

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 1, 2011

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 5:15 p.m., at the home of Mr. Charles Pelto, 425 West 18th Street, Pueblo, Colorado. Chair Reynolds called the meeting to order at approximately 5:23 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Doris Kester
Ted Lopez (Arrived at 5:42 p.m.)
Charles B. Pelto
Marvin Reynolds
Chad Wolgram

Members absent were: Thelma Archuletta and Susan Finzel-Aldred (excused).

Staff present was Sandra M. Smith.

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

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

Discussion ensued. Chair Reynolds stated it has been a year since EPAC has had a quorum. Ms. Kester asked if any applications for membership were received other than the renewals (i.e. Mr. Pelto and Ms. Kester). Ms. Smith replied there were no additional applications received. Mr. Pelto stated this was also an issue being addressed at the 2020 Commission. He stated there is a degree of apathy in the community and they need to figure out why. Ms. Kester stated she was told that the number of members couldn't be changed due to the current EPAC Bylaws. Chair Reynolds replied that a request must be made to PACOG. Ms. Kester stated there should be a member of the Sierra Club on EPAC. She spoke with Mr. Ross Vincent who informed her he did not have time in his schedule to attend.

CHAIR'S REPORT – MARVIN REYNOLDS

Chair Reynolds stated he attended the Sustainability Committee meeting this month. The majority of the discussion at that meeting was about establishing a definition of sustainability. He distributed a list of three of the proposed definitions and asked for comments (attached). He felt it would be accommodating to let them know EPAC's thoughts on the subject. He stated the choices were going to the core committee to make the final decision, noting they want something that can be useful to future generations. Ms. Kester preferred Definition No. 3. Mr. Pelto felt none were acceptable, because the concept of sustainability was not acceptable. He stated the current population level will not be the same. Sustainability implies the maintenance of the status quo. Chair Reynolds agreed, however, sustainability also implies staying as you are or staying on course. He stated the idea was that progress would move forward and not go backward. Mr. Lopez stated there could be an understanding that responsibility is flexible because the population increases. He stated the proposed Springs Ranch development would affect the growth, noting some communities are talking about urban growth boundaries. Chair Reynolds stated that type of discussion took place with the expectation that the definition would be reviewed every five years. He stated they looked at examples from Colorado Springs; Golden; Tulsa, Oklahoma; Tacoma, Washington; and Austin, Texas. He stated that one of the

county's definitions nearly had half a page, which provided a lot of back ground information. Mr. Lopez felt No. 3 was the best example. Mr. Pelto stated if they could add a clause that stated that sustainability was not just maintaining the status quo but allowing for growth and maintaining the course to support the community, it would be a great improvement on any of the three definitions; however, since No. 3 is succinct, he would support it with the addendum. Chair Reynolds stated it was unreasonable to think Pueblo would not grow. Ms. Kester asked if the Sustainability Committee was a County organization. Chair Reynolds replied there are 27 Community Energy Coordinators across the state of Colorado. Some are multi-counties and some are individual. Pueblo County applied for a grant with the state to hire a Community Energy Coordinator. He stated the first Pueblo County person holding the position got shuffled around. The second person was Mr. Greg Severance, the former Director of Pueblo County Public Works. When he left, Pueblo County contracted with another organization out of Denver, and Ms. Sarah Spencer-Workman as been the Community Energy Coordinator since the first part of this year. Mr. Lopez asked if this would be a document for agencies to use as a guideline. Chair Reynolds replied it was designed more for helping the community be more energy conscious. Mr. Pelto asked who paid the salary. Chair Reynolds replied it came from a limited term grant paid by the Governor's Energy Office. He stated the definition was broader than the Committee's actual purview. The committee has discussed energy usage around the County. The only information they have been able to receive is from Black Hills Energy. Zip Code 81001 has the largest usage mostly because the Airport is located in that zip code. He also stated it included the lower income areas of the East side. He noted additional information and data was required for further analysis.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REPORT – CHAD WOLGRAM FOR S. FINZEL-ALDRED

Mr. Chad Wolgram, on behalf of Ms. Finzel-Aldred, presented her EC Report (attached). He reported Ms. Finzel-Aldred attended a Board of County Commissioners' (BOCC) executive session meeting regarding a possible recycling processing facility and funding options. America Recycles Day was November 15th, and the 2011 Recycling Poster was unveiled at the BOCC meeting. The five winning student artists were recognized as the Pueblo proclamation was read. A recycled art contest was held on the Pueblo Recycle Hotline Facebook page, and seven entries were received. The Tire Round-up Event was November 19th, and over 800 vehicles attended. An estimated 11,000 used tires were received at the event held at the CSF Midway Lot. Donations of canned food or cash were taken to benefit the Cooperative Care Center. The Center received \$4,500 worth of food and \$2,500 in cash. The Solid Waste Assistance Program (SWAP) held a clean-up on November 20th and sorted illegally dumped shingles and branches from regular trash using 75 court-appointed youth. The EC Program provided five roll-off dumpsters in the open prairie behind the Stagecoach Mobile Home Park for this effort. The EC also attended various other meetings.

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE – C. PELTO

Mr. Pelto stated he had nothing new to report with regards to water quality. However, he reported on other issues that relate to water quality particularly the improvement of stormwater management and curb and gutter management. The City Public Works Department has put this on hold because they want to focus on solid waste management. Public Works thinks there is an opportunity to change the way Pueblo is doing their solid waste management via the trash haulers. They are in negotiations with the contracted legal department to see if districting would be allowed in Pueblo. Several years ago it was estimated a quarter million dollars could be saved; the new estimation is three-quarter of a million dollars. Mr. Lopez stated that was in maintenance cost. Mr. Pelto replied it was not only in maintenance costs but in legal and

enforcement costs. Public Works is looking at rewriting the ordinance that EPAC had written several years ago. They think, based on communications with the legal department, they can overcome the obstacles that were established in the Colorado Revised Statutes in order to district the solid waste management activities. Mr. Pelto felt Public Works wouldn't be able to move forward until they resolve the issues with the legal department, which is expected to be sometime in January, 2012. He stated districting would reduce the wear and tear on the roads. Another tier to the process is if everybody is required to have trash service, it would be charged to the property taxes. By included the fees in the property taxes, they hope to lessen, if not eliminate, illegal dumping. Mr. Pelto stated he was looking forward to seeing what happens in January.

Chair Reynolds stated he read in the paper that studies were to be conducted along Fountain Creek to establish dams. Mr. Pelto replied he has been recommending dams along Fountain Creek for some time. A series of them that could be used for managing sediment as well as floodwater, noting he was glad to see something finally being done. He stated sediment builds up and it needs to be dredged out. By having a series of dams, you have different locations in which to allow water to move through while one area is being dredged. These dams could be managed to improve the quality of the water flow, manage sediment, and also provide additional recreational aspects.

SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE – T. LOPEZ

Mr. Lopez stated he had nothing new to report. He noted that Ms. Finzel-Aldred sent an email to everyone regarding the "Summit for Recycling" conference to be held in Pueblo, June 10-12, 2012. He questioned how much help would be needed for the event. He wondered how City Council, the Board of County Commissioners, and Public Works felt about attending the event. He felt the three new Council members could present a challenge because of the learning/education curve on all of the aspects. Mr. Pelto felt having new members could bring revised efforts.

AGENDA FEBRUARY 2, 2012

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, February 2, 2012.

Election of Officers needs to occur. A quorum is required to make a vote. All members must be in attendance to carry a vote. Please make every effort to attend the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before EPAC, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra M. Smith
EPAC Recording Secretary

SMS