

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 2, 2017

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, February 2, 2017, 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 5:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Susan Finzel-Aldred
Sherie Caffey
Gail Conners
Becky Cortese

Nancy Keller
Doris Kester
Ted Lopez
Alicia Solis

Members absent--None.

Guests present--None.

Staff present was: Sandy Blanco, EPAC Recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 1, 2016 MEETING

Ms. Finzel-Aldred moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2016 meeting. Ms. Caffey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT - DORIS KESTER

Chair Kester expressed concern about the climate in the country having to do with the environment and what's ahead with their new President, who doesn't take much interest in global warming, clean air, clean water, or any of the things they care about.

Mr. Lopez asked Chair Kester if she was talking about the political climate, and Chair Kester replied yes. Mr. Lopez stated some of the regulations can't be changed that easily, noting each administration has restrictions on department activity. They need to resist, organize, and join together in groups on a local level. In terms of climate, Pueblo has an energy group that would like to have 100% renewable energy sources. They would have more influence and more potential for local change. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated EPAC's goal and mission is to advise PACOG on environmental policy. They might want to have a discussion on what's coming up in front of PACOG over the next twelve months in terms of environmental issues. Last August, PACOG won the grant to do a waste audit and hire a consultant. The County was able to secure some DOLA money for a study on people's recycling habits and the possibility of a materials recycling facility (MRF). Mr. Lopez stated they need to advise PACOG and get the word out to the community about EPAC and what their function is. The Rawlings Library is showing environmental documentaries every two weeks at the InfoZone, produced by the National Geographic Society, that deals with climate and energy.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR (EC) REPORT - SUSAN FINZEL-ALDRED

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the Rawlings Library event is held every other Saturday through May, noting it covers environmental issues on drought, natural disasters, energy, renewable energy, creating jobs, and protecting the environment. A big grant was awarded that funded the series.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred read her Pueblo City-County Health Department Environmental Coordinator's Report for December 2016, and January 2017, into the record, which is attached as Exhibit A.

Mr. Lopez referred to the stormwater pollution prevention campaign and the potential storm drain art project, and asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred if the murals would be a single design. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied there would be five separate designs by five different artists. There would be a different piece of artwork on each of the five inlets, noting she has four different themes. Mr. Lopez questioned if they would use weather-proof paint. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied yes, noting they would be using highway paint that would be sealed twice a year. The artists would be commissioned to do renovation and retouching up to a year after installation.

Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred when the flyers would be ready for the Household Hazardous Waste event. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied the flyers have to be designed by March 1, 2017. Mr. Lopez asked if they would be available by the April EPAC meeting. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied yes, noting she would send it out to the members electronically as soon as it's done. The Colorado Association for Recycling (CAFR) hired a new Executive Director and her name is Laurie Johnson. Ms. Finzel-Aldred is an active member and serves on the Education and Outreach Committee. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred what was planned locally for Earth Day. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied she heard about a festival at City Park, and booths at the El Pueblo History Museum. Chair Kester stated the Nature Center is also hosting their annual dinner and awards ceremony. Ms. Caffey stated they would be kicking off their Pollinator Awareness Series on Earth Day at the Pueblo Zoo.

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE - NANCY KELLER

Ms. Keller reported she's waiting to see what happens with the change of administration. A lot of documents that are drafts were put on hold, and the ones that were recently finalized are going to be reviewed before they're implemented. The main one that would affect Colorado is conductivity because of the Pierre shale and sulfate, noting conductivity tends to be very high. Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Keller to define conductivity. Ms. Keller replied it's a measurement of water's ability to conduct electricity, noting the more salt it contains, the higher the conductivity. Mr. Lopez questioned if it was from lightning or movement of the water, and Ms. Keller replied a measurement of electrical conductivity directly correlates with total dissolved solids.

Ms. Keller stated they're still working on *E. coli* with the watershed group through AF CURE. It covers all of Fountain Creek, noting they're looking at data, sources, and potential ways to develop best management practices. The group has an opening if anybody is interested in joining. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she would pass the information on to Mr. Wolgram. Ms. Keller stated it runs all the way to the confluence and the *E. coli* is high throughout the entire area of Pueblo and the Fountain Creek.

Mr. Lopez questioned the excavation on the Fountain Creek. Ms. Keller replied it's a joint project by the Fountain Greenway District and the City Stormwater Department. The funds were provided by Colorado Springs through the SDS Agreement to remove sediment in the Fountain Creek in hopes of being able to recertify the levee. The project will run through next winter.

SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE - TED LOPEZ

Mr. Lopez stated they made a presentation to PACOG on applying for the grant and the application was made. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the RFP went out to the consultant. Mr. Lopez stated he would like to be included in any meetings or discussions. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated her involvement is to work with the consultant, noting the County ED/GIS Department is managing the grant project for PACOG. Chair Kester questioned if there would be any public meetings. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied the consultant would be hosting some Stakeholder meetings and doing an on-line survey, noting EPAC could be instrumental in getting the word out and getting people to respond to the survey. There may be a booth at the Pueblo Chile and Frijoles Festival for gathering surveys from visitors.

Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred when the two waste studies would be completed. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied one has to be done in the spring or early summer and the other one in the fall. There were two audits written into the grant so there could be a seasonal comparison. Mr. Lopez referred to the October discount day at the landfill, noting he was surprised to see fewer vehicles this year. He stated "Gathering Storm" is the name of the series at the Rawlings Library. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the series is called "Years of Living Dangerously" and each week covers a different topic. It is on the Pueblo Ready for 100's Facebook page.

Ms. Connors questioned if EPAC ever had a presentation on the Clean Power Plan, noting she would be happy to give an overview at the next EPAC meeting. Chair Kester replied it would be placed on the agenda for the April 6, 2017 EPAC meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Kester reported they need to have election of officers. Ms. Keller moved to reappoint Ms. Kester as Chair and Mr. Lopez as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations from the floor. Ms. Finzel-Aldred seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.


AGENDA FOR APRIL 6, 2017 MEETING

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, April 6, 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 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandy Blanco
EPAC Recording Secretary

SJB



PCCHD ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATORS' REPORT

For EPAC Meeting 2/2/17

December 2016

General Work

The Environmental Coordinator prepared advertising and promotion for the Christmas Tree Recycling event, set for January 4-16, 2017. Outdoor signs posted at the tree sale lots, Fox's Garden, Home Depot, and Peppers & Petals, and social media, PSAs, and paid newspaper ads were arranged. End of year reports, cleaning and inventory was done.

Public Education

The plan for the stormwater pollution prevention campaign was updated to include a potential storm drain art project, new signage and social media. The EC will collaborate with the City Stormwater Inspector to oversee the project on educational murals on five inlets downtown, with more added in the future.

Pet waste bag dispensers with educational tags were gifted to Pueblo Animal Services and Small Animal Clinic for free give away to lobby visitors. More outlets will be determined in 2017.

Plans were made to deactivate the *Pueblo Recycle Hotline* Facebook page, and merge the info into the main Health Dept. page. More effort is being made to direct residents to the department webpage for info, and to download a copy of the *Recycling Guide* for themselves.

Events:

Locations for all 2017 clean-ups events were confirmed, and tickets redesigned. Preliminary planning began for the HHW event on April 22, 2017.

Recycle Hotline calls = 46 people

Recycle Guides mailed = 2

Solid Waste Assistance Program (SWAP):

None in December

Environmental Coordinator attended the **following meetings:** Stormwater Quality Advisory Committee, Stormwater Education Seminar Committee, Sustainable Pueblo Group, OHP Division Meeting

January 2017

General Work:

The Environmental Coordinator (EC) prepared reports on last month's activity and began compiling the 2016 summary for the stormwater education and outreach report for the City, County, Pueblo City Schools (District 60) and Colorado State Fair. This report includes data from all clean-up and recycling events, school presentations, classes held and booths.

Planning for Fountain Creek Watershed District "Creek Week" began this month. The dates for the 3rd annual event are September 30-October 8, 2017. A goal for this year is to add members to the Pueblo steering team, and get two more high schools involved.

Partners needed for the HHW Event were enlisted, and RFPs for some for contractors were drafted for release this month. Expanded methods of promotion were outlined.

Events: *Christmas Tree Recycling*

Tree drop-off began on Wednesday January 4, with 30 participants. The drop-off site was again Vision Recycled Aggregate and Landscaping. The Environmental Coordinator and work crew from CDOC Youth Offender System greeted participants on the next two Saturdays. On the remaining weekdays, participants did self-drop-off. Home Depot and Peppers and Petals dropped off 94 trees that were unsold at their stores. Approximately 300 trees were collected in total (2016=325 trees). *The Lake Pueblo State Park also accepted old trees beginning in late Dec. through early Jan. for use in wildlife habitat.* Sponsor Black Hills Energy paid for the chipping service and the mulch was given away on Monday, January 16 at Vision. About 20 residents took free mulch, available while it lasted. Cash donations remain low again, at \$65.00 received.

Public Education:

Due to low participation and other reasons, the "Pueblo Recycle Hotline" Facebook page was deactivated on January 17th. All friends to that page were redirected to the main "Pueblo City-County Health Department" FB page, which has over 1,700 followers. Posts about recycling tips, events, and other sustainable issues appear at least once per week.

The new stormwater pollution prevention campaign is named "Storm drain Education Art Project" (SEAP) and is going forward. Potential grant money has been identified to pay commissioned artist, buy paint, equipment and produce a documentary on the process. The EC will collaborate with the City Stormwater Inspector to oversee the project. Locations/inlets were chosen, budget planned and a meeting with the Pueblo Arts Alliance was held. If all is approved, painting may begin in June or July 2017.

Recycle Hotline calls = 59 people

Recycle Guides mailed =2

The Environmental Coordinator attended the **following meetings:** *Colorado Association For Recycling (CAFR) Education and Outreach Committee, PCCHD General Staff, Stormwater Seminar Plan Team, Creek Week Plan Team, County Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee, CAFR Lunch n Learn*