

MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 3, 2011

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, February 3, 2011, at 5:15 p.m., in the Pueblo County Conference Room, 1001 North Santa Fe Avenue. Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at approximately 5:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Thelma Archuletta  
Susan Finzel-Aldred  
Doris Kester  
Ted Lopez  
Charles Pelto  
Marvin Reynolds  
Chad Wolgram

No members were absent.

Staff present was Sandy Blanco.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 2, 2010 MEETING

Ms. Kester moved to approve the minutes as mailed. Mr. Pelto seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT – M. REYNOLDS

Chair Reynolds reported he talked to Mr. Headley from the Planning Department about the EPAC membership. The recommendation was to look for members and talk to municipalities instead of asking PACOG to change the membership and the quorum requirements. He would be scheduling appointments with the municipalities and trying to get them interested in appointing representatives. The business associations also need representation, noting if any member had a contact to let him know. He asked for an update on the status of the four groups. It was reported they need 2 members for Private Citizens, 3 for Organizations with Substantial Economic Interest, 1 for Public Officials, and 1 for Public Interest for a total of 12 members and 2 ex-officio members. Ms. Archuletta questioned the membership and what it was supposed to be. Ms. Blanco reported they currently have seven members, noting they're supposed to have 12 members and 2 ex-officio members. Chair Reynolds stated everybody has to show up in order to reach a quorum. They need to work on getting other people interested in EPAC. He would talk to people at the County to possibly fill some of the vacancies.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred asked Mr. Pelto if they talked about appointing a Public Official member from the USGS or the State. Mr. Pelto replied yes, along with Pueblo West, Rye, and Colorado City. Rye has been having problems for the last several months with regards to water and other related issues. At the 2020 Commission meetings Rye is usually there talking about their issues with water quality. Ms. Kester stated it's Colorado City and not Rye. Mr. Pelto stated last year Pueblo West had issues in their efforts to conserve water, noting it would be a good idea to get the Metropolitan Districts involved. Chair Reynolds stated he knows people in Colorado City and talking to them would be easy. He also knows people in Pueblo West that he could talk to, noting maybe they can appoint somebody or ask for a volunteer. Ms. Finzel-Aldred questioned appointing a builder, developer, or someone with substantial economic interest in land use. Mr. Leverington, a former EPAC member, was an engineer and questioned if he would have been a

conflict if an issue had come up, or if they were to appoint somebody from the Pueblo West Metropolitan District and an issue came up in Pueblo West, would that person be a conflict. Mr. Peltó replied they could recuse themselves. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she would be willing to contact somebody at the State Water Quality Division, and asked what category they would fall under. Chair Reynolds replied if they're part of the State Government they would be a Public Official. A Public Interest member would be somebody from the Board of Water Works. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she thought they would fall into the business sector like Mr. Pendleton. She asked Ms. Blanco what category Mr. Pendleton had fallen into, and Ms. Blanco replied he was a member under the Organizations with Substantial Economic Interest. Chair Reynolds stated they could call Mr. Pendleton and ask him if he knew somebody who might be interested in becoming a member of EPAC. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she would talk to Mr. Cortese from C&C Disposal who's a local hauler. Ms. Kester questioned the people who recycle the Christmas trees. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied they're a crushing operation called Vision Recycled Aggregate and Landscaping.

Ms. Blanco distributed applications to the members for their distribution. Chair Reynolds questioned the difference between a Public Official and a Public Interest member. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied any office holder who's been selected by a vote of the residents, any Commission or agency member who's been appointed by a group of elected officials, and any employee of local, State or Federal Government constitutes a Public Official. Mr. Wolgram stated somebody from City or County Planning would qualify. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated City Planning would be good since County Planning oversees EPAC and Mr. Headley is the Director. Ms. Kester stated Mr. Headley is also the head of PACOG. Ms. Finzel-Aldred asked Ms. Blanco if Mr. Headley was the head of PACOG, and Ms. Blanco replied yes. Mr. Peltó asked Ms. Blanco what his title was, and Ms. Blanco replied he's the Manager of PACOG. Chair Reynolds stated as the Director of County Planning he's also the Manager of PACOG. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she would contact somebody from the Division of Water Resources and the City Planning Department. She questioned the Private Citizen category, noting they have two openings. Ms. Kester stated she contacted Mr. Ross from the Sierra Club but she didn't get a response. Ms. Archuletta stated everybody she talked to either didn't have the time or didn't want the commitment. Mr. Wolgram stated they should contact Ms. Montoya from the Eastside Neighborhood Association. Mr. Peltó stated that was an excellent idea, noting the problem is getting the organization to do something outside of its usual limits. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated Ms. Barker and Ms. Leach are from the University Park Neighborhood Association, noting they could be either Private Citizens or Public Interest members. Ms. Archuletta suggested somebody from Pueblo Cares. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated they would fall under the Public Interest group, noting Ms. Howe-Kerr or Ms. Solis would be the contacts. Mr. Wolgram stated they could also contact somebody from the Citizens for Clean Air Committee, and Ms. Finzel-Aldred suggested the Audubon Society. Ms. Archuletta questioned the Southern Colorado Rental Realtor Association, and Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied they would fall under the category of Organizations with Substantial Economic Interest. Mr. Wolgram stated GCC, the cement plant, has a new environmental person. Ms. Kester stated they're getting more involved in the community and they may have somebody to appoint. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated they also talked about somebody from Vestas. Chair Reynolds informed the members to let him and staff know if they find somebody who wants to apply for membership to get an application.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REPORT – S. FINZEL-ALDRED

Ms. Finzel-Aldred distributed the January, 2011 Environmental Coordinators Report and the 2010 Annual Report. She reported in December, 2010 they spent a lot of time finalizing the end of the recycling bins project at the three sites they had. The bin collection for December, 2010 was better than the previous year. The final collection for last year was down 4%, noting the economy was bad and people weren't buying as many materials. There are some other recycling options out there like curbside and drop-off sites. In January, 2011 they did the Christmas Tree Recycling Event, noting they were out there on the weekends greeting visitors and that Vision Recycled Aggregates supervised and hosted the drive-up customers during the

weekdays. They collected 575 trees and gave away the mulch, which was gone within one week. There were only three commercial Christmas tree lots open compared to six last year, noting the garden shops at Lowe's and Home Depot sold trees and the independent lots were few. Another clean-up was held that was hosted by NeighborWorks which got a nice write-up in the Pueblo Chieftain. The EC program loaned NeighborWorks rakes, gloves, safety vests, and trash bags. They filled the bags with debris and put them on specific corners and the City Streets Department picked them up. The EC staffed the PCCHD booth at the Annual Pueblo Health Exposition, noting she did some education and greeted lots of people.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred reported the Recycling Resources Economic Opportunity Grant was announced in January, 2011 and the application is due March 4, 2011. She's been involved in applying for it for three years, noting this is the fourth year. The amount that's available has declined, noting it used to be 1.5 million and this year it's under \$800,000. She's hoping to have some Pueblo applicants, noting she received calls for assistance from Pueblo entities on how to apply.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred went over the 2010 Annual Report, a compilation of all the EC activities for the entire year of 2010. It includes the Christmas Tree Recycling, LitterBee, Neighborhood Clean-Ups, Yard Waste Day, S.W.A.P., HHW Collection Day, and the conclusion of the Free Drop-Off Recycling Bins. The LitterBee has a new logo and the EC made several visits to schools and public events. They did five neighborhood clean-ups last year, noting they collected almost 1,000 tires and utilized a lot of volunteers. They removed 540 tons of solid waste, which was very good. S.W.A.P., the Solid Waste Assistance Program, is handled by Ms. Kedward, noting she helped and assisted nine residents that were in severe violation. The Free Yard Waste Day at the landfill has shifted, noting the EC helped promote the event in April of last year where residents were allowed to take their yard waste for discounted fees. The new contract the City has with the Waste Connections-managed landfill states two discounted days are to be offered per year for any type of solid waste not just branches. In the fall of 2010 the City decided to let the residents bring any type of solid waste to the landfill, which they divided up into four different Saturdays based on the four electoral districts in town, noting it went very well. Mr. Lopez attended, noting he can update them later. At the Free Yard Waste Day at the landfill in April of 2010, only 71 vehicles showed up with branches, but on the four discounted days in the fall of 2010, they had over 1,000 vehicles or 250 vehicles plus for each of those days.

Ms. Archuletta asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred what they do with the tires that are collected. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied the tires that are collected at the clean-ups and at the big event in May at the fairgrounds are recycled by a vendor. The vendor shreds the tires in Colorado Springs and then hauls them to the cement plant in Florence where they are shredded again and used as fuel in the furnaces. It's considered TDF or tire derived fuel. It's the most viable and economic way to remove tires completely from the environment rather than land filling them. There's no open tire landfill right now. She attended the Waterfest at CSU Pueblo and showed lots of kids the storm water model and recycling information. At the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event over 13,000 pounds of hazardous chemicals were collected. They collected over 1,000 tires, 800 pounds of alkaline batteries, and 1,600 different containers of paint. They had a low turnout of vehicles but a good amount of materials collected. This year they charged a gate fee and are hoping it stimulates people to collect things from their neighbors rather than all of the neighbors showing up individually. They had a reduction in the amount of cars going through but they were full. This was the final year for the Free Drop-Off Recycling Bins. They collected data over seven years and converted the cubic yards into tons. Over 2,000 tons of material was collected based on 22 collection bins they had out in the community, which was very good.

Mr. Lopez questioned the volume collected in December, 2010. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied the volumes were up for the month, noting compared to December of the previous year it doubled. Mr. Lopez questioned the comparisons for November, 2010, and Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied they

were about the same. Mr. Lopez stated there are three bins for newspapers, noting he took his last load and they were filled to the top. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated a lot of Pueblo Chieftain newspaper carriers were using them for their excess papers, noting they were getting a lot of bundles. Mr. Lopez stated a lot of people were at the landfill at the fall discount days, noting he was pleased because he got to clean out a lot of stuff that normally he wouldn't. The only bad thing was the restriction on disposing of electronic waste and tires. He questioned if the City was going to have it again next year. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied they're going to adhere to the contract as written, noting Discount Day in April and October would be all solid waste. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred if they were going to have quadrants. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied no, noting it's managed between the City and the landfill. Her only involvement this year is to help with the promotion and to answer any questions that go through the Recycle Hotline.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred reported they would be doing a presentation at the City Council Work Session on February 14, 2011 on the Environmental Coordinator Program, it's past successes, and its current plans for 2011 in hopes that funding for 2011 out of the discretionary account would be forwarded to the EC program to continue. It was put off for a few weeks and they're just waiting to see if the program is going to be funded even though they're already into 2011. Mr. Wolgram stated if anybody wants to go and support the Environmental Coordinator Program at the meeting it would be appreciated. The meeting is at 5:30 p.m., and they were given 20 minutes on the agenda. The presenters would be Ms. Maio, the Director of the Environmental Health Division, and a member from the Board of Health. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred if City Council had approved their budget for 2011. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied no, noting they approved the budget allocation for the Health Department's General Fund, noting the Environmental Coordinator Program is separate. Mr. Lopez questioned the discretionary funding. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied right now there's funding in the City Manager's discretionary account. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred how much they're asking for, and Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied they're asking for \$100,000. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred if they received any help from the County. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied no, noting there are no landfill user fees being collected in the County at this time. It doesn't preclude them from going to the County and asking for funding. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred what she's doing if there's no funding. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied the Health Department is paying her daily salary out of their reserves at this time. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred what the Environmental Coordinator Program on average was per month. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied \$100,000 divided by 12 months, noting they're just funding her salary and benefits. Mr. Lopez stated that amounts to approximately \$8,500 per month. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated her salary and benefits are less than that and she's not spending anything on programs at this time. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred what they would do if they got less than \$100,000. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied they haven't thought about it. Chair Reynolds stated part of the \$100,000 includes the work they do like promoting the clean-ups and the landfill days. If the money is reduced they would have to decide how they're going to spend it. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated they're hoping they don't look at the programs they're doing as a shopping list and look at the totality of what one full-time equivalent person can produce. The \$100,000 covers her salary and benefits and all of the programs. Mr. Lopez stated if they don't get funded they won't be doing anything and the Health Department would have to provide the services of outreach and education out of their reserves. Mr. Wolgram stated that would have to be determined. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated it's been challenging and they'll have to see what happens on February 14, 2011. As of now there's no funding in the Health Department's General Fund to pay for any of the Environmental Coordinator Programs. Mr. Lopez stated without funding the neighborhood clean-ups and promotions would stop. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the Health Department floated the Environmental Coordinator Program through the month of January, 2011, noting they had Christmas Tree Recycling, school classes, and meetings booked. As soon as it's all figured out she would let EPAC know what's going on.

#### WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE – C. PELTO

Mr. Pelto stated they have plenty of water, noting they're at 240% of their annual precipitation for this year as of midnight on January 31, 2011. It was just the first month so it would change,

noting it would be like last February when they were also at 240%. The people from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have adopted the flood potential estimates for the drainage basins in the Arkansas and Wildhorse areas. There are issues regarding the way the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would be enforcing the water quality that would impact heavily on construction activities. A lot of people on Capitol Hill are upset by the way the EPA's been handling things and who has the authority, noting there's going to be a lot of fighting over the next year. Mr. Lopez questioned the rules and when they would go into effect. Mr. Pelto replied the EPA is trying to put them into effect immediately, noting they're trying to set executive orders down on how the coal-fired power plants are going to be regulated. It's a broader scope, noting somebody at the EPA decided to rule by decree as opposed to rules that Congress set forth. Mr. Lopez questioned when it would occur, and Mr. Pelto replied it's going on right now. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated there's an issue related to storm water run-off that came up dealing with Best Management Practices on construction sites, noting the EPA is pushing the states to hold individual permits and to require construction sites to test the triviality of the run-off coming from the sites. The Best Management Practices and the Non-Point Source Pollution activities aren't making any headway in reducing polluted run-off into the country's waterways. Mr. Lopez stated it's expensive, noting the City wasn't good in enforcing the Best Management Practices. Mr. Pelto stated it doesn't matter what the cities do, noting the EPA is going to enforce the regulation and blame the cities for not enforcing the regulation. They fine the cities to increase the cost at the Federal level. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated Pueblo has one enforcement officer in the Storm Water Quality Division. Mr. Lopez stated he knows that from having reported violations of the storm water rules. The most noticeable one was when they did the construction on the HARP. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the enforcement officer is trying to stop people from washing their parking lots at their fast food restaurants, to HARP, to abandoned properties, to illegal dumping, noting it's a hot topic. Mr. Pelto stated the bottom line is the Federal Government doesn't care if the City doesn't have the staff to do the job, noting they're going to fine the City anyway. Mr. Lopez stated the City receives at least \$3 million a year from the storm water utility fees, which should go to better job enforcement. Mr. Pelto stated if it doesn't get done they still get fined. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated there's a lot of push-back, noting it was presented at the Storm Water Quality meeting. Mr. Lopez questioned if that meeting was held for the contractors. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied it was an educational workshop to get everybody together, which she helped organize, and 127 people attended. It was a refresher course and if they had money to do it every six months it would be good because things are changing. They had an inspector from the City and County of Denver and he told them like it was, noting he was a tough cookie and only had four employees in the construction division.

Mr. Pelto presented the Wiki-System. He stated EPAC spends a lot of time talking about a number of different issues all of which could be addressed over the course of a given week or a given month. Wikis are the next generation of activities on the web. They are an advancement enhancement on blogging. They allow them to interact and group think without having to get together in a face to face environment like this one. A number of the different issues they've discussed this evening with regards to solid waste management, water quality, and funding of the Health Department could be discussed in this particular environment. They not only have the ability to make comments but they can edit and make modifications to it. They can also set up various blog pages to discuss specific issues. Everybody authorized can make comments and type simultaneously. They can even set up calendars for when they want to hold meetings or mailing lists for broadcasts. They can take meeting minutes and post them to read instead of having to rely on getting together once every two months. Chair Reynolds asked Mr. Pelto if they could have more than one mailing list, and Mr. Pelto replied yes. Chair Reynolds asked Mr. Pelto if the minutes could be corrected if an error was discovered. Mr. Pelto replied yes, noting they could make comments about a particular item that needed to be corrected, which would be more effective. It's important for the recording secretary to make the needed corrections. It's the wave of the future for doing coordination in a large group with diverse activities. The real challenges are the City and County officials and the IT Department. Ms. Finzel-Aldred asked Mr. Pelto if Windows 7 was compatible. Mr. Pelto replied yes, noting Microsoft doesn't like playing well with any other activity and there are certain situations that

need to be worked around. A video would have to either be converted to a media player or some other environment, or they would have to get Quick Time installed in order to watch what's going on. They're using Wikis to coordinate the Colorado Federation of Garden Club's Annual Convention, which would be held in May, 2011 in Canon City, of which he's the Chair. A lot of people are having difficulty getting a hold of this because they aren't up to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. On the other hand, a lot of them are realizing it beats the heck out of trying to get together every week for updates on the status of issues. The same thing can be applied in this type of environment, noting they can take the information they get from the various organizations like the Storm Water Department, the Public Health Department, or a trash organization and post it so they can all see in greater detail what's going on and provide better information to better coordinate what they need to do from their perspective. He's a big fan of this approach to coordinate committee activities and recommends EPAC seriously consider trying to develop a system by which they can coordinate their information better to make better decisions and better recommendations.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred asked Mr. Pelto if anybody can post an entry. Mr. Pelto replied yes, noting if they're approved by the authority that runs Wiki media to make entries and modifications to pages. Chair Reynolds asked Mr. Pelto if the page would be limited to EPAC. Mr. Pelto replied yes, noting it could be limited to EPAC or opened up to the entire world. Chair Reynolds asked Mr. Pelto if they need a website. Mr. Pelto replied no, noting he runs the website. Chair Reynolds stated Pueblo County is putting together a community website and if they had a Wiki they could put it on the community website. They can't put it on the County website because of security issues. Mr. Pelto stated the IT Departments are tight about control. Chair Reynolds stated the community website they're putting together should be ready to go sometime in March, 2011. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated PACOG should have a Wiki page. Mr. Pelto stated if the IT Department plays their role of controlling everything they might as well go with the one he's offering because they would have more free-flow and more operational control over what happens. Chair Reynolds stated their offer isn't to restrict anything it's just an option they have available. Mr. Pelto stated they can't get Quick Time installed because the IT Department doesn't like it. If they can't run with it or get the service they need to do their jobs properly they'll need to go someplace else.

#### SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE

Chair Reynolds reported the Solid Waste Subcommittee needs a Chairperson and asked the members if anybody wanted to volunteer. Mr. Lopez volunteered and questioned what was going on. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied Councilman Nawrocki went to their office and talked about getting Pay-as-You-Throw and curbside ordinances on the ballot by petition, or to change to the waste hauler licenses, noting he wants to move on it. It sat for a year and nothing happened. They had a meeting this morning and he questioned what the public energy was right now, and she responded it was pretty slow. He looked to EPAC, and she informed him that EPAC was always there and stable, but a couple of recycling coalitions faded away that need to be reenergized. The Solid Waste Subcommittee would have some activities to do. Mr. Pelto stated he heard a conversation last month relating to the solid waste issue and the implementation in Pueblo with regards to the work they did several years ago. Public Works is losing a lot of money maintaining the streets due to the trash trucks that drive up and down the alleys, noting they may push for districting. He informed Mr. Lopez he may want to attend the 2020 Infrastructure meeting at noon on February 15, 2011, noting Public Works would be there.

#### OTHER DISCUSSION

Mr. Lopez questioned if anybody noticed a series of bins around town. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied yes, noting they have nothing to do with the Environmental Coordinator Program. They are through a contract with Creative Outdoor Advertising. There are 66 sites that would be established in Pueblo, noting they have one bin for trash and two for recycled products, which are connected to a small billboard. The company has several of these programs in cities on the

East Coast and in Florida, noting they're the first city in the Rocky Mountain West to have the program. They sell the advertising space for \$89 a month per space with a minimum one-year contract. That's how they got into the public right-of-way for their advertising space by offering the recycling bins attached to it. The advertising company is responsible for servicing the recycling bins and the trash in a contract with the City but she doesn't know the details. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred what could be disposed of in the bins. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied paper, cans, bottles, and trash. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred what kind of bottles. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied glass, plastic, and aluminum cans. Mr. Lopez stated the bins look nice, and Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated they're very attractive and the members can go to Creative Outdoor.com, type in Pueblo, and they can view the location map. There's a financial kick-back to the City based on the advertising sales. The bins aren't in parks because advertising in parks isn't aesthetic. It's a financial risk to the company, noting sales materials have gone out and the company is offering the same rates to the zoo as to a barber. She received 13 calls, noting people want to know if they can take their plastics and bottles from home.

#### AGENDA APRIL 7, 2011

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, April 7, 2011. More discussion would occur on the Wiki-System.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before EPAC, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Blanco  
EPAC Recording Secretary

SJB