

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 1, 2016

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, December 1, 2016, 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 5:21 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Becky Cortese
Susan Finzel-Aldred
Gail Conners
Richard Hubler

Nancy Keller
Doris Kester
Chad Wolgram

Members absent--Sherie Caffey (excused) and Ted Lopez (excused).

Guests present--None.

Staff present was: Sandra Smith, EPAC Recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 6, 2016 MEETING

Mr. Wolgram moved to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2016 meeting. Ms. Conners seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Please note that Ms. Keller arrived after the approval of the minutes at approximately 5:26 p.m.

CHAIR'S REPORT - DORIS KESTER

Chair Kester apologized for missing last month's meeting.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR (EC) REPORT - SUSAN FINZEL-ALDRED

Ms. Finzel-Aldred reported that the Pueblo Area Council of Governments (PACOG) successfully applied for the Recycling Resource Economic Opportunity (RREO) grant to do a regional study to optimize waste diversion. She stated that Mr. Chris Markuson with Pueblo County's Economic Development/GIS Department was notified of the award of the \$50,000 grant. She stated she will have a small role in the project, noting that Mr. Markuson and Ms. Susan Fries will be the lead staff reporting to PACOG. Other members of PACOG will be asked to help get pieces of the grant accomplished. The first item of business will be a Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire a consultant conduct a survey and perform two waste audits at the Southside Landfill. The results will hopefully provide data on the economic value of some materials in the landfill, which could be diverted, and do a public survey on recycling habits. The grant starts in January and must be completed by October.

Chair Kester asked if there were going to be stakeholder meetings. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied yes, noting the consultant will be in charge of facilitating those meetings.

Chair Kester asked when the RFP will be going out. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied it has not been done yet. It will probably not go out until the 1st or 2nd week in January. She noted this is a reimbursable grant, which PACOG will be administering. She noted there were other council of governments around the State who applied and were also awarded grants, so finding a

consultant will possibly be competitive. Chair Kester felt it might be a benefit for someone to come in who does not know Pueblo and can possibly be more objective.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred reported she worked in November getting ready for the American Recycles Day and producing the video of children working around the State. Pueblo Community College's Center for New Media put the video together. She worked on updating the Pueblo Area Recycle Guide and printing it in-house and in color. The plan is to drive people to the website and to the Health Department website and Facebook page so residents can view and download the Guide. She stated copies have been taken to the library branches. Copies have also been provided to coffee shops in town and in Pueblo West, both chambers of commerce, and sent via U.S. mail to anyone who requests a copy by phone. She felt there are still a significant number of people who don't have computer access and can't download it or don't know how to. She stated she has her "regulars" who ask for copies by mail.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred reported that 307 volunteers worked in the Pueblo corridor for the Fountain 'Creek Week' clean-up in late September. The partnership with the Pueblo City Parks and Recreation Department was great and there were community businesses who provided either cash or in-kind donations (coupons) to support the effort. Close to 4 tons of trash, of 15,000 tons collected overall in the watershed, was removed from the Pueblo area.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred reported the Southside Landfill had its annual discount day on October 15th. Participant numbers were very low (125 vehicles). She stated she didn't know why there was such a low turnout, noting she did the same amount of newspaper ads as in the past. She stated there was a charge of \$4/vehicle to get into the landfill, noting it was a discount rather than free admission.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred reported another outreach education program is changing in 2017. They will not be going into every 3rd and 4th grade class in every school, but will be training the schools to use the model. She stated she hopes to be putting together a professional artist's contest to paint designs on storm drain inlets, which would build on the colorful murals seen throughout town already. The inlet artwork will have educational messages on pollution. Oregon, Washington, Missouri, and Virginia have done this in the past.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred reported in November she attended the CSU-P ENACTUS meeting. This is a student group who bought recycle bins on campus. ENACTUS had an outreach table for America Recycles Day at the campus library.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated a billboard promoting the Recycle Hotline appeared at 6th Street and Greenwood Avenue for the month of November.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated Colorado Association for Recycling's (CAFR) "Top 10 Reasons to Recycle" video was promoted on local government websites and a few public television stations. The video was narrated by two District 70 students.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred distributed copies of the flyer for Christmas tree recycling, which will happen on January 4-14, 2017. The program started in 1997. The number of trees dropped off has been dwindling over the years. The trees can be recycled at Vision Recycled Aggregate on 4th Street. Black Hills Energy is a sponsor and chip the trees for mulch at no cost. The mulch will be given away on Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday (January 16th). She stated she will be doing promotions at Lowe's, Home Depot, King Soopers, Fox's Garden Center, and other locations. Ads will also be placed in the Pueblo Chieftain and heard on the radio. *Note: See Attachment A for further information.*

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE - NANCY KELLER

Ms. Keller reported a number of segments in the Fountain Creek watershed are included on the State's Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters (Regulation No. 93) for *E. coli* exceedances. The 303(d) priorities for these impairments are "high" since there is a risk to human health, primarily in association with recreational activities. All sources of *E. coli* have not yet been determined but may be primarily non-point in origin, since discharges of *E. coli* from point sources such as domestic wastewater treatment plants are already regulated. The majority of the sources are going to be non-point sources, such as runoff. Discussion occurred on homeless camps and those being a source of the problem. She stated they are going to be mapping these homeless camps, noting the County GIS department has an up-to-date map of these camps and works with the City and Posada to map these homeless camps.

Ms. Keller reported the Arkansas Fountain Coalition of Urban River Evaluation (AFCURE), who is primarily a group of wastewater dischargers, will be developing a Fountain Creek Watershed Plan, which will provide a solid foundation for future development of *E. coli* Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The flow and load duration of the *E. coli* has to be looked at. Allotments are then done, which determines how much reduction has to be done at that source. Typically, the analysis is default numbers. To avoid using defaults, AFCURE has been working to get data so they can get ahead of the Water Quality Control Division (Division) doing that. AFCURE has already accumulated a significant amount of data that is in the process of being analyzed. Complete analysis of that data and development of summary tables, graphics, and maps of the associated information will provide information to direct the next steps needed in data collection and potential sources. All of this data will be placed into the Fountain Creek Watershed Plan and will be provided to the Division so they can start looking at appropriate allocations for the load allocations. Most of the areas are doing *E. coli* analysis. When it comes time to get to the actual source, bacteriological testing will be done to determine the DNA and whether it is human or non-human. A watershed plan must be done in order to get U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Section 319 grants, which will identify possible sources of *E. coli* as well as areas that need further investigation. It can help determine which projects and activities need to be done and the prioritization of those projects. The EPA has a protocol. Those watershed plan elements include: (1) identification of causes of impairment and pollutant sources or groups of similar sources that need to be controlled to achieve needed load reductions, (2) an estimate of the load reductions expected from management measures, (3) a description of the non-point source management measures that will need to be implemented to achieve needed load reductions, (4) an estimate of the amounts of technical and financial assistance needed, associated costs, and/or the sources and authorities that will implement the plan, (5) an information and education component used to enhance public understanding of the project and encourage participation, (6) schedule for implementing the non-point source management measures, (7) a description of interim measurable milestones for determining whether non-point source management measures or other controls are being implemented, (8) a set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made toward attaining water quality standards, and (9) a monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation efforts over time. She stated *E. coli* affects the entire watershed from Monument to Pueblo.

Ms. Keller stated the original grant was done by the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, noting AFCURE is under them. AFCURE is overseeing the Plan. The subcommittees are doing the stakeholder outreach, and the meetings are open to the public.

Chair Kester asked if this problem is worse than it has been historically. Ms. Keller replied no, noting she has not seen any big increases. *E. coli* has always been elevated (primarily in the

summer months). Some of this is due to low flow or lack of flow and some of it is from storm events. The storm events stir up the sediment which stirs up the bacteria that settles into the sediment. A lot of the bacteria is carried into the stream in runoff from urban areas.

SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE - TED LOPEZ

Due to Mr. Lopez's absence, no report was given.

AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2017 MEETING

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, February 2, 2017, 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 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra M. Smith
EPAC Recording Secretary

SMS



Prevent • Promote • Protect

PCCHD ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATORS' (EC) REPORT *For EPAC Meeting 12/1/16*

October 2016

General Work

Final preparations were made on the student art video for "America Recycles Day-November 15" (ARD), using the services of Pueblo Community College. The 3:30 minute education video will run on state-wide government access TV, school district websites, and social media, and the design for the local billboard was completed.

The fall edition of the *Pueblo Area Recycle Guide* for print and web was edited and proofed. It is now copied in-house and in color.

The EC assisted in the writing of the PACOG grant application to obtain \$50,000 in funds for a Pueblo area waste audit and public survey in 2017. The funds are being offered by the RREO Grant Program at CDPHE. Awards will be announced before the end of the year.

A Pueblo company was fined for environmental violations by CDPHE and may have to pay \$82,800 for a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) awarded locally. The EC worked with the company attorney on ideas and then prepared a written proposal. CDPHE will make an award decision by next month.

Events

Creek Week-concluded October 2

In Pueblo, the week concluded with a large clean-up day on October 1. Over nine days, 307 volunteers collected bags of litter and other large debris along the Fountain Creek bike trail, adjacent neighborhoods, Runyon Lake and parks. Approximately 5,840 pounds=3.5 tons of trash (a 30% increase) was disposed in large dumpsters. Pueblo cash sponsors were City of Pueblo Stormwater, Colorado Eagle Distributing, and Keep Pueblo Beautiful; Brues Alehouse, Little Caesars, Chik Fil A, Wendy's, Hopscotch Bakery, City Parks and Rec, and Imprinted Sportswear gave in-kind donations. Throughout the entire watershed, 2,300 volunteers in 66 different groups participated, and collected 15 tons of litter.

Free Day at the Southside Landfill: October 15

This event was organized and hosted by the City of Pueblo and Southside Landfill-Waste Connections open to any city household. All permitted waste was accepted, and trailers paid a reduced rate. The EC designed and paid for three (3) ads in the *Pueblo Chieftain*. Participant numbers were very low (125 vehicles).

Assistance was provided to the EPAC Chair do make a presentation (slide show and handout) for PACOG on a potential grant opportunity from CDPHE for a waste diversion study in 2017.

Storm Water Education

The EC attended a 2-hour training in Canon City for STEM education and stormwater management. The workshop was offered for free by Denver Public Works and Earth Force.

Recycle Hotline calls = 50 people

Recycle Guides mailed = none

Environmental Coordinator attended the **following meetings:** PCCHD General Staff, Operations and Health Promotion Division, *Colorado Association For Recycling* (CAFR) Annual Members Meeting/Golden; RREO grant application team

November 2016

General Work:

The PACOG grant application was awarded for \$50,000 in funds for two Pueblo area waste audits and public survey in 2017. A consultant to be hired to do the bulk of work. The EC will have a minor role to serve as a resource for recycling activities past and present, and possibly help at one audit.

The EC program was awarded \$82,800 Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) which will cover some expenses to hold the HHW Event in April 2017. If funds allow, more public education on dealing with hazardous waste will occur in the second half of the year.

Education:

The Environmental Coordinator (EC) attended the CSU-P ENACTUS meeting to present information on recycling education and outreach on campus, and shared ideas for a table for *America Recycles Day* at the campus library.

The EC was a guest speaker at the Pillars of Unity meeting at the Neighbor Works office. A slide show was presented on the objectives, activities and major events of the Environmental Coordinator program. *Recycling Guides* and business cards were distributed to the 10 persons present.

Events

America Recycles Day-November 15

The EC served as a judge for *Reclaimed: The Art of Recycling* exhibit in Fremont County hosted by the Upper Arkansas Recycling Program. The new edition of the *Pueblo Recycling Guide* was distributed in the PCCHD building, all public libraries, both Chambers of Commerce, SRDA, coffee shops, and Southside Landfill. * CAFR's "Top 10 Reasons to Recycle" video was promoted on local government websites and public television stations. The video was created by Pueblo Community College and narrated by two District 70 students. A billboard promoting the Recycle Hotline number appeared on the corner of 6th St. and Greenwood Ave, and a color ad appeared in the *Chieftain* and *PULP*. Phone calls and Guide requests went up.

Recycle Hotline calls =75 people

Recycle Guides mailed =20, 500+ distributed

The Environmental Coordinator attended the **following meetings:** *Colorado Association for Recycling* Education and Outreach Committee, PCCHD General Staff, Operations and Health Promotion Division, internal Social Media Group, Sustainable Pueblo Working Group, County Sustainability Plan Core and Advisory Committees.