

The Frederick County Data Centers Workgroup met on Wednesday, August 2, 2023, in the third floor conference room of Winchester Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by co-chair Renee Knapp.

The following members attended: Karen Cannon, Tom Lynch, Faith Klareich, Paul Walker, Brian Sweeney, Chris Vigliotti, Mike McHale, Kraig Walsleben, Kelly Schulz, and Daryl Boffman.

Ms. Knapp made brief opening remarks. She outlined the Workgroup's charge and timeline. Ms. Cannon made brief opening remarks. She encouraged members to work together. Each member of the Workgroup made a brief introduction, outlining their background and perspective.

Deputy County Attorney Jennifer Keefer made a presentation on the open meetings and public information requirements. The Workgroup is required to comply with the Open Meetings Act, which requires advance notice, open meetings, and minutes. The Act also require the public be given access when decisions are made. The Office of the Attorney General provides an online training on the Act, which is available [here](#). The Workgroup is also required to comply with the Public Information Act, which gives the public the right to access records in possession of the government.

Director of Development Review Mike Wilkins made a presentation on the Division of Planning and Permitting's perspective on data centers. He provided an overview of the current law and noted that Frederick County is one of the first jurisdictions to adopt a law before the industry arrived. He highlighted noise, location, vibration, and visual impacts as major issues, and he identified ways the current law addresses these concerns. He talked about the County's Design Manual and other statutes that touch the data center industry, including the APFO and the Forest Resource Ordinance.

Climate and Energy Manager Dawn Ashbacher made a presentation on the Division of Energy and Environment's perspective on data centers. Her slide deck is attached to these minutes.

Director of Economic Opportunity Lara Fritts made a presentation on the Division of Economic Opportunity's perspective on data centers. Her slide deck is attached to these minutes.

Chief Tom Coe made a presentation on the Division of Fire and Rescue Services' perspective on data centers. He described a recent meeting with Loudoun County fire and rescue officials in which he asked what they wish they had known ten years ago that they knew now. He said Loudoun County created a manual for responding to data center emergencies, and Loudoun County officials were concerned about access to facilities, labeling doors, ventilation systems, and suppression systems. He said the building code in Loudoun County is not keeping pace with the industry.

Ms. Knapp opened the floor for public comment. Raul Castro with the Carpenters Union shared his concerns about the underground economy, workers' rights, wage theft, labor standards, project labor agreements, and labor peace agreements.

Ms. Cannon outlined next steps. She said there will be a public input portal on the Workgroup's website. That portal is available [here](#). She said there will be a survey of Frederick County residents. She said there will be three subgroups: Community benefits, siting, and sustainability. She asked the members to identify their preferred subgroup. Several members volunteered for subgroups, and staff said they would follow up electronically.

The meeting adjourned around 8:00p.m.