



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

September 28, 2026

4850 Mark Center Dr (Del Pepper Community Resource Center)

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (12)	Status	Staff/Presenters
Dan Beattie	P	Melissa Atwood, TES
Eldon Boes	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Jennifer Debias, Secretary	P	Blair St. Ledger-Olsen, VA League of Conservation Voters
Jordon Eccles, Vice-Chair	P	Delegate Kirk McPike
Charlie Garlow	P	
David Hole	P	Guests
Perrin Krisko	P	Scott Barstow, Build Our Future
Marta Schantz, Chair	P	Adam Sickle
Rick Schneider	P	Kristy Shea
Julia Slayden	P	Malin Clark (PR)
Olu Smoak	P	Julie Harris (PR), Grassroots Alexandria
Yanique Revers	P	Kathie Hoekstra (PR)

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.

2. Public Comment

Scott Barstow, Build Our Future, hopes to hear about the Virginia Housing agency's proposed rule on low-income housing tax credits and their connection to incentivizing efficient buildings, central buildings, and passive health buildings. Mr. Barstow also noted interest in the State Corporation Commission (SCC) hosting a technical conference on phase save programs and utility investment programs and providing recommendations on whether they believe it is feasible in Virginia.

Malin Clark, recently moved to Alexandria and is interested in learning where the Community Choice Aggregate process is for Alexandria. Mr. Ryan Freed noted that Office of Climate Action has been working with the City's purchasing office. The City has a

contract that the feasibility study can be written into or they can put a request for proposal (RFP) out by the end of the year for the feasibility study.

Julie Harris, Grassroots Alexandria, interested in hearing EPC legislative priorities and reporting back to Grassroots Alexandria.

Jordan Eccles, resident of Alexandria and EPC commissioner, has an electric vehicle. His residence does not have a driveway. EV charging is conducted over the sidewalk, which is not permitted in the City. Requesting EPC write a letter to City Council to direct City staff to reevaluate their EV strategy to incorporate over/under the sidewalk charging. EPC discussion included expanding this to multifamily dwellings, increasing the number of L3 chargers in the City, and consideration of the changing market since the EV strategy was developed. **Motion** to draft a letter to City Council supporting EV charging in residential areas of Alexandria: Ms. Perrin Krisko; **Second**: Mr. Dave Hole; **Vote**: Unanimous approval. Letter will be drafted by Vice-Chair Eccles.

3. FY27 Environmental legislative Priority Discussion with Delegate McPike

Delegate Kirk McPike, delegate for the 5th District, provided a look at climate and environmental policy in Richmond. Delegate McPike previously met with City Council and discussed City priorities, which include the continued push towards allowing stretch codes to require higher performance buildings in localities like Alexandria.

In this year's session, bills were passed that focus on allowing solar siding/solar canopies over non-residential lots, solar on balconies, adding environmental justice strategy to comprehensive plan reviews, and to create a study on the menhaden fish that are being threatened by trawling and are critical in the Chesapeake Bay food chain.

Other discussion included liability concerns of curbside charging for the City and looking into adding an EV charging requirement for Buc-ee's.

This year is a 45-day legislative session, so less bills will be introduced. A major focus will be around data centers. Specifically, the use of generators, as well as water usage and efficiency of chips. Other environmental concerns will touch on water quality, focus on PFAS removal, regulations for keeping flushable wipe and fats, oils, and grease out of wastewater systems, and ensuring continued funding for WMATA. The session will also include a response to the SCC's decision on the NextEra/Dominion Energy proposal.

EPC discussion and questions included focus on whether a moratorium on data centers is being considered. Delegate McPike noted it was unlikely as the Governor chose the executive order route.

4. FY27 Legislative Priority Discussion with VA League of Conservation Voters

Blair St. Ledger-Olsen, Director of Advocacy & Campaigns for the VA League of Conservation Voters provided an overview of this year's environmental legislative priorities.

The main priority will be on the Pause to Protect platform to pause further permitting of data centers until meaningful protection for the community and the environment are put in place. The pause is to protect the communities by providing transparency versus allowing by-right processes and use of non-disclosure agreements. Protecting the community by telling them up front when diesel generators are being turned on. And protecting public health by requiring data centers to upgrade their generators to Tier 4 or equivalent and closing the loophole that allows a daisy-chain of 18kW generators to be used and not trigger RGGI and the Virginia Clean Economy Act. Additional focus is on water use and noise impacts.

Additionally, VA League of Conservation Voters will be supportive of all clean energy, clean water, clean air, and protection of our land and natural resources.

EPC discussion and questions focused on:

- Air Quality monitoring and study being done by the DEQ. Generally, increased air quality monitoring is supported, with further support for monitoring locations closer to specific sources of possible air quality concerns.
- Clarification that VA League of Conservation Voters is looking at battery backup generators and other sources of renewable energy to replace the current diesel generators.
- Clarification about gap between Governor Spanberger's platform, where she does not have authority to issue a moratorium currently, but VA League of Conservation Voters is moving toward a Pause to Protect. People are speaking out about the desire for a moratorium and therefore, more lawmakers are taking the stance of supporting it.

EPC discussion on Legislative Priorities for FY27

Ms. Julia Slayden led the EPC discussion to identify the commissions FY27 legislative priorities, which will follow the same format as last year. Ms. Slayden reviewed last year's process, of providing 2-3 priorities with information such as whether previous legislation was considered on the topic, those for and against it, and budgetary impacts. Last year's priority topics were (1) Healthy & Affordable Homes and (2) Improving Climate Resiliency (Heat and Flood Mitigation) and Increased Budget for Related Local Initiatives.

Ms. Slayden and Vice-Chair Eccles will generate the legislative package for the EPC's 2-3 priorities and submit them by Friday, October 2, 2026 (extended submission date approved by City staff). EPC discussion included data centers, continued support of key priorities from last year, Dominion/Nextera energy merger in terms of affordable energy, WMATA concerns (also a Transportation Commission priority), water quality and PFAS, and support of EVs and other multimodal transportation options in the city.

Motion to include the Pause to Protect as one of the three EPC legislative priorities: Vice-Chair Eccles. **Second:** Mr. Rick Schneider. **Vote:** Unanimous approval with Secretary Jen DeBias abstaining.

Motion to include Healthy & Affordable Homes as one of the EPC legislative priorities: Mr. Eldon Boes. **Second:** Ms. Perrin Krisko. **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

Motion to include Improving Climate Resiliency (Heat and Flood Mitigation) and Increased Budget for Related Local Initiatives as one of the EPC legislative priorities: Mr. Rick Schneider. **Second:** Mr. Jordon Eccles. **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

5. Preliminary Budget Discussion

Ms. Slayden provided an overview of budget letter submittal timeline and the process of identifying EPC budget priorities. In general, the EPC reviews the City's budget in a line-by-line format to determine what budget items EPC would like to prioritize for keeping, enhancing, or reducing. EPC will discuss budget priorities during the October meeting for consideration of support, opposition and recommended amendment. Final EPC budget letter would be approved during the November meeting and submitted before the November 20, 2026 deadline.

Chair Schantz met over the summer with various City department heads to understand their focus. Ms. Schantz will come to the October meeting with a list of suggestions based on those discussions.

6. Administrative Items

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 15, 2026

Motion to approve meeting minutes for June 15, 2026: Ms. Jen Debias; **Second:** Ms. Yanique Revers; **Vote:** Unanimous approval, with Mr. Eldon Boes abstaining.

b) Schedule monthly Public Hearing EPC Commissioner Updates

- Chair Schantz providing comments at the September Public Hearing.
- October 17. Secretary Debias, with Ms. Olu Smoak as backup.
- November 14. Vice-Chair Eccles, with Ms. Yanique Revers as backup.
- December 12. Mr. Boes, with Ms. Revers as backup.

c) Staff Updates

Mr. Ryan Freed, Climate Action Officer, noted that the City has intervened in the Dominion/Nextera acquisition of Dominion Energy and announced the City's partnership with Arlington in a joint representation agreement. Testimony is due October 19th and the hearing with the State Corporation Commission is in November. Staff will be reaching out to the community about ways to put in public comments, identify the stance of the City, and provide ways to get more robust participation. Mr. Freed noted it would be helpful if the EPC was interested in helping coordinate some of the efforts, especially by hosting a discussion during an EPC meeting where attendees can ask his questions about the Dominion/Nextera acquisition. Mr. Freed provided information on the process of approval/denial.

EPC commissioners generally expressed interest in hosting a special EPC meeting focused on having commissioners and residents ask Mr. Freed questions about the Dominion/Nextera acquisition.

d) Commissioner Updates

Transportation Commission – Mr. Dan Beattie
WMATA funding is top legislative priority.

Update from Chair Schantz

A lot of commissioners did great work over the summer looking into different topics and exploring opportunities/ideas. There was not adequate time to discuss at this meeting but discussions will happen at the October meeting. Send summaries to Ms. Schantz.

Youth Seat on the EPC

Ms. Krisko requested an update on the youth seat for EPC. It is tentatively being considered as part of the October docket for City Council consideration.

7. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Eldon Boes

FY2027 Attendance

Member	Sept 28, 2026	Oct 19, 2026	Nov 16, 2026	Dec 14, 2026	Jan 11, 2027	Feb 8, 2027	Mar 15, 2027	Apr 19, 2027	May 1, 2027 (Retreat)	May 17, 2027	Jun 21, 2027	TOTALS
Dan Beattie	P											100%
Eldon Boes	P											100%
Jennifer Debias	P											100%
Jordon Eccles	P											100%
Charlie Garlow	P											100%
David Hole	P											100%
Perrin Krisko	P											100%
Marta Schantz	P											100%
Rick Schneider	P											100%
Julia Slayden	P											100%
Olu Smoak	P											100%
Yanique Revers	P											100%