



## COLORADO

Pollution Prevention Advisory Board

Department of Public Health & Environment

## Meeting Notes February 23, 2015

*Attending:* Andrew Flynn, Karen Hancock, Kim Hargraves-Tyrrell, Bill Hayes, Bradley Kieding, Mary Jo Lockbaum, Patricia Mason, Katie Navin, Nick Pizzuti, Quint Redmond, David Stewart, Lindsay Weber, Rebecca White, Rachel Wilson-Roussel

*Not Attending:* Lisa Bardwell, Quint Redmond, Thomas Riggle, Jarrett Smith,

*CDPHE Staff:* Wolf Kray, Lauren McDonell, Lynette Myers

### January Meeting Minutes

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended minutes from the board's January meeting. Motion passed. These included the February email vote to fund the following proposed projects totaling \$34,000.*

### Board Updates

Each board member was invited to share pertinent news about their work and any projects they were undertaking. Highlights included:

Karen: The City of Aurora is holding a clean-up day for the public on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Dave: We were selected to pilot and design a zero liquid discharge plant for Town of Milliken and it will be the first zero liquid discharge water treatment facility in the state.

Bill: The graywater plumbing code was approved so any municipality in the state can opt in but the requirements are steep - disinfection and treatment is required.

Boulder County is also working on solar. Boulder County is looking to promote commercial rooftop solar but there's a split-incentive problem. The County is considering ways to leverage the CO-PACE loans to essentially pay rent to the building owners for rooftop real estate.

Kim: at the National Conference of State Legislatures we're looking at helping states roles in helping improve aging infrastructure that could be lead-based. Also looking to help states be pro-active at preparing for natural disasters. Also looking at industrial hemp production best practices.

Katie: Thank you for the sponsorship for the CAEE conference! We're going to be able to provide about 25 scholarships for people to come to the conference. If anyone would like to come to the awards reception, please do (Katie sent the board an email about it also).

Lindsay: Denver Water launched a new composting pilot program in its admin building. Denver Water is doing outreach with the Latino community to show that the tap water is safe to drink.

Rachel: JBC approved that RREO staff spending authority be increased by \$2 million in the coming fiscal year. There are five vacancies on the Assistance Committee, so it would be great to have PPAB members help review grant applications. Scoresheets come out on 3/9 and are due 4/4.

And thank you for supporting the department's EV charging infrastructure! We'll be applying for the Regional Air Quality Council grant in March. Lauren's been working on a model for EV drivers to work together to share the existing chargers. There are currently four chargers and 14 EV drivers at CDPHE.

Patti: Some recent noteworthy LEED certifications: DaVita work headquarters in Denver (renovation - platinum), Rocky Mountain Innovation Center in Basalt (platinum - new construction) and a project on Pearl Street in Boulder (platinum - core and shell).

Patti's busy with Rocky Mountain Green preparations and the water reuse track is in good shape. Denver Water will have some speakers, Dave will come talk about desalinization, and Melanie Criswell from CDPHE on graywater regs. USGBC-CO is supporting the rain barrel bill (passed through House but will have a much harder time in the Senate). Locally I'm on the Energize Denver Task Force working on energy benchmarking.

Rebecca: CDOT is working on a new program called RoadX, which will help CDOT prepare to embrace innovation such as driverless cars, text-to-voice messages to tell you there's a crash ahead etc. Secretary Fox was on NPR last night walking about driverless cars.

Mary Jo: Western Union is finishing up energy audits in buildings and is about to implement improvements. Every two years they do a corporate responsibility report and are currently gearing up for it. They just completed a first responder training for 12 people.

Andrew: Olsson Associates has a foundation that supports organizations in our communities based on education, environmentally based organizations and community-based organizations. This is how we connect back into our communities. There is up to \$2,000 in funding available. Proposals are due second week of March. Please let Andrew know if you have any potential candidates.

### Food Waste - Dr. Becky Higbee

*See attached presentation.*

Boulder Food Rescue Founded in 2011

300 volunteers (75 active) and 4 paid employees in Downtown Boulder.

Rescued 1million lbs of food. 84% of trips done by bike and trailers can carry up to 700 lbs!

Take commercial food waste to low-income housing, shelters and other places where it's needed.

Just in time food model - directly from grocery store to places that need it. Transported mostly by bike.

Boulder Food Rescue is partnering with City of Boulder for a food waste audit.

They're currently able to divert 3% of all organic landfill waste and 9% commercial food waste (scraps, leftovers, grocery store). They think they could get up to 13% commercial food waste (740 tons of CO2 annually) with minimal additional outreach efforts and 30%

Food waste is becoming a hot topic. EPA has 50% reduction goal by 2030.

The Food Recover Act was recently put forward by Representative Pingree (ME) and co-sponsored by

Rep. Polis (D-CO).

Residential Food Waste - 20-40% of food is wasted in the home.

Agricultural Food Waste - reducing food that never makes it to the grocery stores.

Commercial-sector Waste - biggest barrier is restaurants thinking they're liable if someone gets sick. There is a Good Samaritan Food Donation Act that protects them.

Becky's request: Will you support the Food Recovery Act? Also please consider food waste in pollution prevention and waste reduction strategies.

## Recycling Update, Statewide Plan, Paint Stewardship - Wolf Kray

*See attached presentation.*

### 2014 Recycling Totals

Colorado municipal solid waste (MSW) diversion rate for 2014: 23% (includes scrap metal)

Diversion results result in an estimated 1,829,864 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e

11,362,910 million BTUs in energy saved

National average 34% - eastern MSW separate from construction and demolition landfills, some states include materials used as landfill cover.

2014 - MSW diversion 2.06 pounds per person and disposal 6.9 lbs per person (in 2007 MSW diversion was 1.95 and MSW disposal was 9.7 lbs per person).

More options for demolition recycling in Colorado, it would make a big difference in diversion rates.

Two Big Issues:

The Evolving Ton - A lot of the material that is used for packaging is what's being recycling. 'Lightweighting' is a common new strategy in industry involving using lighter materials and creating smaller/lighter packaging (e.g. plastic pouches that have replaced rigid plastic containers). In a lifecycle analysis, it's actually better to go with the lighter, non-recyclable containers. Materials that are getting recycled are much lighter now, which is good but it's affecting recycling numbers.

Market decline in commodity prices - prices have been down for a long time and it's making recycling very difficult economically. Plastic prices have been impacted by gas prices, other commodities have been impacted by economic downturn in China.

### Paint Stewardship Program

Paintcare Program - funded by fee collected at point of purchase (essentially an advance disposal fee).

There are 2 million gallons of paint leftover/unwanted each year.

The program was signed into law in 2014, CDPHE has oversight of program

141 drop-off sites in Colorado (goal of 172).

\$0.75 fee per gallon.

## Integrated Solid Waste and Materials Management Plan

### Goals:

- Reduce waste volumes
- Reduce toxicity of waste stream
- Establish regionalized solid waste management planning
- Statewide and local waste reduction goals through composting and waste reduction
- Education public on solid waste and public health impacts
- Minimize illegal disposal

Currently holding stakeholder meetings in Sterling or Loveland - feel free to attend.

The Statewide Plan will be ready in July 2016 and Wolf will share with the board.

## Budget Update - Rachel Wilson-Roussel

*See attached presentation.*

Includes recent project funding approvals.

## ELP Update - Lynette Myers

*See attached presentation.*

*Decision Item: Lynette requested a commitment from the board to provide the same \$20,000 in support to the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) as in 2015 to allow her to begin reserving event space and making event plans. Motion passed.*

## Review of 2015 Objectives

Objective 1: Advise the department on engaging the agricultural and food production industry in pollution prevention efforts and assist the department in extending ELP recognition to the sector.

Question: Do we want to keep cannabis production on our list for 2016?

Bill: Next year, Boulder County will require 100% offset of energy use for marijuana growers. Another group is working on occupational and public safety issues. Denver is following similar path and I'm not sure what additional support the board could provide.

Mary Jo: We originally looked at agriculture because of the vast impacts: ammonia, waste, transportation, energy, water, pollution etc. I really feel we need to keep a strong focus on ag but marijuana is such a small piece and we should be looking at big polluters. Need to come up with an objective that does not include cannabis. Quint is probably best-suited to help with ideas for an objective. Packaging in food production is a huge issue.

Kim: I like a narrower focus. Suggests: “Recognizing and assisting with innovations in packaging and transport.”

Rachel: The first objective now says “advise the department...” Is that what we want or are we promoting a certain practice or behavior? Derek Boer is focusing on pollution prevention technical assistance for dairy and retail food production.

Ideally we’d be using the discretionary funds the board approves to support these objectives. Budget strategy should be aligned with the objectives.

Rachel: The majority of the ag in CO is grain and livestock but a small amount is produce.

Bill: 80% of the produce we consume is from out of state.

Lauren: Will this objective cover sustainable ag demonstration projects like the one discussed last meeting?

All: yes.

Kim: Is there a way to promote water-conservation innovation in ag? That would be great.

**Objective 2: Support educational opportunities on water reuse and harvesting.**

Patti could bring an update on the pilot program. Board role could be determining if it makes sense to encourage a muni or local developer to do a pilot.

Rain barrel Bill is a great opportunity for a letter of support.

Rachel: WQCD came to discuss rainwater.

Do we want to keep water reuse?

All: Yes.

Bill, Brad, Patti: We could broaden it to “Support opportunities on water reuse and harvesting.”

Lauren will reach out to subcommittee members to gather input on the remaining objectives in preparation for a thorough planning discussion at next month’s meeting.

### Future Meeting Agendas

**Reminder: Next PPAB meeting is March 22, 2016.**

**Review of 2015 Objectives and 2016 priorities has been moved to the February meeting.**

Possible agenda items include:

- Finish 2015 Objectives Review
- Draft 2016 Objectives
- Budget Discussion