

MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 2, 2018

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, August 2, 2018, at 5:15 p.m., in the Pueblo County Department of Planning and Development Conference Room, 229 West 12th Street. Chair Kester called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Sherie Caffey	Nancy Keller
Gail Conners	Doris Kester
Becky Cortese (arrived at 5:21 p.m.)	Ted Lopez
Laura Getts	Alicia Solis

Members absent: Susan Finzel-Aldred and Jim Sharp.

Staff present: Sandra Smith, EPAC Recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 7, 2018 MEETING

Ms. Keller moved to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2018 meeting. Ms. Caffey seconded the motion.

Mr. Lopez questioned Ms. Getts statements about the MRF Feasibility Study and the word "they" used in the minutes. Sentence three starts with "they", noting it was not clear if it was referring to C&C Disposal or the consultant. Ms. Getts replied that it is referring to the consultant.

After discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT - DORIS KESTER

Chair Kester stated upon reading the minutes, it appears that there are several things in place to increase recycling. She questioned if EPAC could do something more to encourage people to get involved in recycling.

Ms. Keller stated that she did not see much activity at the Recycle Works site and was unsure of the volume it was producing.

Ms. Caffey stated that members could increase the knowledge of recycling and drop-off sites within their own organizations.

Ms. Conners stated that because her job was in Colorado Springs, it makes it more difficult to attend the other local meetings that are being held.

Chair Kester stated that the reports indicate the number of people recycling in our community is very low. She stated now that we have the infrastructure, we need to get people to participate.

Ms. Keller stated that recycling was easy to do before; people just did not do it.

Chair Kester requested members to think about it further and come up with some ideas.

Mr. Lopez stated that EPAC members could attend the Materials and Waste Management Subcommittee meetings to keep informed.

Chair Kester asked Ms. Getts to inform EPAC members when the Materials and Waste Management Subcommittee meetings were held. Ms. Getts replied that she would.

Ms. Conners stated letters to the Editor of the local newspapers could be submitted.

Ms. Keller stated that it would be a good idea for the Pueblo West View because the initial notification of the recycling center was for the City of Pueblo residents only. Ms. Cortese stated that the notifications for the opening of the center had mixed messages, noting that the center staff went in another direction. There has not been a clear message with the advertising of the facility.

Mr. Lopez stated it should be promoted within the community, noting the Public Access channels could be used. Ms. Keller stated that it does not clarify that it is open to everyone not just the City of Pueblo.

Ms. Conners thought it was just limited to the City of Pueblo. Ms. Keller replied for large-item drop-offs it is but not for recycling.

Ms. Cortese stated there were already two recycling drop-offs in Pueblo. She did not understand why some people thought opening another one would change people's habits to recycle. The people that want to recycle are already doing it. She felt education played a role as well as the social economic status, noting that people were more concerned on how they were going to feed their family instead of the importance of recycling. Other surrounding communities are not in the same economic status as Pueblo.

Mr. Lopez felt the most important factor was education. Only a small percentage of the community was aware of the previous drop-off sites. He questioned what the volume of the recycling bins were at the CF&I. What is put in place should be convenient and consistent. The education effort is key and could come from the Pueblo County Public Works Department.

Ms. Getts stated that efforts are being made to make the Pueblo County Recycling Website more accessible and easy to search for topics.

Mr. Lopez would like to see EPAC recognized for its efforts in 1990s. Since the middle of the last decade, City Council asked EPAC to put together language for their Recycling Ordinance, noting the language was not accepted. He felt EPAC should have been included in the discussions regarding the districting of the community for recycling purposes.

Ms. Conners questioned if there were any policy decisions or gaps that EPAC could review for comments and recommendations.

Mr. Lopez stated when he was on City Council, the discussions at the time were about the cement batch plant coming to the area. He stated the Sierra Club was against it. There was a similar situation in Louisville, Colorado, noting that after discussions a plan was accepted by the cement plant and the community. Sierra Club approached City Council with the suggestion that similar discussions be held about the cement plant coming to Pueblo County. His reply to that request was that EPAC could conduct the discussions. He stated the controversy went away from City Council and EPAC became involved. In short, the cement plant moved forward. He felt that EPAC needs to be more involved in community business activities. He stated that in June 2019, the Colorado Association of Recycling is going to have their convention in Pueblo.

He stated that Ms. Finzel-Aldred made a comment to him that the Association had made a comment that Pueblo was one of the best conventions they have ever had. He stated that this venue could be included in the education process and advertising.

Chair Kester stated she could not remember any policies that EPAC recommended to the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG). Mr. Lopez replied EPAC recommended the Solid Waste Management Plan and the Landfill User Fee. There was an initial grant to conduct a waste study based on information that was already available and initiate the Environmental Coordinator position.

Ms. Cortese stated that focusing on one commodity would make things easier. Focus on cardboard, noting it has been a topic of discussion at the Sustainability meetings. People do not understand what is recyclable and what is not. The drop-off sites take different items. If you educate people with one message at a time, you get that message to stick and then you get the ball rolling to introduce new items.

Mr. Lopez questioned end users and if it was like someone collecting cardboard and using it for something else or just collecting it. Ms. Getts stated that cardboard was one of the more valuable items to recycle. Ms. Cortese replied that cardboard was a commodity used by several states that can be recycled into new cardboard boxes. One of the things discussed is getting an end user to the community because it will drive the recycling. Mr. Lopez stated EPAC should make a recommendation to the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation (PEDCo) to actively look for these types of industries. Ms. Getts stated that would be something her department would like see in the next Comprehensive Plan for the County. Mr. Lopez stated that businesses like a cardboard and plastic bags manufacturer and a business that uses crushed glass have been mentioned as businesses to recruit. He questioned the experiments the City was going to do with crushed glass and asphalt. Ms. Cortese replied the City expressed interest, but she has not heard of any updates. Ms. Getts stated it was very important to encourage the recycling of cardboard rather than throwing it in the landfill. Some communities are trying to implement a cardboard ban, but it is proving to be difficult. It is important to encourage businesses to recycle cardboard.

Mr. Lopez stated another favorable item would be concrete without rebar. Recycle Works may have used the milled asphalt from Santa Fe Avenue. There is plenty of asphalt milled from around the County that is put on alley ways. We need to set an example. Ms. Keller stated that crushed concrete was great to use on driveways and less expensive than gravel. Mr. Lopez stated that Vision Recycling accepts concrete. Ms. Cortese stated that Colorado Backhoe also crushes concrete. Mr. Lopez stated that education on recycling concrete was also important.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REPORT - SUSAN FINZEL-ALDRED

There was no Environmental Coordinator report due to Ms. Finzel-Aldred's absence.

#### WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE - NANCY KELLER

Ms. Keller submitted the Water Quality Control Division's Roadmap Overview as Exhibit A. This shows the Water Quality Control Division's regulatory goals from current to 2027. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) disapproved the nutrient standards adopted by Colorado; therefore, it is necessary to revise some standards by 2027. This is a very huge project that included other various requirements. She stated that the EPA established an ammonia criteria, which is an impact on nutrients. Selenium is another factor, noting that the treatment of selenium interferes with the treatment of nutrients at the wastewater treatment plant. Competing bacterial treatments lead to the use of chemicals to provide sufficient food to

support the additional bacterial processes. If too many chemicals are used to balance the bacterial elements, the treatment plant becomes a chemical plant rather than a natural biological treatment plant. The roadmap she distributed shows the phases of the goals to attain in order to protect our streams and lakes. The EPA has a cadmium and arsenic criteria document that has not been adopted by Colorado yet. In 2020, Colorado will review the standards and determine how they will be implemented in the coming years. The lake standards were not disapproved by the EPA; however, additional evaluations will need to take place to figure out what is more appropriate for each lake. Chlorophyll standards are basically a "yuck" factor. She stated that Montana determined the "yuck" factor by having people look at the different conditions in a river and defining at what point it impaired the recreational use. This standard was adopted by Colorado. The way the standards are implemented are different. Montana only applied the standards to the mountain streams and not the plain streams. Colorado is trying to apply the standards to the plain streams as well. She stated that it is difficult to sample because there the algae need to attach to something to do proper testing. For example, Fountain Creek, currently there is nothing attaching because of the current constantly moving sediment, covering the few rocks available. By 2022, these issues hope to be resolved. Moving forward in the years 2023-2026 the issues of ammonia, selenium, nitrogen, and phosphorus will be addressed with standards for each being adopted by Colorado in 2027. She stated the numbers for nutrients was going to be very low. The ones that were proposed were very close to the limits of treatment that the EPA indicated were not low enough. Unless treatment changes rapidly between now and 2027, the numbers have the potential of being too low to effectively treat. Many of the states that have nutrient standards, i.e., Montana and several in the east, have had to implement variances because the technology is not available to achieve the lower standards. There will be huge efforts in reviewing the different criteria and getting them adopted by Colorado. There could be some major impacts. She stated where we have selenium in our shale in Pueblo County; Colorado Springs has arsenic in their shale. She stated that Pueblo County's selenium variance was adopted, noting the final approval will be August 6, 2018, for the State and then goes to the EPA for approval. If it gets the final approval from the EPA, it will be the first variance for an individual facility to be approved within the United States. There are variances approved for other states, but not one specific site.

Mr. Lopez questioned if there would be any impact to the lining project. Ms. Keller replied there will be a compliance schedule that must be met. There is a large list of items in the variance that must be complied with. Ten million dollars will be spent within the next ten years. The majority of the cost will be spent in the next five years with the lining, and the second five years will be monitoring and pilot testing the different treatments. She stated that a variance never relieves you from the standard, it just sets phases to achieve compliance. In the next ten years, documentation will be provided to show if the lining worked or if there were other treatments discovered during the pilots that were more affordable. She stated that there would be specific treatments to certain sections of the treatment plant rather than treating the whole treatment plant. The compliance schedule includes voluntary assessments of sump pumps. Residents and businesses will be contacted door-to-door requesting permission to make sure the sump pumps are connected to a surface discharge and not pumping groundwater back to the treatment plant. She stated that sump pumps connected to a sewer line are not building code complaint. She stated that individuals find the easy way to fix a problem and don't hire a licensed plumber that pulls a building permit to do repairs. Mr. Lopez stated that groundwater that seeps in must be pumped into the stormwater system rather than the sanitary sewer system. Ms. Keller replied yes. She stated that there are areas that do not have a stormwater system, which means people would be pumping out on their yard. If there is not enough room for it to infiltrate or the ground is frozen it could flow into the road and cause freezing problems. She stated it was not going to be a simple solution.

Ms. Getts questioned if Pueblo offered any incentives for stormwater mitigation, greywater use, or even permeable pavement options. Ms. Keller replied that she did not work with stormwater, but she was not aware of any. She suggested contacting that department directly. She stated the stormwater department operated on a Phase II Permit, noting its focus was education. Ms. Caffey stated there were no current incentives for xeriscaping or greywater use. Mr. Lopez stated that he had heard the Aurora community was using greywater for golf courses and parks. Ms. Keller replied that Aurora had a reuse plant treating wastewater for those uses. Mr. Lopez felt that there was another municipality that was looking into policies with greywater use. Ms. Keller stated the Pueblo Board of Water Works (PBOWW) retained all of the water rights when the treatment plant was separated from the City. The PBOWW uses the water that leaves the treatment plant as part of its exchanges on the Arkansas River. Mr. Lopez questioned if the City has water rights to water at the Elmwood Golf Course, noting part of the Bessemer Ditch runs through it. Ms. Keller replied she did not know for sure, noting it would be expensive to pump back up. Mr. Lopez thought back to his first year on City Council and speaking with other municipality counselors. Those who were proactive provided showerhead restrictors and timers for outside water use. He questioned City Council why Pueblo did not do the same. The answer given was because PBOWW wants to sell the water. He questioned Ms. Keller why the use of greywater could not be used at the treatment plant site. Ms. Keller replied that evaporation was considered a loss, it needs to be replaced with water rights. If it goes to the groundwater, recharge credits are issued. She stated that water rights were very complicated. Ms. Getts stated there were many examples on how to reduce loads to the wastewater treatment plant. She questioned if the community would be open to receiving incentives, noting she was not sure what those incentives would be. She also was aware that it would depend on the cost savings for wastewater treatment against the incentives being offered, noting it would be interesting to pilot. Ms. Keller stated it would be a benefit to eliminate waste water used in the house. It does not benefit the treatment plant because the water is not being treated. Ms. Getts stated she would love to re-pipe her house to circulate the greywater, but financially she needs a few more incentives. Mr. Lopez stated they could look at potential barriers to a greywater policy. Ms. Keller stated that people need to see examples on how to recycle greywater efficiently. If 25% of the people in the community are below the poverty level, they need to be able to afford the changes required to allow greywater recycling. Mr. Lopez noted it took many years to get the use of rain barrels approved.

#### SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE - TED LOPEZ

Mr. Lopez stated he attended the grand opening for Pueblo Recycle Works. He received hand-outs of a magnet showing the recyclables being collected and a map on how to get to the location. The site was well prepared. Milled asphalt was used around the area and concrete pads were used for the different roll-offs. There was a place to crush glass. He stated a question came up about the old dog pound and how it would be used. Some ideas were of using part of it for offices or shelter for workers. He stated it was a good start. A few people commented that it would be nice to have recycling drop-offs in other locations throughout the City, which he agreed with because it would not be just certain days or hours. He could go when it was more convenient. He stated it will be interesting to find out the amount of use the facility brings, noting he felt the City could report the quantities of material collected. Ms. Getts stated the data would be fascinating.

Mr. Lopez stated that he had gone to the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE) to attend a meeting he thought was being held there. When he got there, he spoke with Ms. Sarah Martinez from Communities that Care (CTC). He was going to go talk with Ms. Finzel-Aldred and was told that she was no longer with the PDPHE. He had left a message for Ms. Finzel-Aldred to call him, noting that since she was no longer at the PDPHE, his call was returned by someone named Kim. He asked Kim if there was going to be someone assigned

from PDPHE to attend the EPAC meetings. He was told that it was being discussed. He stated that Ms. Finzel-Aldred did a lot of work in terms of education and organizing the neighborhood cleanups, noting he was unsure how they would be affected or if they were going to be continued.

Ms. Caffey stated that one of her biggest concerns was Fountain Creek Week. She had spoken with someone in Colorado Springs that helps run the event and that person had spoken with Kim who was asked if someone from PDPHE was going to work on the project. Kim's response was no. Mr. Lopez stated the biggest effort for the event was in Pueblo with a lot of people involved. He stated concerns should be provided to Ms. Finzel-Aldred's supervisor, Ms. Sylvia Proud. Ms. Conners stated that she had gotten to know Ms. Finzel-Aldred through various education committees and Colorado Springs Utilities, noting that she did a phenomenal job with her community education outreach. She felt Ms. Finzel-Aldred's absence would be a huge loss. All the members concurred.

Mr. Lopez stated his report was complete.

Ms. Getts had a question about Creek Week. She questions what role the Fountain Creek Water Sentinels group played in the event. Ms. Caffey replied they do Creek Week year around, noting that it was headed by Mr. Jamie Valdez, who serves on the Creek Week Steering Committee.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Kester stated she would write a letter to Ms. Sylvia Proud, Public Health Director, on behalf of EPAC to address the concerns the Committee has regarding Ms. Finzel-Aldred's absence from PDPHE. Ms. Caffey wanted to include concerns regarding Fountain Creek Week. Ms. Keller questioned the use of funds that were acquired to cover the Environmental Coordinator position. She wanted to know how the funds would be dispersed.

#### AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 4, 2018 MEETING

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, October 4, 2018, at 229 West 12th Street, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before EPAC, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



Sandra M. Smith  
EPAC Recording Secretary

SMS

Attachments:  
Exhibit A, Water Quality Road Map Overview



# Water Quality Roadmap

## Overview

EPAC 8-2-2018  
Exhibit A

Too many nutrients can impact the quality of our drinking water, impair recreational boating and fishing experiences, and harm native fish. Colorado has been directed by the EPA to adopt nutrient goals to protect our streams and lakes. In October 2017, we established a water quality roadmap that outlines our strategy for developing nutrient goals and other water quality priorities over 10 years from 2017 to 2027.

### Focus areas

#### Goal development:

The Water Quality Control Commission's plan to adopt water quality goals for nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, and chlorophyll a), cadmium, temperature, arsenic, ammonia and selenium through 2027.

#### Evidence development:

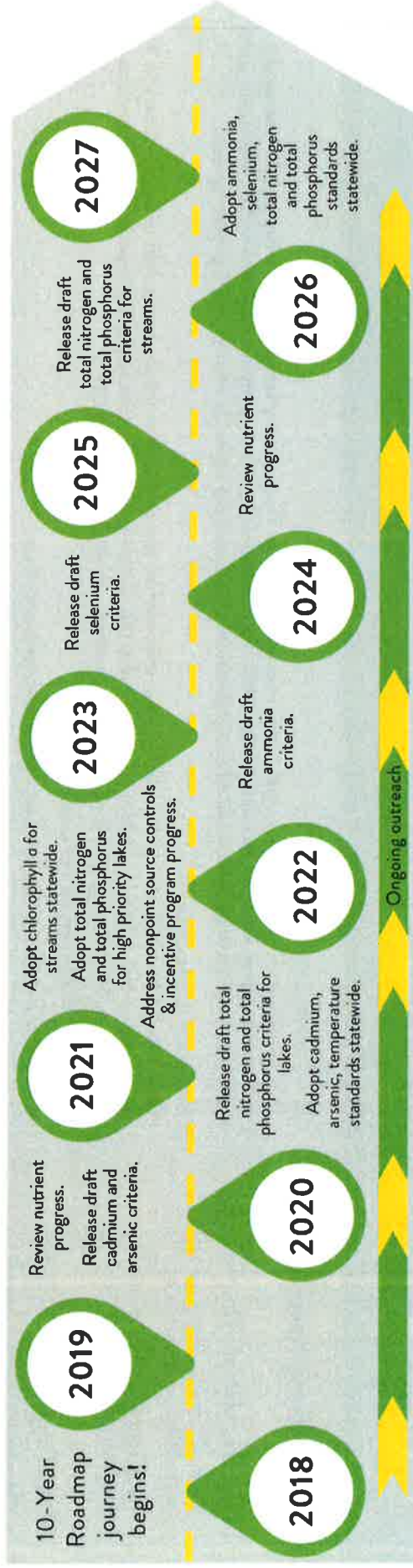
The technical work and scientific evidence that needs to be developed in order for the commission to adopt water quality goals.

#### Goal implementation:

The water quality goals established by the commission are translated into permits that allow discharge of acceptable levels of pollutants. These permits sometimes result in water quality treatment being required to address permit requirements. Nonpoint sources, like farming runoff, can also release nutrients, so we will consider how to decrease nutrients from nonpoint sources as well.

#### Outreach:

There will be several ways to participate in shaping the efforts that will happen over 10 years from 2017 to 2027.



CDPHE\_nutrients@state.co.us



www.colorado.gov/cdphe/WQ-10-Year-Roadmap



# Water Quality Roadmap

## Overview

### Rulemaking hearings

#### 2021: Regulation 31

- Cadmium, arsenic and temperature standards adopted statewide.
- Delay development of ammonia and selenium standards.

#### 2022: Regulations 31 & 85

- Chlorophyll a standard adopted statewide.
- Total nitrogen and total phosphorus standards adopted for lakes with swim beaches or that are classified as direct use water supply.
- Address nonpoint source controls for nutrients.

#### 2027: Regulation 31

- Ammonia and selenium standards adopted statewide.
- Total nitrogen and total phosphorus adopted for remaining waters statewide.

### Goal development

The commission adopts water quality goals during rulemaking hearings. The regulatory term for water quality goals is water quality criteria or standards. Over 10 years from 2017 to 2027, the commission plans to adopt these criteria into multiple regulations at the same time (i.e., into Regulation 31 and other regulations that implement the statewide criteria into geographic regions).

### Evidence development

We will work with stakeholders to evaluate federal criteria, examine appropriate data, and ultimately, draft criteria for Colorado. We plan to release draft criteria as quickly as possible to allow the regulated community time to consider impacts of implementation on their facilities. The following are the major evidence development milestones through 2027:

- 2020 - Draft cadmium and arsenic criteria.
- 2021 - Draft total nitrogen and total phosphorus criteria for lakes.
- 2023 - Draft ammonia criteria.
- 2024 - Draft selenium criteria.
- 2026 - Draft total nitrogen and total phosphorus criteria for streams.

### Goal implementation

Water quality treatment to address discharge permit conditions for nutrients, ammonia, temperature and selenium can be challenging from both a technological and financial perspective. Colorado's water quality regulations allow these challenges to be addressed through permitting and water quality goal setting processes. Over 10 years, we will develop information on the technological and financial feasibility of meeting the new water quality goals. Additionally, we plan to examine what information would be required to modify the statewide standards on a site specific basis.

### Work group efforts and outreach

We are committed to an extensive stakeholder process throughout the 10-year water quality roadmap.

- Quarterly water quality roadmap workgroup meetings - information is available on our website: [www.colorado.gov/cdphe/WQ-10-Year-Roadmap](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/WQ-10-Year-Roadmap)
- Technical advisory committees that target members representing the EPA, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry while ensuring that all regions of the state are included.
- Annual updates on roadmap progress will be given to the commission and Colorado's Water Quality Forum.

