

MINUTES  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 3, 2019

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, October 3, 2019, at 5:15 p.m., in the Pueblo County Department of Planning and Development Conference Room, 229 West 12th Street. Chair Lopez called the meeting to order at 5:19 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

|                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Andrea Crockenberg | Jim Sharp    |
| Sherie Caffey      | Ted Lopez    |
| Becky Cortese      | Alicia Solis |
| Ryan Tessman       |              |

Members absent: Nancy Keller\*, Gail Conners\* (\*excused).

Staff present: Monica Grosso, EPAC Recording Secretary.

Chair Lopez asked those present to introduce themselves noting there was a new member on the Committee, Mr. Ryan Tessman.

Mr. Ryan Tessman stated he was an Environmental Health Specialist with the Health Department. Chair Lopez asked him to elaborate on his job description. Mr. Tessman stated he was involved with housing and solid waste. With housing, he was involved with code enforcement. He worked with tenants to get issues resolved in both the County and the City, noting Code Enforcement handled most of the issues in the City but he did help with them.

Chair Ted Lopez introduced himself stating he had been a member of the Committee since June of 1994. There had been a lot done in the 25 years he has been a member and there was still a lot of work to do.

Ms. Monica Grosso stated she was the recording secretary for the meeting and shared those duties with Ms. Sandra Smith in the Pueblo County Planning and Development Department. She stated she has been with the County since June 2019.

Chair Lopez stated, for Mr. Tessman's clarification, that the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was a subcommittee of the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG). EPAC has looked at several issues regarding the environment not just specific to recycling materials, and they developed an environmental plan in the 90s. EPAC reports to PACOG and the EPAC meetings minutes are a part of the PACOG meeting packet. The PACOG meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.

Ms. Alicia Solis stated she was the Program Manager with the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE) in Community Health Services. She has been on the committee for almost 3 years. She was working as the Environmental Health Specialist when she joined the Committee and, when she switched roles, her department agreed to allow her to finish out her term. She had asked Mr. Tessman if he could join the Committee as her replacement once her term was up in December 2019.

Mr. Jim Sharp stated he was a representative of the Sierra Club. He had been in Pueblo for just a few years and was involved in the Sierra Club for much of that time. He taught Philosophy and Religion part-time at CSU-Pueblo.

Ms. Becky Cortese stated her husband and she owned C & C Disposal. They were Pueblo natives and started their business in 2004 from scratch. She sat on the Trash Task Force that Commissioner Garrison Ortiz was working with and sat on the Materials Management Subcommittee for the Sustainability Plan Action Team (SPAT).

Ms. Andrea Crockenberg stated she was the Environmental Coordinator for PDPHE. She was a member of SPAT, and works on recycling education and solid waste diversion efforts.

Ms. Sherie Caffey stated she was the Horticulture Agent with CSU Extension. Her department helps with public education on a variety of topics such as home gardening and composting.

#### APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2019 EPAC AGENDA

See discussion under Chair's Report.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 1, 2019 MEETING

Ms. Crockenberg moved to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2019 meeting as mailed. Ms. Solis seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Chair's Report – TED LOPEZ

Chair Lopez stated there would be no Water Quality Report as Ms. Nancy Keller was not present. He did not have a report but did have questions related to the minutes of the last meeting and would ask for updates on some of the items from the last meeting.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REPORT - ANDREA CROCKENBERG

Ms. Crockenberg handed out Recycle Coach cards with a QR code so the app, could be downloaded to a mobile device. The QR code could be scanned with a devices QR reader and could then be downloaded or the user could look it up in the app store. The app was launched a couple weeks before the meeting and they had around 200 users registered. It was featured in the Pueblo Chieftain and promoted on television as well. She asked that the Committee take a look at the app and let her know if there was any information that needed to be updated or additional information they thought should be added. They were still working on promoting it and would have bus benches and bus ends with those advertisements coming soon.

Ms. Crockenberg stated the Discount Day at the Landfill event was happening on Saturday October 5, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. There had been ads in the Pueblo Chieftain promoting the event. They had talked about having mattress recycling utilizing Spring Back Mattress at the event. Her program was helping to recycle the mattresses that would be brought in for this event and covering those expenses through Spring Back. It would be an effort to divert some of the waste brought in and to get some numbers on how many people would bring mattresses to those types of events. It would be an experiment to see how that public service could work.

Ms. Crockenberg stated the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event was taking place October 19, 2019 at the PDPHE from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.. There would be no cost for the event. It

would be in the parking lot of the Health Department. There had been an advertisement in the October 2, 2019 Pueblo Chieftain from the event. She has received several calls from people checking to see what kinds of items would be accepted. She hoped they would have a good turnout. Chair Lopez questioned if there was a flyer for the event. Ms. Crockenberg replied she would send the flyer to him via email as she did not bring any with her. She stated most all hazardous chemicals would be accepted at the event with the exception of explosives, biological waste, needles, or ammunition. They would be accepting mercury, pesticides, and other such items. Chair Lopez questioned if people would walk their waste to the collection area. Ms. Crockenberg stated the procedure would be for the public to stay in their vehicles and the company that is doing the collection would take the items out of their vehicles for them. It would be a similar protocol to the events that have happened at the Colorado State Fairgrounds with the exception of the collection of tires or electronics. They will only be accepting hazardous chemicals at this event.

Ms. Crockenberg stated they would have the Creek Week event coming up on October 5, 2019 as well.

Chair Lopez questioned who was allowed to attend Discount Day at the landfill. Ms. Crockenberg replied it was for Pueblo City residents and the cost would be \$5.00. They did not specifically promote the recycling of mattresses at the event but wanted to find out roughly how many people typically would bring mattresses to this type of event. There will not be an additional charge for bringing a mattress to this event. Chair Lopez questioned if there would be a separate site at the landfill to bring the mattresses. Ms. Crockenberg replied that was correct. Spring Back Mattress would be handling the collection of those mattresses and putting them in a designated trailer.

Chair Lopez questioned if they would be collecting yard waste, noting she had mentioned it at the last meeting. Ms. Crockenberg replied they would be hosting a separate event specifically for collecting yard waste and it would take place most likely in the spring of next year. She had spoken with Rockworx and they were open to doing a week's worth of yard waste drop off during their regular operating hours. She had additional details to work out for that event such as finding someone to perform mulching services. She would like the event to be free if possible. Rockworx indicated they wanted to be involved and do something good for the community. They would like to have both spring and fall yard waste collection events in 2020. Chair Lopez questioned if the types of yard waste would be defined for the collection. Ms. Crockenberg replied they would have to work out those details, noting she had not moved forward with it since the event would not take place until next spring.

Ms. Crockenberg stated they would be hosting a Christmas tree collection event again this year. Rockworx will be helping with that event in January 2020. Chair Lopez questioned where Rockworx was located. Ms. Crockenberg replied they were at the old Vision Aggregate location.

Chair Lopez questioned the status of the Nextdoor app. Ms. Crockenberg replied she was not sure about that app but remembered that Ms. Caffey and Ms. Cortese had mentioned getting the Recycle Coach searchable database on their websites and they still needed to work on getting that accomplished. The next step with the app would be getting it on different websites, such as the County's website main page, City website, etc. Chair Lopez stated, from the last meeting, that Ms. Cortese had mentioned the Nextdoor app when talking about the Recycle Coach app. Ms. Cortese stated she must not have understood what that was but meant she would like to get a link for the Recycle Coach app on her website. Chair Lopez stated he had learned with HOAs that the Nextdoor app was an app that people could use to post things that

look suspicious so people could be on the lookout or they could post other events regarding the neighborhood. He was not sure to what extent that app could be applied but thought it may have a farther reach than just a single neighborhood. Ms. Cortese replied she believed there was a number of similar apps people used for similar notifications. Ms. Caffey stated with the Nextdoor app the user would be able to post to their designated neighborhood and could also post to all other neighborhoods in a town. Chair Lopez stated he thought that it could be used for their purposes. Ms. Crockenberg stated she had looked into utilizing it for the PDPHE and there was an option to sign up as a government agency, but currently it could only be used for emergency services. Only entities such as the Police Department would be able to enroll this way. It could not be used for regular notifications from agencies. She knew moving forward it was something they wanted to roll out.

Chair Lopez questioned how the neighborhood collection events in Avondale and Pueblo West went. Ms. Crockenberg replied the Avondale event was very successful and everyone seemed happy to be able to participate. The Pueblo West event was not taking place until October 12, 2019. They will be recycling tires at that event; however, they will not have mattress or yard waste recycling there.

Chair Lopez questioned if she had received any feedback from the City about how their operation was going in general. Ms. Crockenberg replied not yet, but felt there would likely be some discussions moving forward when they start looking at the budget for all types of waste diversion efforts. Chair Lopez suggested she get some sort of feedback from the City to present to EPAC.

Chair Lopez questioned if Ms. Crockenberg had any information on the budget. Ms. Crockenberg replied they were working on the budget for her program, but it had not been submitted. The budgets were still currently in the works. Chair Lopez stated it was already October and that City Council would be discussing the budget by the end of the following month or by their second regular meeting and would have to approve the budget. He thought the PDPHE would be involved with that. He would like to get some information as to what they might be looking for regarding all solid waste programs. He was not sure about the amount of money that was coming in but thought it would be substantial as compared to 20 years ago or when the landfill use fee was first accepted and adopted. He thought this money should be allocated to programs such as the PDPHE. He thought PDPHE, early on, was getting a substantial portion of that fund. He thought the City had used it to establish particular programs through PDPHE. Ms. Crockenberg replied she could ask for some documentation on what was submitted for solid waste.

#### SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE - BECKY CORTESE

Ms. Cortese stated they had their Materials Management meeting a few weeks ago. She questioned if they had solidified Ms. Lori Getts' replacement. No one had heard about her replacement. She stated as far as she was aware, they had not hired her replacement. The name Ms. Getts had given her as a contact was a lady that worked in the GIS Department that was able to give them data. She did forward her some business data as far as what the largest businesses in town were to possibly contact regarding recycling efforts. This contact was not really a part of what Ms. Getts was doing with Materials Management. Ms. Cortese stated she was waiting to see how that would play out. At the Materials Management meeting, they decided, since they were going to be having some changes in the members of PACOG at the beginning of the year, that they would wait to do their presentation until February. They were still looking towards working on the reduction and recycling portion focused on newspapers, cardboards, and metals. They also wanted to tie in some of the lead information since that was

what SPAT was designed around. She had contacted Ms. Getts to send her some information about the Material Management as far as lead scoring goes and how that works. She was waiting to get that information, and they will discuss it at their next meeting on November 26, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in Room 206 at PDPHE. They will then get their PowerPoint put together for the February PACOG meeting. Chair Lopez apologized that he was not able to make it to the last meeting, noting that it can be hard to get away from the office at times. Ms. Cortese replied that she understood.

Chair Lopez questioned if there were any updates on the Education Campaign, as it had been brought up at an earlier meeting. Ms. Cortese replied it would go along with the Reduction Campaign. They would be focused on reducing the general public's waste, noting that was the only thing that could be done on that issue. They would also be educating people on the local recyclables outlet, which accepts newspaper, cardboard, and metal. Everything would be focused around the Education Campaign.

Ms. Cortese stated they did discuss a couple of less than positive things at the meeting. The largest recycling rebate facility in California closed its doors in August 2019. It laid off 750 people and had left a big dent in that local economy. She was not sure if it had affected the entire state, but they did mention San Francisco as an area that was impacted. It put a big dent in that economy because there was a large homeless population that lived off of picking up recyclables and turning them in for a rebate. They were unable to keep their doors open due to the fall in the prices and China no longer taking recyclables. She thought those things needed to be kept in mind.

Ms. Cortese stated metal prices had taken a huge fall in the last two weeks, noting approximately half and another quarter down from where they had been. Chair Lopez questioned if she knew of any reason for the price drop. Ms. Cortese replied she was not sure but thought it could possibly be due to tariffs or because of the upcoming election. One gentleman she talked to thought it was rigging being done for the election and political play. He was planning on prices being down for the next 6 months. She hoped that would not be the case. Chair Lopez questioned who she had been talking to. Ms. Cortese replied she had been speaking with Jim from American Iron who also has an operation up north.

Chair Lopez questioned if she attended any national conferences for the waste industry and wondered if there was any reaction to China no longer taking recyclables from the U.S.A. He wondered if she had any thoughts on how to manage that and still try to divert materials from landfills. Ms. Cortese replied people were trying to promote end user markets in the U.S. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has a grant to encourage end users to start up a business. That was something everyone was recommending because there was no other alternative. There was no one here who used those materials so there was a great need for those end user markets. There were no real quick solutions on how to resolve that issue today. Ms. Crockenberg stated she thought there was also an increased push on cleaning recyclables. Ms. Cortese confirmed that, noting they were still sending a small percentage of recyclables compared to what they used to send to the end user facilities and it had to be 99.9% clean. The U.S.A. did a very poor job cleaning its recyclables. This resulted in more manpower on a sort line and a lot more money going towards the effort to make it clean enough to be recycled.

Chair Lopez questioned if Ms. Caffey had anything to report. Ms. Caffey replied she did not have much. She was working on the Master Gardener onboarding and that was her current focus.

Chair Lopez questioned how the composting program that was mentioned in the last meeting was going. Ms. Crockenberg replied that as far as her program went, it would be starting with the yard collection events and with the possibility of having composting available for residents to pick up after the event. They compost at Rockworx, and a lot of the mulching would be tied into that composting over time. That was one reason Rockworx was open to the process. If it was mulched, they could add it in slowly and did not have a problem with having it there.

Chair Lopez questioned if the Christmas tree recycling mulch would be available for pick up right after as it had been before. Ms. Crockenberg replied she was not sure on those details yet.

Chair Lopez asked if Mr. Tessman had any questions. Mr. Tessman replied not yet and noted he was just absorbing all of the information.

Chair Lopez questioned if Ms. Crockenberg had a chance to look at the Solid Waste Management Plan he had sent her for updates, noting it was 20 years old. Ms. Crockenberg replied she had read through it and thought it covered quite a few aspects of waste management and thought a lot had changed since that time. She was not sure how closely it was being followed. She thought moving forward with what they were doing with SPAT and Materials Management it would be a good direction to head towards. Chair Lopez stated he felt one of the issues with local committees was that they would pay for plans and studies and then they would end up sitting on the shelves. Several years down the road they might come up with a similar plan or study and not utilize the first one. He suggested that since the Solid Waste Management Plan had already been put together by volunteers when they were looking at any kind of waste or materials management program, they should refer to it for some of the strategies and issues that had already been identified. He felt some specifics and activities may have changed due to the age of the Plan and change in markets but thought it should be looked at as a guideline. By looking through it this way, they should be able to better find the areas that needed updating. Ms. Crockenberg agreed and thought EPAC would be a major player in any sort of material management update since they had put it together before.

Chair Lopez questioned if Ms. Crockenberg knew of anything that might be in the pipeline following the waste studies that they had a year and a half ago. Ms. Crockenberg replied she thought there were things coming through SPAT updating materials and resource management Countywide. She noted PDPHE was applying for a waste diversion grant. She was not sure how much they would actually get, but it would help with a lot of different options moving forward.

Chair Lopez questioned if Mr. Sharp had anything to add to the meeting from the Sierra Club standpoint or his own. Mr. Sharp replied he did not have much. The Sierra Club had changed their monthly Fountain Creek Cleanup so they would be able to be a part of Creek Week. They would be participating in that event on Saturday, October 5, 2019. There is a Lottery Cleanup coming up later in the month and Jamie Valdez was making sure the Sierra Club was involved in that.

Chair Lopez questioned what organizations were involved in Creek Week. Ms. Crockenberg replied there was a 4H group that was going to be at Runyon with them. There were some Girl Scout troops, Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP), Karen Downs had volunteers, and Heaton Middle school had a cleanup located near Goodwill and Target. Chair Lopez questioned if there was anyone with CSU-Pueblo involved. Ms. Crockenberg replied she was not necessarily the one they would have gone through, but she did not know of anyone. She was running the Runyon cleanup. Brues Alehouse also signed up for a cleanup and were

donating a dollar for any beer sold that Saturday to Creek Week as well as giving volunteers 10% off their meal that day.

Ms. Cortese stated October 19, 2019 was the Trash Task Force cleanup at Troy Avenue and Highway 50 at 9:00 a.m., noting they would be behind the Loaf 'N Jug on Troy. Chair Lopez questioned if that event was to clean up that intersection. Ms. Cortese replied she thought it was to clean up the field behind the Loaf 'N Jug.

Chair Lopez questioned if Ms. Solis had anything for the meeting and asked if she would be attending the next meeting. Ms. Solis replied she would be at the next meeting, noting it would be her last meeting.

Chair Lopez questioned Ms. Grosso if she knew of the status of Ms. Getts' application for EPAC. Ms. Grosso replied she had not applied and had no other information. Chair Lopez asked Ms. Grosso to confirm if she will or will not be submitting an application. Chair Lopez stated he thought within the next month or so applications would be sent out to those whose terms are up this year, noting those were Jim Sharp and Alicia Solis.

Ms. Solis stated she thought Mr. Tessman would enjoy the EPAC meetings as he was involved with solid waste. It had been hard for her to convince her department that EPAC was still tied into her current role. The waste from needles in the opioid program she oversaw was the only thing that she was able to tie it to. Chair Lopez questioned if she would still be with PDPHE. Ms. Solis replied she would still be there, noting she was in charge of the following programs-- Communicable Disease, Zoonotic Diseases, Maternal Child Health, HCP program for children with special needs, Specialty Clinics, Tuberculosis, and the Child Fatality Review Team. It was getting too chaotic and her managers had been asking how she could justify attending the EPAC meetings if they did not relate directly to her work. She thought she found a great replacement with Mr. Tessman.

#### AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 5, 2019 MEETING

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, December 5, 2019, 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 5:58 p.m.



Monica M. Grosso  
EPAC Recording Secretary

MMG

Exhibit A  
Recycling is now Simplified in Pueblo.



Download the Recycle Coach App today!

