in the permitting process. A high priority for the office is the development of a greenhouse gas inventory for county government operations now that a new Greenhouse Gas and Sustainability Analyst has been onboarded.

• J Weimer updated on an upcoming Earth week events including a student environmental showcase. Presented data to Superintendents on environmental sustainability projects that have moved into completion and also working on retro commission projects.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:07 PM