



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

February 23, 2026

AlexRenew, 1800 Limerick St, Floor 6

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

| EPC Members (12) | Status | Staff/Presenters |
|---------------------------|---------------|--|
| Dan Beattie, Vice-Chair | P | Melissa Atwood, TES |
| Eldon Boes | PR | Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action |
| Jennifer Debias | PR | Erin Bevis-Carver, TES |
| Jordon Eccles | P | Eve Elliot, Alexandria Health Department |
| Charlie Garlow | P | Tiffany Johnson-Wiggins, ALX HD |
| Kathie Hoekstra | E | Justin Loyd, VA Dept of Environmental Quality |
| David Hole | P | Richard Douchette, VDEQ |
| Perrin Krisko | P | Danielle Schools, VDEQ |
| Philip Mobilia, Secretary | PR | Allison Deines, AlexRenew |
| Marta Schantz, Chair | P | John Hill, Chairman of the Board of AlexRenew |
| Rick Schneider | P | Justin Carl, AlexRenew GM |
| Julia Slayden | P | Christian Volk, VA American Water |
| Yanique Revers | E | Kelly Ryan, VA American Water |
| | | Marybeth Leongini, VA American Water |
| | | Scott Dewhirst, Fairfax Water |
| | | |
| | | Guests |
| | | Megha Munipalla, Student at ACHS |
| | | Dana Colarulli, Chair of Park & Rec Commission |
| | | Ryika Hooshangi |
| | | Peter Mayer, Reworld |
| | | Laura Vanin, Grassroots Alexandria |
| | | Russ Bailey, ALX Beautification Commission |
| | | Emma Bidwell, Citizen |

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 provided an overview of topics to be covered. Introductions were completed for all attendees, including EPC Commissioner, Jordon Eccles, who began his term with the EPC on February 1, 2026. Mr. Eccles provided a short introduction on his environmental background.

Commissioner Eldon Boes, Philip Mobilia, and Jennifer Debias attended pursuant to the electronic participation policy from Alexandria, VA for personal reasons.

2. Public Comment

Lauran Vanin, Grassroots Alexandria. Reiterate Grassroots Alexandria's interest in requesting EPC move forward in talking to the City to push forward the pump station.

Chair Schantz shared that the EPC is following the status of the pump station location study being conducted. When completed, EPC is requesting a briefing or summary from the city so commissioners have enough information to write a statement or a letter to council.

Megha Munipalla, provided update on youth initiatives led by Emma Bidwell and herself. Updates included attending lobby day for the Virginia League of Conservation Voters with Commissioner Kathie Hoekstra in Richmond; planning to schedule youth-focused activities for Earth Month in April; and attended the City Council Public Hearing to voice their support of the Green Building Plan during public comment.

Chair Schantz shared that the possibility of a new seat on the commission for youth is still in discussions to determine how it would work and how other commissions have included them.

3. AlexRenew: Presentation on PFAS

Allison Deines, Chief Water Quality Officer for AlexRenew, provided a presentation on the overview of per- and poly- fluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) in wastewater.

Presentation included discussion on:

The generation and lifecycle of PFAS. How PFAS is largely manmade and used in thousands of everyday products, like firefighting foam, paint, non-stick cookware, and cosmetics. PFAS does not break down naturally, eventually making its way from industries and homes into the urban water cycle (wastewater – stormwater – drinking water).

Overview of the AlexRenew wastewater treatment process, with a focus on biosolids.

Biosolids are the nutrient-rich organic materials resulting from wastewater treatment and are currently used as fertilizer on farms in Southern and Western Virginia. PFAS can accumulate in biosolids during treatment, which has led to increased regulatory focus at the state and federal levels. Quarterly sampling of AlexRenew's biosolids indicates PFAS concentrations that are consistent with levels typically found in primarily residential communities.

Wastewater Collection Sampling. AlexRenew is conducting PFAS sampling within its collection system, particularly at interceptors and near industrial users, to determine whether specific sources are contributing to elevated concentrations. Sampling results to date show PFAS concentrations within the range typical of predominantly residential areas, with no significant industrial hotspots identified.

Biosolids Diversification Project. AlexRenew is investing \$355 million to modernize its biosolids system, including development of a thermal drying facility. The project will produce a dried biosolids product suitable for multiple uses. Thermal technologies under evaluation include incineration, pyrolysis, and gasification, with incineration representing the only option with a proven operational track record. By transitioning to a local facility for biosolids pellet incineration, AlexRenew projects a 98% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions associated with biosolids transport.

4. **Virginia American Water & Fairfax Water: Presentation on PFAS**

Kelly Ryan, Manager of Water Quality and Environmental Compliance for Virginia American Water. Presentation included an overview of Virginia American Water; PFAS overview, including a review of how they are developed; uses; how they can get into drinking water sources; health risks; and regulatory standards for drinking water.

As a result of the health risks, the Environmental Protection Agency created the national primary drinking water regulation that was finalized in 2024, with limits for various PFAS compounds, compliance deadlines for monitoring by 2027, and full compliance by 2029, as well as some extensions under review.

Ms. Ryan reviewed Virginia American Water's PFAS sampling locations and reporting protocols. The utility has participated in nationwide PFAS data collection under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). Data from this effort has been compiled and shared.

The presentation concluded with an overview of currently available and emerging PFAS treatment technologies, including granular activated carbon (GAC), ion exchange resins, reverse osmosis/nanofiltration, and emerging destruction technologies (thermal treatment and electrochemical processes).

Scott Dewhirst, Deputy General Manager for Engineering Technology at Fairfax Water. Provided an overview of what Fairfax Water is doing to address the PFAS challenge.

Overview of Fairfax Water. Mr. Scott Dewhirst provided an overview of Fairfax Water's service area and operations. Fairfax Water supplies treated drinking water directly to retail customers and wholesales treated water to other suppliers, including Virginia American Water, which then distributes the water to its customers. Fairfax Water operates two primary water sources, the Occoquan Reservoir (source for the Griffith Water Treatment Plant) and the Potomac River (source for the Corbalis Water Treatment Plant). To date, PFAS levels at the Corbalis Plant (Potomac River source) are well below the drinking water standards. Therefore, current data and planning efforts are primarily focused on the Griffith Plant (Occoquan Reservoir source), particularly on PFOA, which has shown comparatively higher concentrations and presents the greatest regulatory concern.

Regulatory Timeline and Monitoring. The initial nationwide monitoring began under the UCMR3 in 2012. In 2021, expanded monitoring was conducted under the UCMR5, using improved analytical methods and significantly lower detection limits. Data showed PFAS to be prevalent locally and nationally. These findings contributed to the development and

promulgation of the 2024 PFAS drinking water regulations by the Environmental Protection Agency, requiring compliance by 2029.

Fairfax Water is taking a four-pronged approach to understanding the PFAS challenges, including:

- (1) Water Treatment. Water utilities across the nation must meet the new PFAS requirements by 2029. Fairfax Water is testing various PFAS-removal options to find the one most effective for drinking water.
- (2) Research. Research to understand how PFAS is getting into sources of drinking water. Fairfax Water is collaborating with regional partners to learn more about how PFAS travels through the environment so it can be stopped at their source.
- (3) Legal Action. Chemicals used in firefighting foam are partly responsible for PFAS in the drinking water source. Fairfax Water filed a lawsuit against the foam manufacturers to hold them responsible. Case is pending.
- (4) Source Water Protection. Water utilities alone can't solve the problem. Fairfax Water worked with Delegate Bulova to introduce state legislation to keep PFAS out of drinking water sources.

Watershed Monitoring and Regional Collaboration. Fairfax Water is working closely with the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory, affiliated with Virginia Tech, to conduct extensive PFAS monitoring throughout the watershed. Monitoring includes both fixed and floating sampling sites to identify potential PFAS sources and pathways. Results indicate that PFAS concentrations are highly variable and that compounds are widely distributed throughout the watershed.

Treatment Options Under Consideration. Mr. Dewhirst discussed the treatment options Fairfax Water is considering for PFAS removal, including the addition of a treatment step called pattern-activated carbon that absorbs the PFAS materials into it; adjusting the granular activated carbon filters already in place to use a different media type that may be better at removing PFAS compounds; and adding a post-filtration treatment step (most expensive) that uses granular activated carbon or ion exchange resin in a new filter system.

5. Alexandria Health Department: Sewage Spill Effect on the Potomac River

Tiffany Johnson-Wiggins, Environmental Health Manager and Eve Elliott, Communications Officer for the Alexandria Health Department provided a brief review of the Potomac River Recreational Water Advisory, focusing on current developments and the health impacts.

The advisory followed a sewer line collapse on January 19th in Montgomery County, MD, which released over 200 million gallons of wastewater. DC Water installed a bypass on January 24; repairs are ongoing and may take 4–6 weeks.

On February 13, the Virginia Department of Health issued a recreational water advisory recommending avoidance of high-contact water activities. The river is not closed, and

drinking water remains safe. The advisory area runs from the American Legion Memorial Bridge (I-495) to the Route 301 bridge.

The Alexandria Health Department is sharing updates, coordinating signage and interagency communication, and monitoring local health data. Water testing is being conducted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The situation remains ongoing, with regular updates provided on DC Water's webpage. Virginia DEQ webpage includes information on the Potomac Interceptor Collapse, including interactive maps for sampling locations and data: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/news-info/shortcuts/topics-of-interest/potomac-interceptor-collapse>

The Virginia DEQ conducted bacteria sampling at approximately 25 locations from the American Legion Bridge to the Potomac Creek, which will continue throughout the next several weeks. Further testing of transects along the river will be conducted on Wednesday to understand the direction the plume is moving.

The VDH is coordinating closely with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DC Water, who is leading the repair work. From a health safety perspective, the VDH recommends residents follow the advisory, spread the word, and be aware of updates.

Erin Bevis-Carver, Division Chief for the Sanitary Infrastructure Division for the City provided an overview of the steps from containment of the wastewater through a bypass pipe, locating the broken pipe to fix it and restore flow through the interceptor pipe, as well as long-term sewer repairs and rehabilitation of other sections of the pipe, if needed.

EPC members requested further information on the environmental impacts to the local waterways, including eutrophication and shellfish concerns.

Vice-Chair Dan Beattie noted he attended the City Council Public Hearing to provide a public comment on behalf of the EPC. Vice-Chair Beattie's public comment generated discussion and comments from Council. Councilman Chapman stated that staff should be pushing to use this crisis to try to drive better change so we can optimize what we get out of the river cleanup. Understanding the environmental impacts to the river, keeping everyone accountable, and considering what we can do locally to drive better change for a healthier long-term river.

6. Staff Updates (Ryan Freed)

Draft Housing 2040 recommendations related to sustainability.

The Housing 2040 Plan has been released. Commissioner Hoekstra, Commissioner Revers, Ryan Freed, and Office of Housing participated in discussions to incorporate sustainability into the Housing 2040 Plan. The EPC recommended a specific goal #10, that talks directly about sustainability in both existing and new construction. New construction is also largely covered in the recently passed Green Building Plan, so a smaller set of recommendations were applied to the Housing 2040 Plan. For existing buildings, there is a larger set of recommendations that mostly reinforce efforts the Office of Housing and the Office of Climate Action are doing for existing housing. Housing 2040 plan also includes launching new programs that focus on multifamily buildings and adding direct investments into affordable housing for health and efficiency improvements. Those interested in continuing to

be involved can attend the open house on Saturday, February 21, 2026, or provide additional comments on the plan.

Green Building Plan passed in January. Council approved the GPB with some changes to staff's recommendations. Planning Commission had also recommended some significant changes, including asking for a 30 EUI multifamily building when staff recommended 38 EUI. Council approved the plan with a 35 EUI. The Department of Planning & Zoning will lead the development review process to incorporate the GBP requirements into the City's checklist of standard conditions used for development projects. Staff are required to return to City Council in two years to review the GBP to provide updates and recommendations. News article from Facilities Dive, published on 2/13/26, can be found at the following link: <https://www.facilitiesdive.com/news/citys-adoption-of-eui-signals-less-reliance-on-third-party-building-certif/812214/>

7. Administrative Items

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 15, 2025

Vote on December 15, 2025, regular meeting minutes, for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Charlie Garlow; **Second:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

b) Ellen Pickering Award update (Mr. Eldon Boes & Ms. Yanique Revers)

Melissa Atwood notes that the Ellen Pickering Award is open for nominations from Tuesday, February 17th through Monday, March 16th. Commissioner Revers provided significant improvements in the nomination form and clear guidance for how nominations will be scored according to a more defined rubric. Chair Schantz provided background on Ellen Pickering's environmental advocacy.

Commissioner Boes suggested Ms. Revers serve as the EPC member on the selection committee. Ms. Atwood will confirm Ms. Revers' interest via email.

c) Youth Engagement (Ms. Krisko & Mr. Boes)

Information was provided prior to the EPC meeting as part of the *Admin Items* file, which was shared on the webpage, via email, and as hardcopy at the meeting. RE: invitation to join two bike bus events in March.

d) Council Public Hearing EPC Remarks

March 14th: Chair Schantz

April 18th: Mr. David Hole

May 16th: Mr. Jordon Eccles

June 13th: Mr. Rick Schneider

e) Retreat Dates: April 25th or May 2nd

Retreat will be May 2nd.

f) Commissioner Updates

Update from Chair Marta Schantz:

Alexandria Beautification Commission (ABC) shared a draft letter to support for the city to fill the vacant arborist manager position to see if the EPC is interested in co-signing.

Mr. Russ Bailey, ABC, discussed how the position has been vacant for a while and has not been posted yet. Current staff are working all the time and letter is to support getting them a manager by filling the position. ABC believes filling the manager position would provide the resources necessary to continue evaluating programs such as the Forestry Sustainability Program to see if the City could participate.

Motion to co-sign the letter of support to fill the vacant arborist manager positions: Mr. Dan Beattie; **Second**: Ms. Julia Slayden; **Vote**: Unanimous approval.

Transportation Commission (Vice-Chair Dan Beattie): Information was provided prior to the EPC meeting as part of the *Admin Items* file, which was shared on the webpage, via email, and as hardcopy at the meeting. RE: The TC approved a recommended request to the MWCOG for up to \$100,000 in technical assistance to support a bicycle network gap analysis to identify and address gaps in the city's bike trail network.

8. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. David Hole

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45p.m.

FY2026 Attendance

| Member | Sept 15, 2025 | Oct 20, 2025 | Nov 17, 2025 | Dec 15, 2025 | Jan 26, 2026 | Feb 23, 2026 | Mar 16, 2026 | Apr 20, 2026 | TBD (Retreat) | May 18, 2026 | Jun 15, 2026 | TOTALS |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Dan Beattie | PR | P | P | P | P | | | | | | | 100% |
| Eldon Boes | P | P | P | P | P | | | | | | | 100% |
| Benjamin Cuddy | E | E | N | N | N | | | | | | | 100% |
| Jennifer Debias | P | P | P | P | P | | | | | | | 100% |
| Charlie Garlow | P | P | P | P | P | | | | | | | 100% |
| Kathie Hoekstra | P | P | P | PR | E | | | | | | | 100% |
| David Hole | P | P | P | P | P | | | | | | | 100% |
| Perrin Krisko | P | P | P | P | P | | | | | | | 100% |
| Philip Mobilia | P | P | P | P | P | | | | | | | 100% |
| Marta Schantz | P | P | P | P | P | | | | | | | 100% |
| Rick Schneider | N | N | P | E | P | | | | | | | 100% |
| Julia Slayden | P | P | P | P | P | | | | | | | 100% |
| Yanique Revers | P | P | P | P | E | | | | | | | 100% |