

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JUNE 1, 2017

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, June 1, 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 5:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Those members present were:

Susan Finzel-Aldred
Sherie Caffey
Becky Cortese
Nancy Keller

Doris Kester
Ted Lopez
Alicia Solis

Members absent--Gail Conners.

Guests present--None.

Staff present was: Sandy Blanco, EPAC Recording Secretary. (Note: Sandra Smith transcribed the EPAC minutes.)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 6, 2017 MEETING

Ms. Keller moved to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2017 meeting. Ms. Finzel-Aldred seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT - DORIS KESTER

Chair Kester stated she was at a convention in Fort Collins and they had a field trip that toured the "Garbage Garage", a center at the Larimer County Landfill. She stated she wished Pueblo had such a facility. It was in a metal building managed by part-time employees. It was an educational facility, which focused on the youth, but was also beneficial for adults. In the middle of it was a huge tunnel archway of sanitized trash. Around the walls are posters and exhibits that explain how people can manage their trash including recycling. She stated it was an incredible experience.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she has been to the facility many times. It is like a children's museum at the landfill gate and they host thousands of school children every year.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR (EC) REPORT - SUSAN FINZEL-ALDRED

Ms. Finzel-Aldred summarized her Coordinator's Report attached as Exhibit A. She stated there were 250 more cars in attendance than last year. She thanked the City Wastewater and City Stormwater Departments for their funding, noting she received another supporting grant from the State. She stated that it costs \$4,000 to collect and process the chemicals dropped off.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated that the City of Pueblo has recently acquired a new wood chipper that will help alleviate the accumulation of tree branches from the recent storms. She stated that the Stormwater Education Art Project (SEAP) will begin painting designs on the four storm drains downtown and one at Bessemer Academy after July 4th. There will be a walking tour held in September 1, 2017. The storm drain at the Bessemer Academy is located at the parent drop-off lane, noting it will get a lot of views. Chair Kester questioned who was underwriting the event. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied grant money received from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) from fines from a court enforcement action as well as other funds from the City Stormwater Utility.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred distributed a postcard announcing the Blende/Salt Creek Community Clean-Up event scheduled for June 3rd, noting they were mailed to every household in that area. She stated the Hyde Park/Westside Clean-Up was scheduled for the following Saturday at the Dolores Huerta High School parking lot. She stated it was a smaller event with around 30 participants; however, volunteers collect a lot of illegally dumped tires.

Mr. Lopez commented on the HHW event, noting he had not seen that many cars since 1996.

Ms. Cortese indicated that C&C Disposal accepts electronic waste and charges by the size for TVs and monitors.

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE - NANCY KELLER

Ms. Keller reported that she went to Washington, D.C. with City Council. They met with Congressmen Tipton, Bennet, and Gardner, as well as Perlmutter, who is on a committee regarding a proposed bill. She stated that focus was selenium. When an economic analysis is prepared for selenium, the main item that is included in the Economic Guidance for standards is to look at the median household income; however, there are a lot of other things that indicate the ability of the citizens to pay. Twenty-five percent of the people in Pueblo are below the federal poverty level. Mr. Lopez stated that someone told him that it was 41%. She replied that 41% are on Medicaid. There are other secondary indicators that show there are other issues besides median household income that should be considered. There is a bill being put forward for primarily stormwater for combined sewer overflows for big towns back east that are dealing with very expensive issues to stop overflows in wet periods. The financial Feasibility Guidance for the compliance schedules being addressed in a bill that added more flexibility to determine the ability to pay. Originally, it was one document then the Feasibility Guidance was developed using the same language as the Economic Guidance for standards. Consent decrees for combined overflows have become more common and this bill was put forward to have more flexibility in compliance schedules. Pueblo asked for the Economic Guidance to be added to the bill for separate cases where there is an issue in meeting standards like selenium. They met with Susan Bodine who was the counsel for the Senate, noting she had just been nominated to be the head of enforcement for the EPA. She was very knowledgeable and picked up right away what they were asking for and why it was important. She agreed to put it into the report language as well as gave ideas to address the House Bill. Later in the day, they met with Elizabeth Fox who was working on the House Bill. She stated there were three versions of the same bill. They requested the language regarding the flexibility to also include the Economic Guidance in the bill. The Congressmen and their staff seemed receptive to it, noting it goes for markup next week. Pueblo will have to wait and see if it gets included. She stated they met with six different EPA staff from headquarters and discussed how a \$200 million selenium treatment plant would not be cost effective for the Pueblo community. She stated the EPA

seemed very receptive and agreed that some of the flexibility should be included in the variance, noting they were going to provide a liaison from headquarters that will work with them in the meetings. She hoped that when it gets to hearing, everybody will agree and there will not be an issue with getting EPA approval. She stated that they need to come up with an alternative effluent limit that would be feasible to meet during the time of variance. That number would be easy to determine if the groundwater is low but in wet periods. If there is no storm, it will not remain stable. She stated it was difficult to correlate flows, precipitation, and concentration to come up with a number that could be met. A suggested base flow is 230 cfs. If the flow is below that, they would set a standard. If it is above that, it would set as an exemption. Region 8 had not been supportive of an exemption at high flow but EPA Headquarters thought it might be approvable. Ms. Keller stated Region 8 has been very cooperative working with them. She stated that the guidance sets limits of affordability at 2% of the median household income. The 10 years of lining and nutrients upgrade are required by 2023. As soon as they start collecting the 2% in funds that would be necessary, they would have to have \$20 million in the bank to be able to get a \$200 million loan for selenium treatment. By the time the Wastewater Reclamation Facility started accumulating the \$20 million, they will have already gone over the 2% median household income. When starting construction of the treatment process for selenium and running of the facility, it was more like 3%. The 25% of the Pueblo population that have an income below federal poverty level will probably hit 2% next year; maybe 2019. If the bill passes with the flexibility plan included, it may drop the level of affordability from 2% to a lower number that would decrease the amount of treatment that would be required based on ability to pay.

Ms. Cortese questioned the 2% figure. Ms. Keller replied that it was based on the median household income; 2% was the most a household could afford to pay for wastewater. Mr. Lopez questioned what the flexibility would do. Ms. Keller replied that if the EPA standard requires treatment that costs exceed 2% of the median household income, then it is too expensive and, under the variance, Pueblo will not be required to do the treatment. Mr. Lopez questioned what the household median was. Ms. Keller replied approximately \$35,000. Mr. Lopez stated that 2% of \$35,000 was \$700. Ms. Keller replied that the calculation was more complex. There are a number of factors. The 2% is based on a group of factors that is rated into it. One of the factors is taxable property income. The ability of people to pay the taxes comes out to a rating. Ms. Cortese stated household size is a factor. Each range tells you what percentage of median household income is considered to be appropriate for the community. We fall into a median burden which is at 2%. That whole list of things necessary to do the calculations does not include a lot of the other factors. Mr. Lopez asked if this includes 2% of \$35,000 or 2% of the households that are below \$35,000. Ms. Keller replied it was 2% of the median household income, which was \$35,000. Mr. Lopez questioned what the 2% represented. Ms. Keller replied it was the annual cost for the homeowner. Mr. Lopez questioned what would happen if the cost was beyond the \$700. Ms. Keller replied, at that point, it would be considered too expensive for treatment because it would be too much of a burden on the average citizen. Mr. Lopez questioned if they would have to factor in the potential cost of going to a higher standard. Ms. Keller replied yes, and they would request a variance due to the cost. With a variance, more time is given, say 10 years, with a renewal at 10 years and an evaluation at every 5 years. All standards have to be evaluated. Mr. Lopez questioned what the variance would provide. Ms. Keller responded the variance would allow them not to do treatments. Mr. Lopez stated that a variance would be given until it became affordable. Ms. Keller replied yes. The treatment that they were doing now was the lining. This would be the first treatment that would be done if it is cost effective. She stated nutrient treatment would be considered in 2023. Each thing you do is included in the evaluation, which

includes the regular cost and maintenance of the plant. They are going to ask for 1.5% depending on the other indicators. If 1.5% is approved, they would be hitting goals at 2018 and surpass it at 2019. If they get the 1.5%, they would not be able to do the full 10 years of lining or the nutrients. Mr. Lopez stated it focuses on the cost and not the background or natural occurrence of selenium. Ms. Keller replied they discussed the natural occurrence and in the Clean Water Act, "natural" is not exempt. They talked about normal flexibility when it's natural, noting EPA would be less likely to get sued by an environmental group if it's a natural source. If it was something that somebody was adding, and a long variance was requested to treat it, there would probably be civil lawsuits. There is more flexibility because it's natural, but not exempt. Mr. Lopez stated if the cost to the citizens was 1.5%, would it stop the lining and prevent having to upgrade to the higher standard. Ms. Keller replied it would give more time to keep evaluating. If there is a large industry that came in or a big influx of people, it would raise the median, which means all of the people could afford more, noting we are back to what can be done with the portion that is affordable. The variance doesn't keep you from meeting a standard; it just sets the timeframe to get there. As things become more affordable, more would need to be done to meet the standard.

Mr. Lopez questioned the Abriendo Avenue Exit sinkholes. Ms. Keller stated with the first sinkhole, they thought they had 20 feet of line impacted, but it kept increasing to about 900 feet. The pipe was old clay pipe that began to crumble when it was being worked on. A Denver crew came in and put in a bypass for a 36-inch line. During those two days, it just kept collapsing. That section will get completely replaced. She stated there was about 2 miles of line that was installed around the same timeframe as the line that collapsed. They are currently looking at having to replace that 2 miles of line at an approximate cost of \$2 million. Mr. Lopez questioned the pink lines on the surrounding roads. Ms. Keller replied that would be the location of where the lines were being evaluated to see what needs to be replaced. She stated that Pro-Pipe was contacted to camera the two miles of line to determine the extent of work that needs to be done. It was fortunate that what collapsed was not a road. She stated the sinkhole was 15-feet deep. Mr. Lopez stated that it underscores the infrastructure of the sewer system. Ms. Keller replied that over 50% of the pipes are over 75 years old. There are 464 miles of pipe. Over 200 miles is over 75 years old. Mr. Lopez questioned the pipe material being used for the bypass. Ms. Keller replied it was called Kevlar, which is the material used in bulletproof vests. She stated there were two people watching the bypass 24/7 to make sure it does not come apart.

SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE - TED LOPEZ

Mr. Lopez stated he did not have a solid waste report. He stated he spoke with Commissioner Terry Hart about a month ago and asked him to be added to the E-mail list for the sustainability committee to be kept informed about the grant for the waste study. At his last communication, the Sustainability Plan Team was going to do a tour at UTC/Goodrich during the middle of the day, and he could not get away from the office to attend.

Chair Kester stated the environmental community got a bit of bad news because of what President Trump did. She felt it was short-sided on his part, but he's in charge. What can be done about it? Mr. Lopez stated he caught it after another meeting where President Trump stated that the United States was put at a great disadvantage. On the other side, there are corporations and some of the states, like California, that are moving forward by lowering their carbon footprint by installing renewable resources like wind. He felt the world market was led by China, the European Union, and India, to a certain extent. The United States may be left behind

the curve. There may be some impact economically, maybe diplomatically, but that is yet to be seen. Chair Kester was surprised that President Trump could make that decision without having to confer with anybody else. Mr. Lopez stated, from what he heard on the radio, was that there was another part of it from an agreement from a year or two ago that was part of the treaty process approved by the Senate. The Paris Agreement that former President Obama signed pulled the U.S. out of that. He stated we are not necessarily completely out of the loop from participating in the world discussion. Chair Kester replied that was good.

Mr. Lopez discussed the Pillars of Unity group of which he is a member. They are putting on a summit Saturday, June 10, 2017, at Central High School, entitled, "Build a Better Tomorrow, Today". It's an all-day session starting at 8:00 a.m. for registration with an 8:45 a.m. introduction. Guest speakers will include Adam Martinez, an ex-gang member; Dan Corsentino, former Pueblo County Sheriff; Shannon Watts, Moms Demand Action (Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting); and Frank DeAngelis, former principal of Columbine High School. There will be discussions about School Safety, Gang Intervention, Gun Sense/Safety, Mental Health/Suicide, and Bully Prevention. Mr. Corsentino owns a security company and has done evaluations on the vulnerability of certain local meeting places, i.e., library, churches, schools. Dave Feamster of Little Caesars Pizza will provide lunch. He stated the Pillars of Unity have a monthly meeting at the Patrick Lucero Library. There are a lot of things going on in Pueblo that we don't know about. They are trying to bring different organizations together because we as a community have our destiny in our own hands but it takes all of us to work together to cooperate with each other so we can change the negative impression that people have about Pueblo. Sometimes the Pueblo community is its own worst enemy. He has been at different meetings, and there is a project at the Health Department called "Communities that Care" that gathers data to find out what our youth need, finds out what agencies address those needs, and then puts them in contact with each other like the Pueblo Rape Crisis Center. There are a lot of positive things going on in schools, but you only hear about the negative. The idea is to be aware of what is going on. This will be the first annual summit. The next one is scheduled for June 16, 2018. He stated the target age group was 10 to 21.

Chair Kester stated that it sounded great. She stated we know the problems, but need a group to come in and allocate to specific groups what is needed. Mr. Lopez stated there needs to be more collaboration. He noted it is difficult to get the word out.

Chair Kester stated there are problems in every community. Sometimes Pueblo people are their own worst enemy. Too much time taken talking about the problems instead of doing something about them. There are many groups wanting the same things, they just need to be put together to make the efforts stronger. She stated that the newspaper plays a role in miscommunication by saying that local schools are bad, but in the next article students in those schools are getting millions of dollars in scholarships. She stated that doesn't happen in bad schools. Other members agreed.

AGENDA FOR AUGUST 3, 2017 MEETING

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, August 3, 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 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Smith
EPAC Recording Secretary (Transcriber)

SMS



Prevent • Promote • Protect

PCCHD ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATORS' REPORT

For EPAC Meeting 6/1/17

April 2017

General Work

Many hours were spent preparing for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day (HHW), and the spring Neighborhood Clean-Ups in University Park (April 29), Greenhorn Valley (May 13) Bessemer (May 13), Eastside (May 20), Blende/Salt Creek, and Hyde Park, both in June. Flyers were distributed and print ads ran for the Spring Clean-Up Day at the Southside Landfill. The EC wrote three health tip articles to run in the Pueblo Chieftain on tire recycling, pet waste issue, and dealing with household hazardous waste. Miguel Garcia was hired to assist in the Environmental Coordinator program for events and education on an hourly, half-time basis.

Stormwater Education

The Stormwater Education Art Project (SEAP) planning and partnerships began this month. This project was funded by court-assessed fines for a local environmental violation, issued by CDPHE. Five artists will be chosen and commissioned to paint murals on chosen storm drain inlets downtown and at Bessemer Academy. Arrangements were made for artist recruitment with Pueblo Arts Alliance, and work was outlined for a video documentary with Pueblo Community College's Center for New Media. A call for artists will be released May 1.

Anti-litter education classes were taught at Ascension Episcopal Church and South Park School preschools.

Household Hazardous Waste Day-April 22 "Earth Day"

For a consecutive year, Pueblo city and county residents attended to this event at the Colorado State Fairgrounds Carnival Lot, where staff and volunteers served 850 vehicles in five hours. Volunteers from IBEW Local 12, Medical Reserve Corps, neighborhood volunteers, and the Youth Offender System crew assisted at collection stations. Pueblo Police and Fire were on site for traffic issues and emergency response. Six contractors and fifteen PCCHD staff handled the waste items. Set up and tear down went very smoothly. See the data collected totals attached on page 4 of this report.

Recycle Hotline calls = 115 people

Recycle Guides mailed = 3

Meetings

The Environmental Coordinator attended: PCCHD General Staff, Operations and Health Promotion Division, Stormwater Quality Advisory Committee, EPAC, County Sustainability Plan Team, Colorado Assoc. For Recycling Membership/Outreach Committee(2x)

May 2017

General Work

Susan attending a tour at UTAS manufacturing, hosted for the County Sustainability Plan team. The facility makes jet carbon brakes in a very efficient and almost waste-free system.

Susan chaired the CAFR Poster Art contest and judged the entries on May 3 in Denver. Two students from Liberty Point International School in Pueblo West were chosen in the top 10 winners: Kieran Jacobs Yanez, and Gabi Miles, both in 7th grade.

Stormwater Education

Stormwater pollution prevention classes were given at the annual Discovering Water in Pueblo (DWIP) festival at CSU-Pueblo. Over 120 students from six different schools saw the video, table top model and received educational handouts.

An orientation meeting was held on May 9 for potential artists for the Stormwater Education Art Project (SEAP). Ten artists attended the slide show and Q&A session at the Pueblo Arts Alliance Annex. Artists may submit designs by June 9th for five chosen drain inlets

Anti-littering classes were taught at Liberty Point kindergarten, Paragon preschool, and Eva Baca School prekindergarten reaching 120 students and teachers this month.

Events:

Spring Clean-Up/Discount Day at the Southside Landfill-May 6

This event was sponsored by the City of Pueblo and Waste Connections of Colorado. The landfill admitted only City residents with any allowable solid waste free to cars and pick-ups, 8am-1pm. The EC designed and paid for promotion in the newspaper, sent PSAs to radio stations, and distributed 400 flyers. The landfill reported 180 vehicles dropped off 557.5 cubic yards of waste. Lots of broken branches from recent storms were disposed.

Tire Recycling drop-off at the City Fleet-May 12

This event was sponsored by the City of Pueblo and Geocycle, LLC. The City coordinator reported that 78 households dropped off 515 tires from 4:00-7:00pm. More than half saw the color ad in *Chieftain* newspaper.

Bessemer & Eilers Clean-Up- May 13

Residents bought clean-up tickets at Health Department, NeighborWorks, JB Pharmacy. The clean-up was located at an empty parking lot at Abriendo Ave. & Canal St. from 8am-1pm. Twenty-two (22) senior/disabled residents received curbside pick-up. One-hundred ten (110) total households came to the event. Volunteers from Victory Outreach Legacy Center and three neighborhood residents worked hard. Municipal Court juvenile offenders helped pick-up litter, mattresses and tires from the neighborhood alleys and fence lines. Eight (8) 30-yd roll-off dumpsters were filled with solid waste; but only one dumpster was filled with yard waste/branches, due to the free drop site opened by the City at Lake Minnequa May 2-16. A half ton of scrap metal was collected, and sixty-three (63) tires were received and recycled.

Eastside (including Arlington and Eastwood Heights) Clean-Up -May 20

Residents bought clean-up tickets at Health Department, Housing and Human Services Bldg. and 4th St. Barbers. The clean-up was located at St. Leander's church parking lot from 8am-1pm. Seven (7) senior/disabled residents received curbside pick-up. Fifty-nine (59) total households came to the event, which is a drop of 23 from last year. Volunteers from E.A.S.T. and other residents came to help. Municipal Court juvenile offenders helped pick-up litter, mattresses and tires from some target areas, and filled one whole dumpster at the big hill on Nielsen Rd. Seven (7) 30-yd roll-off dumpsters were filled with solid waste; only one dumpster was filled with yard waste/branches. Very little scrap metal was collected, and eighty-six (86) tires were received and recycled.

Recycle Hotline calls =103 people

Recycle Guides mailed = 3

Meetings The Environmental Coordinator attended these meetings: Bessemer Neighborhood volunteer recruitment, PCCHD General Staff, Stormwater Quality Advisory Committee, Colorado Assoc. For Recycling Summit team, Creek Week Steering Committee

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Saturday, April 22, 2017

DATA/RESULTS SFA 5/15/2017

Used Tires		
Oversize	19	1,680 Total
Casings	1,593	
With rims	68	
Lead Acid Batteries	86	
Alkaline Batteries	775 lbs. (19 kits)	
Appliances		
Refrigerators	30	44 items
Freezers	8	
Air Conditioners	6	
Freon removed	tbd	
Light bulbs (Hg)		
CFLs	150 (5 kits)	
4 ft. bulbs	~250	
8 ft. bulbs	~350	

Hazardous Chemicals	LBS.
Oil Paint (PaintCare)	5,184
Aerosols	1,269
Mercury items	40
Smoke Detectors	10
Acids	800
Bases	1,280
Flammable toxics	2,800
Flammable solvents	5,600
Flammable paints	2,302
Pesticides	2,407
Fire extinguishers	10
Gas cylinders	5
Asbestos	6
Lamps (PCB)	115
Fluorescent bulbs	450
Other Misc. Chemicals	660
Total Chemicals	22,938

Latex and Spray Paint	
<i>approx. 1,500 gallons</i>	7,522 lbs.

Electronic Waste	
TVs, Computer Monitors	22,581 lbs.
General items (CPUs, phones, printers, stereos, VCRs)	11,947 lbs
Total items	34,528 lbs.

Partner Agencies:

- City Manager of Pueblo*
- City Public Works-Stormwater*
- City Public Works-Wastewater*
- Pueblo Police Department*
- Pueblo Fire Department*
- Colorado State Fair Facilities*
- City Municipal Court*
- CO DOC-Youth Offender Program*

Volunteers:

- IBEW-Local #12*
- Medical Res. Corps*
- Recycling activists*