

MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 5, 2013

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, December 5, 2013, 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 5:17 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Betty Alt	Ted Lopez (arrived at 5:40)
Susan Finzel-Aldred (5:28)	Gene Michael
Lois Illick	Chad Wolgram (5:20)
Doris Kester	

Members absent were: None.

Guests present: Nancy Keller, City of Pueblo Wastewater Department and Terry Hart, County Commissioner Chairman, District 1.

Staff present was: Sandra Smith.

CHAIR'S REPORT – DORIS KESTER

Chair Kester reported she did not have a Chair's Report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 3, 2013 MEETING

Ms. Alt moved to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2013 meeting. Ms. Illick seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE – GENE MICHAEL

Mr. Michael gave a PowerPoint presentation on Water Quality 101, A Summary of Colorado's Water Quality Regulation Process. He stated this was the first half of a two-part presentation. Water Quality 101 reviews the Federal Clean Water Act passed in 1972 and the basic structure for water quality. Water Quality 201 will review more specifically Colorado's process. He stated there are a number of different types of meetings and very long lead times for rule making hearings, which include a number of legal deadlines. He distributed the PowerPoint presentation in hard copy and a report on Stream Classifications and Water Quality Standards (see Attachments "A" and "B").

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REPORT – SUSAN FINZEL-ALDRED

Ms. Finzel-Aldred's report included the months of October and November. She submitted a hard copy of her report to be distributed with the minutes (see Attachment "C"). She reported she was involved in quite a few events in October. In addition to the information in her report, she stated some of the bins might stay because they are being paid for by another contract, i.e., King Soopers North and South. She noted the State Fair Grounds has a paper collection bin just inside their Beulah gate. She has been funneling people to the C&C Disposal Transfer Station on the north side and We Recycle. She asked if any of the members attended the Free

Day at the Southside Landfill on October 12, 2013. Mr. Lopez replied he had arrived at the gate at 11:51 a.m. and did not get back to the Beulah Highway until 1:20 p.m. There were trucks backed up along the Highway all the way down to the dumpsite. She stated her involvement in the event is to design and pay for the advertising in the Pueblo Chieftain, posts on the Facebook page, list in the Recycle Guide, and tell people about it on the Recycle Hotline. She puts flyers around town in the hardware stores and grocery stores. She also participated in the Rx "Take Back Day" October 26, 2013, helped some residents with roll-offs with the Solid Waste Assistance Program (SWAP) and attended several meetings.

She reported in November the "Don't Litter" and recycling billboards were posted, she gave a recycling education class to the Boy and Girl Scout Troops, America Recycles Day was November 15, 2013, and We Recycle in Pueblo West also hosted a free drop-off day for single stream recyclables on November 15, 2013. She reported she serves on the committee regarding the "*Full Service Trash & Recycling Plan*". They have had several meetings with trash haulers, received comments, and plan to present a draft ordinance to City Council for discussion at a work session in January 2014. They are still working on tire cleanups on East 2<sup>nd</sup> and on 36<sup>th</sup> Lane north of Highway 96 East. The program will arrange for the cleanups and hopes to receive reimbursement from a grant from the State Health Department. She distributed the new Pueblo Area Recycling Guide, a new Stormwater Runoff brochure (see Attachment "D"), and Green Holidays Recycling Tips (see Attachment "E").

Mr. Lopez questioned if C&C recycles. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied yes. Mr. Lopez requested notice on where the new drop-off bins will be and questioned the City's budget impact to the EC programs. Mr. Wolgram replied it cut the EC capital by \$25,000. They are looking at reducing cleanups and the Solid Waste Assistance Program (SWAP). They will have to make a determination on the May event (Hazardous Waste). Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she spoke with stormwater at the quality meeting, and Mr. Earl Wilkinson will check his budget to see if they will be able to allocate some extra funds to do the May event, which may be scaled down to paint, motor oil, tires, and electronics. Mr. Lopez was pleased that the Waste Management Ordinance was moving forward for Pueblo. He felt that the performance standards needed to be followed by the haulers if they want to do business in Pueblo. Commissioner Hart questioned who paid for the recycle bin location ads in the newspaper. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied it was a complimentary donation provided by The Chieftain. Commissioner Hart asked if The Chieftain would continue with their contribution for advertising. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied she would check with the Shriner's. Commissioner Hart questioned the cost of the program. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied she did not know. She noted they do not get a lot of tonnage, and their donation checks have decreased quite a bit. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the County Commissioners allocated \$15,000 for County cleanups in Salt Creek, Avondale, and Pueblo West. Commissioner Hart stated the initial draft had some significant cuts to the Health Department; however, they are looking to see what they can do to increase the funds.

#### SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE – T. LOPEZ

Mr. Lopez reported he did not have a report.

#### OTHER DISCUSSION

Commissioner Hart stated he was in attendance to discuss some of the things that have been discussed over the past year or so, and one of the conversions he had with Ms. Kester was

regarding a "vision statement." He stated his perspective of the role of EPAC is significantly different from elected officials in the past. There have been discussions regarding EPAC going off on their own with the potential to create an embarrassing situation. The elected officials of the past wanted to make crystal clear that EPAC could only do what PACOG told them what to do. Commissioner Hart stated he had the opposite philosophy. He believed that the current elected officials on PACOG have a similar attitude. He stated he wanted to leave EPAC with the message that he sees EPAC having at least two roles, i.e., one of which is the traditional one, that being getting instructions from PACOG, but also to feel free to "spread your wings" by looking for issues within the community that need to be addressed. He stated the community has been struggling for a long time on the issue of "where we want to be" in terms of solid waste disposal and recycling. He wanted to know if they could clearly identify the replacement of the voluntary drop-off system. He stated he has attended meetings in Denver with Waste Management making statements that they are not in the solid waste management business but in the recycling business. He stated he has no problem asking them for help with the Pueblo community. He would like to encourage the "brain trust" of EPAC to think things through and give recommendations to PACOG. He would like to return for the next meeting to have more discussion on this issue as well as listen to Mr. Michael's 201 Water Quality report. One of the other discussions he would like to have is on the Selenium challenge for Pueblo, noting there is not enough community knowledge about the issues. He would like to start tackling the items they can to keep things from getting worse. He stated the elected officials want to understand what things could be done before the Selenium gets into the water and we as a community can implement. He stated there is a change in philosophy, and the issues at hand were solid waste management, recycling, and water quality. Mr. Lopez's commented that guests were always welcome at the EPAC meeting and that EPAC was never a "loose cannon". He suggested that EPAC members provide Commissioner Hart with some feedback regarding Commissioner Hart's comments at the next meeting. Commissioner Hart stated he comes from the Pueblo Community, and he has also experienced frustration in wanting to be heard. He stated now he has an advantage being on the elected side. He hopes to create a receptive environment and avoid comments like "loose cannon." He also does not want there to be discouragement if a recommendation from EPAC is not accepted. All opinions are critical and necessary in the balance of the whole. Mr. Lopez suggested Commissioner Hart make those comments in meetings with his constituents and counterparts when appropriate. Commissioner Hart concurred. Ms. Illick suggested giving EPAC some lead notice on issues that are arising so they are not caught off guard. Commissioner Hart stated he would like to invigorate EPAC, noting historically EPAC was made up of a large group of people. He hopes to increase the community's interest in membership. Ms. Finzel-Aldred suggested someone from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and business sector. Commissioner Hart questioned if EPAC had any representation from the University of Pueblo. Ms. Susan Finzel-Aldred replied not for a long time.

#### AGENDA FEBRUARY 6, 2014

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, February 6, 2014, at 229 West 12th Street, from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Election of Officers will take place first on the agenda.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before EPAC, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,



Sandra M. Smith  
EPAC Recording Secretary

SMS