

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 4, 2014

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, December 4, 2014, 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 5:22 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Susan Finzel-Aldred	Gene Michael
Doris Kester	Chad Wolgram
Ted Lopez	

Members absent were: Betty Alt (excused) and Lois Illick (excused).

Guests present: None.

Staff present was: Sandra M. Smith, EPAC Recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 2, 2014, MEETING

Mr. Lopez moved to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2014, meeting as corrected. Ms. Finzel-Aldred seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT – DORIS KESTER

Chair Kester had nothing to report. She continues to be concerned with the status of waste disposal and recycling in the Pueblo community.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR (EC) REPORT – SUSAN FINZEL-ALDRED

Ms. Finzel-Aldred summarized the Environmental Coordinator's Report for October and November 2014, which is attached to the minutes for review. She stated the field trip with City Public Works to Loveland, Fort Collins, and Greeley included discussing logistics, siting, and daily maintenance of drop-off recycling sites. The Pueblo City Manager is taking the matter into consideration. She stated the pedestrian recycling bins on the street corners may be going away in the next few months. There has been a lot of interest from Puebloans to have free recycling, but a more substantial site is needed. The Pueblo City budget will determine the next step to take. Mr. Lopez questioned the feedback she received from the field trip. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied City staff was happy to see the different sites and nuances of each community. On the trip home, staff discussed developing a public site within the City limits in a more convenient location as a 12-month pilot. She stated they discussed issues like land swaps, county land loan, partnerships, and department site management. One of the issues to address was finding a contractor to eventually service the site. Mr. Lopez questioned if she asked Pueblo County to attend the field trip. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied no, some County and City staff had been on a similar field trip in March 2010. She stated that current resources were available, noting a plan needs to be established. Mr. Lopez noted the landfill user fee was available.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred reported the "Creek Week" cleanup included areas along the Fountain Creek bike trail, adjacent neighborhoods, Runyon Lake, and parks. The northern boundary was just

past the north side Wal-Mart, and the southern boundary was from Runyon Lake and the confluence.

Mr. Lopez noted that the decrease in turnout for the October 18, 2014, Free Day at the Southside Landfill may have been due to people expecting it to be held the last weekend of the month. Also, this year each vehicle was weighed, which increased the processing time. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the new Waste Connections manager was Steve Eivins. This year at the "America Recycles Day" event on November 15, a fee was charged for recycling passenger tires, noting at the 2009 event, all tires were free due to grant money available at the time. Mr. Lopez questioned if she still had a grant to pay for the tire recycling costs. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied that she still had money in the regular EC budget; not grant money. Mr. Lopez stated that there should be a fee to dispose any kind of waste. Ms. Finzel-Aldred concurred.

(Ms. Finzel-Aldred was excused from the meeting at 5:50 p.m.)

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE – GENE MICHAEL

Mr. Michael stated he had a quick update. During EPAC's October meeting, EPAC agreed to recommend approval of a resolution supporting the City of Pueblo's application for a Discharger-Specific Variance for Selenium and Sulfate Standards for the Pueblo Water Reclamation Facility Discharge to Lower Arkansas River Segment 1A to the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG). He stated that PACOG decided to table action on the resolution until its January 22, 2015, meeting.

Mr. Michael stated they were getting ready to get started on their Fermenter Project. They received proposals from ten high-level people on the project. They expect to start construction in February 2015 and end construction in May 2016.

Mr. Michael asked Mr. Wolgram who he needed to talk to at the Pueblo City-County Health Department to get on a notification list regarding Ebola Virus Disease cases. He stated his department has people working in the sewers downstream from the hospital. Mr. Wolgram replied he would get him that information.

SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE – T. LOPEZ

Mr. Lopez reported he spoke with Board of County Commissioner Terry Hart at the Union Depot during the November election. He talked to him about recycling drop-off sites for the City of Pueblo. He mentioned to Commissioner Hart the comprehensive drop-offs that are ongoing in parts of New Jersey. He stated Commissioner Hart seemed very receptive. He pointed out that the landfill user fee was used as a source of funds. He noted that Fort Collins and Larimer County were on a pilot project that seemed to be working, and has suggested doing what the Upper Arkansas Council of Governments implemented for their recycling at \$3 per capita. He stated in Colorado Springs, on 4th Street off of Stone, Waste Management has a collection site that is used around the clock for plastics 1-7 and paper. There are other bins for plastic bags, glass bottles, and cardboard. He made suggestions about monitoring the drop-off sites based on his experience with the Fort Collins' site. He felt it wouldn't take much to move forward with a pilot program within a certain section of the City. Chair Kester questioned if it was known how many households within Pueblo actually use a recycling service. Mr. Lopez suggested asking Ms. Finzel-Aldred to question We Recycle and C&C Disposal. Mr. Wolgram replied that the

waste haulers were "tight lipped" about their customers. Chair Kester questioned if there was a City ordinance that required residences to have trash service, noting they weren't allowed to accumulate trash. Mr. Lopez replied that in 2007 there were discussions and an ordinance was passed stating trash could not be accumulated for more than seven days. Chair Kester questioned what EPAC could do to help. Mr. Wolgram replied that the Pueblo Economic Development Corporation (PEDCo) has been meeting with various groups and was going to be meeting with the Pueblo City-County Health Department in a few weeks. PEDCo was looking at some of the deterrents for new businesses. He stated the Pueblo City-County Health Department has to make sure that new businesses are in compliance with regulations. He felt it would be beneficial to have PEDCo's support when it comes to establishing a recycling site. Mr. Lopez stated there was a question before the Pueblo City Council on how to use the half-cent sales tax fund. He felt it could be used for a Material Recycling Facility (MRF) or seed money for another project. Chair Kester questioned if there would be an advantage to having someone from PEDCo speak before EPAC. Mr. Lopez replied it would be beneficial to have an exchange of information and thoughts. Chair Kester stated she would contact PEDCo to see if she could get them on the February 5, 2015, agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Michael stated the City of Pueblo's Wastewater Department was considering a grease ordinance, which would put in place an inspection program for grease interceptors, sand traps, and reporting procedures for commercial properties. Several years ago, the proposal never made it to Pueblo City Council, noting they were trying again. He stated the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE) have made the recommendation on several occasions. He stated that Pueblo may be the only community in the State that doesn't have a grease ordinance. Mr. Lopez questioned what the problems were. Mr. Michael stated that there have been more grease blockages in residential areas than in areas where there are multiple restaurants. He noted that fats, oils, and grease have the potential to cause a problem in the sewer system. Mr. Wolgram questioned the ordinance language. Mr. Michael replied a new restaurant or one under renovation would have to install an interceptor. There is no authority to require an existing restaurant without an interceptor to install one if it is not being renovated. He stated the new ordinance would not propose that either, unless it was demonstrated that they were causing a problem in the collection system. He stated the ordinance would apply to any restaurant or any food-service facility, which includes hospitals, churches, nursing homes, retirement communities, and schools, noting anything with a community kitchen could be covered. They would have to make quarterly reports and initially require the grease interceptors be pumped monthly. If it was demonstrated that pumping monthly was more often than needed, the pumping schedule could be modified. Time would have to be spent in reporting and more frequent pumping if necessary. His Department would have the responsibility of making periodic inspections. Mr. Lopez questioned if this would be considered as another impediment for new business coming to Pueblo. Mr. Michael replied he didn't think so because every place else in the country, but Pueblo, has these types of requirements. Mr. Wolgram questioned if there would be a requirement that the grease pumping would be handled by a licensed contractor and if it would have to be through the State. Mr. Michael replied the contractor would have to be licensed as a septic hauler through the City, but that haulers would not have to be part of the State's grease hauler program. He stated that most of the septic haulers also haul grease. They have had a system in place for years where they maintain a manifest and have the Wastewater Department's laboratory take a sample of the grease before dumping it. Chair Kester

questioned where the dumping occurred. Mr. Michael replied at the treatment plant in a concrete-lined pit. Mr. Lopez questioned how it was handled. Mr. Michael stated it went through the wastewater treatment process, which includes using grease removal equipment. The grease is brought to the surface where it is skimmed off the top and then taken to the landfill.

AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 5, 2015, MEETING

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, February 5, 2015, 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



PCCHD ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATORS' (EC) REPORT

For EPAC Meeting 12/4/14

October 2014

General Work

The new design of the recycling education webpage was proofed and posted online at the end of the month. Visitors to the site can now click on a letter of the alphabet to find an item and where to recycle. The new fall edition of the Recycling Guide was prepped for the printer. Preparations were made for the annual "America Recycles Day- November 15" (ARD) activity. This year's activity was the "Used Tire Round-Up" at the Colorado State Fairgrounds. News ads, flyers and billboard were designed for event promotion. The Environmental Coordinator arranged for a day-long field trip for City Public Works staff to go to Loveland, Fort Collins and Greeley to tour public recycling drop-off sites for hazardous waste, yard waste and recyclables and on October 16, 2014.

Education and Classes

Stormwater pollution prevention classes were presented to two 4th grade rooms at South Park Elementary, and 180 students at Heaton Middle School. The Environmental Coordinator presented "Protect Our Waterways" at the Buell Museum, to teach about the natural cycles of water, local rivers and creeks, and protecting our waterways from pollution in conjunction with their *H2O Picasso* exhibit. Over 40 kids and parents saw the table top demonstration, and made their own rain sticks from recycled materials.

Events

"Creek Week" clean-up concluded the first week of October, with a large Pueblo clean-up day on October 4, 2014. During the week in Pueblo city and county, 225 volunteers collected 340 bags of litter and large debris from the Fountain Creek, bike trail, adjacent neighborhoods, Runyon Lake and parks equaling 5,400 pounds (2.7 tons). The effort was a big success for the first year.

Free Day at the Southside Landfill was held October 18, 2014. This event was organized and hosted by the City of Pueblo. Free entrance was offered by Waste Connections to any city household. All permitted waste was accepted, and trailers paid a reduced rate. The Environmental Coordinator designed and paid for ads in the *Pueblo Chieftain*, and some half page flyers. Participant numbers were down this year (287 cars), disposing of 71.7 tons of waste. This was the lowest turn-out in ten years.

Solid Waste Assistance Program (S.W.A.P.)

One resident on Beech Street (Goat Hill neighborhood) received a 30 yd. roll-off for inside and outside trash.

Recycle Hotline calls = 70 people **Recycle Guides** mailed = 10

Meetings EPAC, County Sustainability Team Core Committee, Stormwater Quality Advisory Committee, and Colorado Association For Recycling (CAFR) Annual Members Meeting/Morrison, CO

November 2014

Events

“America Recycles Day”: Tire Round-Up Event: Saturday, November 15, 2014

To promote the event, a billboard was placed at Union Avenue and Church Street, near the Rawlings library, one month prior to the event. Numerous ads ran in the *Pueblo Chieftain* and *Pueblo West View*, as well as radio PSAs and a radio interview on KPHT. Flyers were sent to all auto parts stores, libraries and social media outlets. The event was open from 10am-2pm at the Colorado State Fairgrounds-Carnival Lot. Despite temperatures in the low 30's, one-hundred fifteen vehicles brought 720 tires for recycling. Collected fees totaled \$862.00. Each vehicle received the new edition of the *Recycling Guide*, a “Green Living” wheel and a key fob made from recycled tire rubber imprinted with the Recycle Hotline phone number. The Cooperative Care Center sent volunteers and collected six medium boxes of canned food, and \$143.00 in cash donations from participants. Five Environmental Health employees assisted the Environmental Coordinator with set-up and event management, along with one Health Academy student who volunteered at the check-in gate. The Youth Offender System (8 clients + 2 officers) volunteered to unload the tires. The Environmental Coordinator appeared in a TV news story on Channel 5/KOAA that evening and an informative article with photos appeared in the next day's *Pueblo Chieftain*.

Education and General Work:

Basic recycling information classes were presented to three classes at Ascension Church preschool, reaching 40 children and teachers. Preparations were made for the annual Christmas Tree Recycling drop-off to be held in January 2015. News ads, flyers and web postings were designed.

Solid Waste Assistance Program (S.W.A.P.)

The roll-offs placed on Beech Street (city) and Greenhorn Creek Drive (county) were removed mid-month after filling. A new roll-off was awarded to a home on west 17th Street, and two 3-yard dumpsters were placed at a small residence on Jones Avenue. These will be targeted for filling and removal around mid-December.

Recycle Hotline calls = 62 people

Recycle Guides =new Fall/Winter Edition published November 12; 1500 printed for distribution

Meetings County Sustainability Team Core Committee, two webinars “The Changing Waste Stream” (US EPA) and “Mattress Recycling 101” (NRC-North American Recycling Coalition), and the final Board Meeting for Colorado Association For Recycling (CAFR).