

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 7, 2011

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, April 7, 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:

Susan Finzel-Aldred
Doris Kester
Ted Lopez
Marvin Reynolds
Chad Wolgram

Members absent were: Thelma Archuletta and Charles Pelto

Staff present was Sandra Smith.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 3, 2011 MEETING

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

CHAIR'S REPORT – M. REYNOLDS

Chair Reynolds reported he spoke with Pueblo West and Colorado City regarding membership to EPAC. He stated he would follow-up with them at the end of the month to see if they have selected representatives for EPAC membership. He stated he would also be in contact with Rye and Beulah.

He stated he received an email from the Pueblo 2020 Commission, Infrastructure Task Force, to attend a meeting to discuss a solid waste management plan and recycling plan for Pueblo. He stated it sounded like the Task Force had information they wanted to share with EPAC, and the Task Force thought EPAC had specific information on recycling. He stated that Ms. Finzel-Aldred also attended the meeting and the Task Force wants to make a plan for solid waste management in the City of Pueblo, which is very similar to what EPAC prepared for PACOG in 2008. He stated he wasn't able to meet with them at a later date, but Ms. Finzel-Aldred would be giving a report later at this meeting. He stated he was excited about what the Task Force wanted to do. They wanted to implement a City ordinance the City Attorney had previously said couldn't be done. They wanted to talk with other communities to find out what had already been done. Mr. Lopez questioned the meeting date. Chair Reynolds replied it was in March, noting it was short notice and he didn't have it written down. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied mid March, noting that she and Mr. Wolgram met later with Mr. Micky Beyer, who was the guest speaker at the Task Force meeting. Mr. Lopez questioned the Task Force. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied it was the 2020 Commission's Infrastructure Task Force. She noted Mr. Beyer is the Assistant Director of Pueblo City Public Works. Ms. Kester stated Ms. Laurie Clark was is the 2020 Commission Infrastructure Task Force Chair and asked if she was at the meeting. Chair Reynolds replied yes. Mr. Lopez asked if the push was coming from the 2020 Commission. Chair Reynolds replied it was coming from Pueblo City Public Works. Mr. Lopez questioned why he had not been notified of the meeting, since he had volunteered to be the representative for our Solid Waste Subcommittee. Chair Reynolds replied he was sorry he hadn't notified him of the meeting, noting he would make sure to remember to include him in any other meetings that arise in the future.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REPORT – S. FINZEL-ALDRED

Ms. Finzel-Aldred reported on February 14, 2011, Mr. Reynolds made a presentation to City Council about the proposed Environmental Coordinator program and how the \$100,000 would be used within the program. She stated the meeting was successful and \$100,000 was awarded by the City to cover the EC salary and programs for the 2011 year. She submitted a calendar of events for the 2011 year, noting this is how the \$100,000 would be spent. She stated it did not include any county cleanups. A few weeks after the meeting, she became aware of some funds from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment from fine money assessed to a local polluter. She wrote a proposal to the State Health Department indicating how she would use the \$30,000 if awarded. She felt the proposal was accepted, but the CDPHE is awaiting some legal documents in court to happen regarding the polluters. She believes before the summer the EC program will receive an additional \$30,000, which she plans to allocate to the May Recyclable Waste Collection Day and will reinstate three county cleanups for Avondale/Boone, Blende/Salt Creek, and Pueblo West for the month of September 2011. She stated she would be able to offer more public education and have another printing of the Recycle Guide. She noted that her position was full-time and Ms. Jenney Kedward was on quarter time to help with some of the events. She stated to make City Council aware of the impact the EC program has on the environment, she presented a power-point presentation. She reviewed the 20-slide presentation. She stated Councilman Nawrocki gave positive comments and Councilman Atencio confirmed his support to award the EC program the \$100,000.

“The City of Pueblo and the Health Department have a shared goal to promote a clean and healthy community for the public for these three reasons: It protects health, safety, and welfare; attracts new business and tourism; and improves our social wellbeing. The EC program was created from very specific and well thought out plans over 12 to 15 years ago from the 2010 Commission’s Strategic Plan, and the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. She wanted to make Council aware there were a lot of entities involved in creating the EC program. The vision of those plans was to coordinate community cleanups and anti-litter recycling events as well as all of those items mentioned in the Solid Waste Management Plan, i.e., yard waste, phone books, cans, bottles, hazardous waste, tires, which were all addressed in the 12 year old plan. The EC program was initially funded from the Governor’s Energy Conservation Office. It just happened to be hosted at the Health Department and for the last eight years it has been supported from the landfill user fees. The EC program provides public education on solid waste issues, prints the Recycle Guide, and hosts the Recycle Hot Line. The website receives questions about recycling, education on storm water, and pollution prevention. She mentioned there was a new design of the “Litter Bee” mascot this year. American Recycles Day has been an event the EC program has promoted since 2001. Christmas Tree recycling diverts about 800 to 1,000 trees per year. The EC program has served over 4,000 residents with the neighborhood cleanups. Statistics were given about the materials collected at those events. While some of the material that is collected is land-filled, as much as possible is pulled out for recycling based on the current market. From the year 2000 through 2010, 1,061 30-yard rolls have been filled and 18,561 tires have been collected and recycled. Illegal dumping is addressed at those cleanups. Residents that are in city or county code violation and who can qualify as low income are provided a roll-off for trash removal. Approximately ten roll-offs are budgeted for this service this year, noting current roll-off costs are \$300 each. The free Yard Waste Days at the landfill from 1999-2008 received 3,500 vehicles. The Hazardous Waste

Collection Day received 8,675 vehicles. Mr. Lopez stated the Yard Waste collection was held as far back as the 1990s. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied it may have been, but she didn't have any data; however, she did find an old photo album that showed pictures from that time frame. She stated 30,000 gallons of paint has been recycled/reused by the community like the Levy Mural project and all sorts of other charities. She stated the Colorado State Fair has consumed a lot of the reusable paint for building up-keep throughout the years. She stated at the May Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events over the years 19,000 tires were collected, and then another 18,000 from the neighborhoods, noting that was a lot of tires diverted by the EC program. The EC program has helped with cleaning up batteries, motor oil, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and a lot of hazardous chemicals, noting these collection events are the only options for Puebloans. She stated the Bessemer Neighborhood Clean-up was coming up in three weeks (April 30, 2011) and the Eastside Neighborhood Clean-up is June 4, 2011. She stated SWAP is the Solid Waste Assistance Program. She stated the EC has received a lot of calls about this, noting the EC has already provided seven roll-offs this year, noting they have allocated ten for the year in the budget. She's not sure why there has been a sudden increase other than Code Enforcement is pushing for zoning violation compliance."

Ms. Finzel-Aldred reported that after her presentation she passed out a data sheet of the overall collections from the neighborhood cleanups and hazardous/recyclable waste collections to the City Council members.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she has been pretty busy getting ready to kick-off all of the events. She distributed a couple of little flyers she made for the Police Department for the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day to be held on April 30, 2011 and the Spring Clean-Up Day at the Landfill for May 21, 2011. The ad for the Spring Clean-Up will run in the Chieftain the weekends in May prior to and on the day of the event. She noted the event will accept all solid waste not just yard waste. The landfill will be charging a \$16 fee for each tire. Mr. Lopez questioned if the yard waste would be separated from the other waste. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied she was not sure. She felt the landfill has been cooperative, but wasn't sure if they were going to separate it. She stated over the four days the event was held last year there were a total of 900 cars. She noted it could be a possibility all of the 900 cars will come on this one day. She stated the DEA contacted all law enforcement around the State last fall stating they needed to pursue the prescription roundups. She helped Deputy Chief Ercul last September to schedule an event for our community. The turnout was great and the DEA was thrilled, noting 130 cars came through in four hours. The boxes of medications were taped up and kept by the Police Department until the DEA picked them up for disposal. She stated the City schools were a sponsor of the event with their "Safe Schools and Healthy Students" program. They want to decrease medications in people's homes to prevent teenagers from having prescription drug parties. She stated the schools will be printing over 2,000 of the event flyers to distribute amongst the schools, senior centers, pharmacies, funeral homes, grocery stores, and parents. An ad will also be placed in the Pueblo Chieftain by the Waste Water Treatment Department because it helps them to remove prescription drugs from the sewer system. Ms. Finzel-Aldred distributed the flyers for the Bessemer and Eastside neighborhood clean-ups and Recyclable Waste Collection Day.

Mr. Lopez questioned Ms. Finzel-Aldred if she had thought about asking the County for funding. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied she had intentions of asking them next week, but then the additional funding of \$30,000 became available. Mr. Lopez suggested asking the County to match the

City's \$100,000. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated Pueblo West contributes \$2,000 from its Storm Water Department to the Pueblo West clean-up; however, it costs about \$7,000-\$8,000. Mr. Lopez stated why the County couldn't be asked to help fund the county clean-ups. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated that would be something to think about in the summer to prepare for 2012.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the Infrastructure Task Force of the 2020 Commission approached the City about what was happening with solid waste and recycling, and what kind of infrastructure was needed to answer the question why things weren't happening. She stated Mr. Beyer presented some work that he had done in response to each department in the City being required to prepare a strategic plan. The streets division is facing some financial challenges, noting they are collecting illegal dumping in the City right-of-ways costing them \$130,000 a year. They have to take funds from the road maintenance account to cover the extra cost. Mr. Beyer was not aware that EPAC had already prepared a Solid Waste Management Plan in 2008. Mr. Beyer is meeting with the City Attorney to push this forward. The City wants to manage solid waste collection to save street wear and tear. Mr. Lopez stated he was not surprised that Mr. Beyer was not aware of what EPAC had done. It seems that EPAC can be its own worst enemy. He stated that EPAC's response to a letter from City Councilman Occhiato several years ago failed to push the issue due to weak leadership. The former City Attorney put limitation on what could be done. He raised the question, on how other municipalities get things done. He stated his history on EPAC dates back 17 years and there have been times that members of EPAC wanted to take a certain position, but others were reluctant to make waves. He felt now is a good time to make some changes and make waves. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated there was a member of the Infrastructure Task Force that was very much against what Mr. Beyer was proposing, i.e., districting, bidding, and felt it was more government intrusion in the private sector. She felt he was ignorant to a lot of different logistics in the waste industry. Mr. Lopez stated a response to that kind of thinking is the City has a lot of power to dictate on how it runs its business in the public right-of-way. If it is for the common good, it's like having a police department with rules and ordinances. Mr. Finzel-Aldred stated Mr. Beyer's strategic plan suggested having a Solid Waste Division at Public Works. Mr. Lopez stated that other municipalities that have had successful programs, have had a coordinator as a separate entity. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated that neither the County nor the City have a Solid Waste Division. They have streets, bridges, waste water, and storm water. She stated other cities look at that and say there are missing pieces. She stated creating a new division requires funding and staffing. She stated Mr. Beyer suggested the Solid Waste Division could staff two people. Mr. Lopez stated that some of the funding could come from the landfill user fee.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she contacted some people regarding membership to EPAC and was able to get some interest from Mr. Frank Cortese, owner of C&C Disposal and Recycling. She instructed him to submit his application to Planning and Development. She also put an invitation to Mr. Steve Witte with the Colorado Department of Water Resources and Ms. Fran Alexander of Vestas. She stated they have applications in hand and she would follow-up with them in seven days.

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE – C. PELTO

No report was given due to Mr. Pelto's absence.

SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE – T. LOPEZ

Mr. Lopez had nothing to report. He reminded Ms. Finzel-Aldred and Chair Reynolds to remember him in any other meetings that may come up regarding solid waste.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Ms. Kester stated it was ironic that when there is a perceived threat to the environment like a proposed nuclear plant that thousands of people are there to talk about it, but EPAC has a meeting and nobody shows up. Chair Reynolds stated that he attended the three Board of County Commissioner's meetings at the Arts Center. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she did also. Ms. Kester stated she attended the first Planning Commission meeting. Mr. Reynolds stated the first two days he didn't stay for all of the meetings, noting he left about 8:00 p.m. He stated the first meeting ran to 10:30 p.m. and the second meeting ran to 9:00 p.m. He stated the biggest concern about the proposed energy park was the water supply. People were also concerned with radiation contamination. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated people were concerned about the cost. Chair Reynolds stated other concerns were with the infrastructure, i.e., roads, distribution lines. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated there were a lot of people that spoke about the affects of air traffic and the no fly zone around a nuclear facility, noting six air traffic entities would be affected, i.e., Air Force Academy, Peterson Air Force Base, Fort Carson, Pueblo Airport, Colorado Springs Airport and Denver Airport. People were also concerned with how crop dusting would occur in the area. Chair Reynolds stated April 25, 2011 is when the Board of County Commissioners will make their decision whether to allow the Clean Energy Park, which could include a nuclear power plant. He stated it wouldn't be the final step the applicant would have to go through for approval of a nuclear power plant.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated an ad would run in the Chieftain on April 8th regarding Earth Day. It will inform the public of a lot of events happening hosted by different local agencies.

Mr. Lopez questioned if there has been any comments from the public regarding the absence of the recycling bins. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied they received numerous calls in January and February. The regular users are now calling for alternatives. She stated they are informing the callers about private businesses, i.e., Solar Roast, We Recycle, and C&C Disposal. She stated C&C Disposal is doing a free single-stream drop-off day at the Eden Transfer Station on Tuesday, April 19th, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. She stated the Eden Transfer Station was working on possible permits to create a regular Material Recycling Facility (MRF) at Eden.

AGENDA JUNE 2, 2011

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, June 2, 2011. More discussion would occur on the Wiki-System.

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

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