

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 5, 2017

A meeting of the Environmental Policy Advisory Committee (EPAC) was convened on Thursday, October 5, 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	Doris Kester
Sherie Caffey	Ted Lopez
Gail Conners (Arrived at 5:50)	Jim Sharp
Becky Cortese	Alicia Solis
Nancy Keller	

Members absent--None.

Guests present--None.

Staff present was--Sandy Blanco, EPAC Recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 3, 2017 MEETING

Ms. Caffey moved to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2017 meeting. Ms. Cortese seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CHAIR'S REPORT - DORIS KESTER

Chair Kester stated she had nothing to report. She questioned if any of the members had received or filled out the recycling survey. Ms. Caffey replied she filled it out through email. Ms. Cortese stated she also did it through email. Chair Kester stated she didn't get one and would like to see it.

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR (EC) REPORT - SUSAN FINZEL-ALDRED

Ms. Finzel-Aldred summarized her Environmental Coordinator's Report for August and September 2017, which is attached as Exhibit A. She distributed flyers from the Drain Crawl, which was held on September 1, 2017. Creek Week started on September 30, 2017, noting the "Pueblo Action Team" is coordinating. The big day is Saturday, October 7, 2017, at Runyon Lake. She questioned if any of the members would be able to participate, and passed around a map. There will be an estimated 100 people working and the check-in-tent would be at Runyon Lake from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. They would be sorting the plastics for recycling and tackling 650 tires they found between the north side Wal-Mart and the creek that were hidden in the vegetation.

Mr. Lopez asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred if the tires were the result of a collection. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied no, noting they were gathered from a huge illegal area. To the north of the illegal tire site are some horrendous homeless camps where illegal cars are parked and stripped. It is private land east of the Holiday Inn on North Dillon Drive and the railroad tracks, noting law enforcement has been notified. In September, she worked at a Chile and Frijoles Festival booth and helped with the recycling survey. They got close to 400 people to fill out the survey and

distributed cards directing visitors to a website if they didn't want to do it there. The survey contained six questions, and she passed it around. The on-line survey is more in depth, noting it went out to quite a few distribution lists. They were also mailed to 1,000 homes in Pueblo, noting it would close next week.

Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated yesterday was the annual meeting for the Colorado Association for Recycling in Colorado Springs, and distributed promotion cards on the upcoming America Recycles Day. She is active on the Education Committee, and America Recycles Day is coming up on November 15, 2017. She manages the annual poster contest, noting the top ten entries in the State get formulated into a video, which premiered yesterday. It was produced and put together by the PCC Center for New Media. Two from Pueblo West were in the video, which was great. The narrator is a ten-year old Girl Scout from North Mesa Elementary, who did a great job. The public can view the video on the CAFR website, noting the theme this year is "Where Do You Recycle?" The promotion cards will be sent out to 650 schools across the State. She distributed the Pueblo Area Recycling Guide for the summer, noting she would be printing a new one for the fall. October 14, 2017 is the Discount Day at the Southside Landfill from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. One thousand flyers were distributed and it's open to City residents at a cost of \$4.00 per car/truckload.

Mr. Lopez questioned what was discussed at the last Sustainability Committee. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied the County's Sustainable Plan Action Team (CSPAT) is growing, noting they're getting more private, non-profit, and government members. She updated CSPAT on the progress in recycling since 2012. Quite a few of the "Materials Management and Waste Diversion" goals have been met within the County operations, but they're not seeing as much progress in City operations or other entities. They went over all the goals and action statements. Grant money has been coming into Pueblo County to get recycling data collection off the ground. When the City builds the new recycling drop-off center, using State grant monies, it would be on Stockyard Road at the old animal shelter. The Sustainability Action Team is hoping the City starts an internal "Green Team," noting the County has one. CSPAT will do more field trips and see what other entities are doing in Pueblo to "green" their operations. Mr. Lopez questioned the County and City operations. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied the City is a little behind the times, but realize they need more requirements included in their contracts with their waste haulers. The County has recycling in the County Courthouse and many other County buildings. They are still trying to figure out what to do with the excessive organics and food waste from the jail.

Mr. Lopez stated he invited Ms. Laura Getts to EPAC. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she's the new Energy Coordinator who's in charge of the CPACE Program, which has incentives for small and large businesses to get low interest loans for energy efficiency upgrades and lighting exchanges. Two or three non-profits have already contacted Ms. Getts about CPACE. Chair Kester asked Ms. Finzel-Aldred if they could invite her to the December EPAC meeting. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied yes, noting she should become a member. Mr. Lopez stated they would invite her to the next meeting, along with Mr. Earl Wilkinson from the City Public Works, to talk about the drop-off site. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated she would contact Mr. Wilkinson. Ms. Caffey stated she would contact Ms. Getts. Mr. Lopez stated the landfill user fee was identified as the funding source for the new City recycling drop-off site. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated the site operations might be subsidized by user fees for a while. Mr. Lopez stated they haven't asked EPAC to get involved, noting EPAC set the framework for the Integrated Waste Management Plan, and adopted the landfill user fee. There are funds that could be used to match the grant they received. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated that's where the money will come from, noting the City has committed a \$94,000 match to the \$289K State grant funds awarded for the site. Mr. Lopez

questioned what the cash flow was from the landfill user fee. Ms. Finzel-Aldred replied she didn't know what it was for this year. Ms. Cortese stated it was \$200,000 to \$300,000 in 2014. Mr. Lopez stated when they were involved with the Upper Arkansas Council of Governments and their recycling program, they started out by subsidizing \$3 per capita for the municipalities in the district. In the early years, it was a losing process, but later on with the recyclables and the marketing of the recyclables, they were able to pay back the \$3 per capita that the county appropriated at the beginning of each year. If they start off with \$100,000 and divide it by three, that's 33,000 residents. Ms. Finzel-Aldred stated it was a good pilot project from 2003 to 2010, noting they had a drop-off site in Bessemer and three spots in Pueblo West. That is what the co-op allowed and it showed that people would use a neighborhood drop-off center. The illegal dumping was difficult for her to handle, but it could be addressed. Mr. Lopez stated over the last decade, they toured drop-off sites in Loveland and Fort Collins similar to what the City is trying to establish. They were fenced with cameras and patrolled part of the day, noting they were successful. They are fifteen years behind the times, noting they had the groundwork and the potential, but Pueblo had no leadership or willingness by the elected officials or some members on EPAC. Things are positive with the Sustainability Committee, the grant, and the City moving forward.

Ms. Conners arrived at 5:50 p.m.

WATER QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE - NANCY KELLER

Ms. Keller distributed information pertaining to the Nutrient Management Control Regulation #85 and Regulation #31 Water Quality Control Commission Hearing to be held on October 10, 2017. The EPA didn't approve the low limits that were in Regulation #31, noting they didn't think they were low enough. The Division has proposed to delay the low level limits in Regulation #31 until 2027 to allow time to develop new standards, and Regulation #85 limits will be kept in place until they're approved. It is a significant decrease, noting everybody is supposed to meet one milligram per liter for phosphorus, and they were taking it down to .17. The nitrogen limit is 15 milligrams per liter, and they were taking it down to 2.

SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE - TED LOPEZ

Mr. Lopez stated he talked to Mr. Terry Hart at the last Sustainability meeting and discussed solid waste management, noting he was enthusiastic. They talked about the concept with the Upper Arkansas Council of Governments and need to move forward.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

AGENDA FOR DECEMBER 7, 2017 MEETING

The next regularly scheduled EPAC meeting is Thursday, December 7, 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 5:52 p.m.



Sandy Blanco
EPAC Recording Secretary

SJB