

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 2, 2012

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, August 2, 2012, at 5:15 p.m., in the Pueblo County Department of Planning and Development Conference Room, 229 West 12th Street. Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at approximately 5:27 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Susan Finzel-Aldred
Doris Kester
Chad Wolgram (arrived 5:33 p.m.)
Marvin Reynolds

Members absent were Ted Lopez (excused) and Charles B. Pelto.

Guest Present: Julie Ann Woods, Director of the Pueblo County Department of Planning and Development

Staff present was Sandra Smith.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 3, 2011; APRIL 7, 2011; JUNE 2, 2011; AUGUST 4, 2011; OCTOBER 6, 2011; DECEMBER 1, 2011; FEBRUARY 2, 2012; APRIL 5, 2012; AND JUNE 7, 2012 MEETINGS

The minutes could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers could not be done due to the lack of a quorum. Chair Reynolds stated they should all be thinking about recommendations.

CHAIR'S REPORT –CHAIR, MARVIN REYNOLDS

Chair Reynolds stated last fall they held a Colorado Energy Master Program, and they are going to hold another one this year starting September 6, 2012. He passed out some flyers. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated there was going to be a Solar Plan Meeting for Pueblo County on Monday, August 13, 2012 at 9:00 am – 10:30 am presented by SSTI.

Chair Reynolds stated he would like to take a request to PACOG to lower the membership for EPAC. He stated they would have to determine what categories the member would come from. Ms. Woods stated the August PACOG agenda hasn't been finalized, and would be a good time to get on the agenda. Mr. Wolgram suggested reducing the number of meeting to two a year, unless there was a specific project EPAC was involved in. Ms. Woods stated that she would like EPAC to participate in the update of the Comprehensive Plan. There will be an entire section on health and environment. She stated it's a two-year project that launches January 1, 2013. Mr. Wolgram felt that membership might increase if there was an actual project to work on. Ms. Woods suggested that she and Mr. Reynolds meet to discuss the EPAC bylaw and draft a request to PACOG. Mr. Reynolds concurred.

Chair Reynolds informed the members that he would be leaving Pueblo CSU to work in the San Luis Valley beginning November 1, 2012. He spoke with one of his co-workers, Emily Lockhart, to see if she would be interested in attending EPAC. She stated she would consider it.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REPORT – SUSAN FINZEL-ALDRED

Ms. Finzel-Aldred distributed the Environmental Coordinators Report for June and July, 2012. June was very busy with the Colorado Association for Recycling (CAFR) Annual Summit from June 10th – 12th at the Convention Center. She stated it was very successful with the highest attendance in 23 years. Other events in June were the Eastside Neighborhood Clean-up and the Nike© Reuse-A-Shoe collection project. She informed the members that due to Ms. Kedward's grants concluding, her last day was June 30, 2012. The Solid Waste Assistance Program has provided a total of seven dumpsters to households facing violations, 37 people called the Recycle Hotline, and a total of 25 Recycle Guides were sent to households.

She stated in July a total of 800 pounds of alkaline batteries were shipped for recycling. She toured the newly opened MRF in Colorado Springs opened by Bestway Disposal and Recycling, Inc. July launched the phonebook recycling event sponsored by C&C Disposal. She stated that C&C Disposal is offering free single-stream recycling. You only have to sort out the glass. She attended several webinars dealing with recycling education trends, social marketing, bin location, and labeling for better public impact in English and Spanish.

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE – C. PELTO

No report due to Mr. Pelto's absence.

SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE – T. LOPEZ

No report due to Mr. Lopez's absence.

OTHER

Mr. Wolgram stated the Pueblo City-County Health Department was working with the District Attorney on bringing some properties into compliance.

Chair Reynolds informed the members about a pest called the Japanese beetle. He stated they have been around the City Park and Zoo for a couple of years, and the now finding a population in Belmont. They impact primarily the ornamental plants, but can also impacts some crops, i.e., beans and squash. He stated they haven't found any in the Mesa area, but noted if they migrated to Belmont, they may migrate in the direction of the Mesa. He stated they have been using insecticides as well as natural predators. He stated another pest they are working on is a small beetle that affects the Black Walnut tree. He stated you have to use a microscope to find this pest. He noted that a lot of Black Walnut trees in Pueblo are affected and will be lost. He stated the Arizona Walnut tree is resistant to the pest, because it has developed an immunity to the pest having grown up with it Arizona for many years. He stated the bugs will infect the tree, but it won't kill it. The disease is called Thousand Cankers. He stated the trees can be removed and chipped to use for mulch, but locally only. It is not to be transported. He stated that Colorado Springs has already lost all of its Black Walnuts and Fort Collins is currently infested, and Boulder has some infected and some not. Ms. Woods suggested printing a news release in the newspaper to inform the public. Mr. Reynolds stated they have put notices in the paper last year, but didn't this year. Mr. Wolgram noted that the City of Pueblo doesn't have a

tree ordinance for dead trees. Unless it is a danger, it can't be declared as a nuisance. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the Pueblo was referred to as Tree City USA, but the City of Pueblo doesn't have a registered, certified Forester, in the Parks Department Staff or Planning Staff. Mr. Reynolds suggested making a recommendation to the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Kester stated that EPAC was also designated as a taskforce of the 2020 Commission. The 2020 Commission's Strategic Plan was written in 1994, revised in 1998, and is currently being revised again. EPAC was asked to look at its part of the Strategic Plan and report on what has been done, what's improved, what's ongoing, what's pending, what goals should be kept and which ones should be modified. She asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred to review the status of EPAC and give a report by October 4, 2012 EPAC meeting. Ms. Kester stated she would e-mail the members that portion of the Strategic Plan so that everyone will have the opportunity to comment by the October EPAC meeting.

AGENDA AUGUST 2, 2012

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, October 4, 2012, 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 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra M. Smith
EPAC Recording Secretary

SMS