

SRAC

Sustainability and Resilience Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2026 – 3:00pm

Fairfield Area Library, 1401 N. Laburnum Avenue

Youth Conference Room (2nd Floor)

- I. Welcome & Call to Order
 - a. Chair Becky Lakin called the meeting to order at 3:06pm.
 - b. Vice Chair Mark Deutsch, committee members Lisa Washington, Beth Kreydatus, Sam Hudson, and Eric Haley were also in attendance. Mr. Haley attended the meeting virtually from Poland.
 - c. Chair Lakin welcomed two guests, William Marsh and Gem Bingol, from Loudoun County's Environmental Commission. She said that the Sustainability and Resilience Advisory Committee (SRAC) would be asking Loudoun County about the work that their commission does, how it is set up, and their bylaws. She stated that they had reached out to Loudoun County because of the similarities between the two counties, but she wanted to emphasize that the goal was not to become a copy of Loudoun County.
- II. By-Laws Discussion
 - a. Committee Overview
 - b. Loudoun County Environmental Committee Bylaws Discussion with William Marsh and Gem Bingol
 - i. William Marsh introduced himself as the chair of Loudoun County's Environmental Commission. He is a civil engineer and has always been interested in renewable energy. He explained that their Environmental Commission has three subcommittees that focus on natural resources, sustainable energy, and outreach.

- ii. Gem Bingol introduced herself as the vice chair of Loudoun County's Environmental Commission. She works at the Piedmont Environmental Council and joined Loudoun's Environmental Commission as an environmental planner.
- iii. Mr. Marsh serves on the commission's sustainable energy subcommittee while Ms. Bingol serves on the natural resources subcommittee.
- iv. Mr. Marsh and Ms. Bingol spoke about the way that their committee is set up and explained some of the benefits with the way it is organized. They spoke about having the different subcommittees and having subject matter experts on the committee. However, Ms. Bingol noted that the requirement to have subject matter experts did make it more difficult to find individuals willing to fill some of the positions. Both Mr. Marsh and Ms. Bingol said that the relationships they have with staff in Loudoun County's government also helps them work towards their goals.
- v. Ms. Beth Kreydatus asked Mr. Marsh and Ms. Bingol how their committee handled situations where they needed to get their environmental priorities lifted to a higher level of urgency. Ms. Sam Hudson also clarified that SRAC is not an ad-hoc committee, but that they have been established and appointed by the Board of Supervisors as a full committee. SRAC committee members and Mr. Marsh and Ms. Bingol also discussed term lengths and how many terms they could serve on their committees.
- vi. Vice Chair Mark Deutsch commented on the public input that Loudoun County is required to receive. Mr. Marsh clarified that they do not hold a public hearing, but they do hold a forum. He said this is a big part of the work done by the outreach subcommittee.
- vii. Ms. Lisa Washington asked about the annual report that the commission does and asked what metrics they use. Ms. Bingol said that they do not use specific metrics, but instead, they report on their accomplishments and goals. They also award an environmental excellence award every year.
- viii. Chair Becky Lakin said that she would share the commission's 2026 annual report with committee members. The Loudoun Environmental Commission annual report and its documents are also linked on SRAC's webpage and can be found by clicking the link underneath the

“Additional Materials” section and clicking on the “2026” folder, the “07-01-26” folder, and the “supplemental” folder.

- ix. Chair Lakin thanked Mr. Marsh and Ms. Bingol for attending and answering their questions.

c. Reflection and Discussion

- i. Committee members discussed their takeaways from the conversation and their own bylaws. Vice Chair Deutsch said that having one-year terms feel too short, but having four-year terms like in Loudoun feels too long. Chair Lakin and Ms. Washington said that they saw both sides of the argument for subject matter experts on the committee. Ms. Hudson also noted that Henrico’s Sustainability Division does release an annual report.
- ii. Ms. Hudson added that changing term lengths or requiring subject matter experts to be appointed in addition to the existing SRAC membership composition would require approval from the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Hudson explained there is broad flexibility for changes to nearly all other parts of the by-laws that would not require approval from the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Hudson explained that it will be harder to advance changes to the by-laws that require approval from the Board of Supervisors.
- iii. Ms. Washington emphasized the importance of keeping Board members updated on the work that they are doing in the committee. Chair Lakin added that they need to be a trusted source so that the community knows that their voices are heard and that SRAC members are bringing up the community’s concerns to the committee and to their Board members. Mr. Eric Haley agreed that they should be uplifting community voices. Ms. Hudson added that SRAC members can serve as a bridge between the community and Board members. They can ensure that Board members are updated with how the community is feeling while also sharing the work that the committee and the county are doing with the community.
- iv. Mr. Haley also asked what SRAC wants itself to look like in five years, especially since their main focus so far has been on the Climate Action and Adaptation Strategy.
- v. Vice Chair Deutsch added that he liked that SRAC’s bylaws were broader because it allows them to have more flexibility.
- vi. Mr. Haley signed off at 4:23pm.

- vii. Ms. Hudson said she would follow up with the County Attorney's Office to determine if a "public hearing" and a forum are considered the same thing since the bylaws prohibit SRAC from holding a public hearing.
- viii. SRAC members discussed the idea of creating subcommittees. Ms. Washington said that she liked the idea of having a communications committee to ensure that the public is informed about what they are doing.
- ix. Chair Lakin asked about what their next steps should look like before they have another meeting to discuss the bylaws. It was agreed that each member would provide suggested edits to the by-laws and send them to Chair Lakin for review and consolidation. Chair Lakin will provide the suggested revisions back to the group for consideration and discussion. Chair Lakin clarified the rules surrounding working on a shared document and said that everyone would need to work independently to ensure transparency and compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

III. Adjourn

- a. Chair Lakin thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 4:39pm.