



# City of Laramie

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## Environmental Advisory Committee Thursday, June 4, 2009

### MINUTES

The special meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee was held Thursday, June 4, 2009 convened at 6:07 p.m. in the City Annex Conference Room, Historic Carnegie Library, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 405 Grand Avenue, Laramie, Wyoming.

#### I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jerry Schmidt, Barry Ballard, Ed Paradis, Diana Hulme, and Guillermo Brizuela  
Members Absent: Brett Vance and John Evans  
Staff Present: Carrie Wiese, City of Laramie Water Resources Specialist; and Sara Davis, City of Laramie Community Development Administrative Assistant  
City Liaison: Scott Mullner (absent)  
County Liaison: Pat Gabriel (present)  
Citizens Speakers: Robert Waggener and Tod Scott

#### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

##### A. Minutes of the Thursday, May 7, 2009 EAC Meeting

MOTION BY PARADIS, seconded by Brizuela, to approve the minutes of the Thursday, May 7, 2009 EAC meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

#### III. CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments.

#### IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Hulme and Ballard stated that they have to leave at 7 p.m.

Schmidt reported that he and Evans attended the City Council work session on the curbside on trash pick-up. Some discussion occurred regarding recycling and composting.

#### V. DISCLOSURES

No disclosures.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Composting- Robert Waggener

Waggener distributed some handouts to the EAC. A copy of the handouts is included in the official minutes.

Waggener gave a presentation on some of the handouts. He stated that has been working on a volunteer project about 5 years regarding composting for the City of Laramie. The project was put on hold in 2007 due to the direction from the state to focus on an integrated waste management plan. About a year ago, Waggener started working on the project again and received support from the community to continue on with this endeavor.

Waggener stated that Tyler Bandemer, Solid Waste Manager for the City of Laramie, is in process of working on a pilot composting program that will utilize bio-solids. Currently, the City is paying \$70,000 to take the bio-solids to a site in Colorado. Waggener suggested making a quality product

and place a price on the product from the beginning. Waggener explained that not producing a quality product from the beginning has the potential of doubling the program cost and cause extra work due to necessitating additional public relations. Waggener stated that there is enough data from other composting sites to produce a successful program. Waggener also suggested having a curbside compost material program.

Schmidt noted that Richard Elliott, City of Laramie Public Works Director, stated during the City Council work session that the goals for diversion rates are 20% for recycling and 15% composting. Schmidt stated that he is concerned that the rates are not challenging enough.

MOTION BY PARADIS, seconded by Ballard, to support the composting program. MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY PARADIS to request Robert Waggener draft up a plan. No second. MOTION FAILED.

Schmidt suggested, and the EAC concurred, to submit a letter to Richard Elliott and Tyler Bandemer with the list of questions that came up during the meeting and invite them to the next meeting to discuss the questions. Some of the questions discussed are as follows:

1. How were the goals for diversion rates for recycling and composting calculated?
2. Why is the City doing a pilot composting program (instead of starting a full blown program)?
3. What is the City trying to learn from the pilot program?
4. What is the start up cost for a composting program?
5. What is the long term cost for a composting program?
6. Does the City have a budget for a composting project?
7. What is the timeline for the pilot project?
8. How can we make the composting program user friendly?
9. Do you want to give the compost away from the start or put a price on it?

**B. University of Wyoming Recycling/Composting- Tod Scott**

Tod Scott distributed handouts regarding UW's recycling program. A copy of the handout is included in the official minutes.

Scott stated that he agrees with Waggener's ideas on composting. Scott added that the key to making recycling and composting work is to make it easy and accessible for the community. Scott stated that the only concern is how much resources are expendable to use for recycling and composting.

Gabriel asked about a letter that was in the editorials from a concerned parent from Boulder, Colorado about the lack of recycling at the University of Wyoming. Scott stated that there were plenty of recycling bins set up on the concourse where the specific event was being held, so he is unsure where the complaint stemmed. Scott contemplated the differences in colors of bins that the University of Wyoming uses and Boulder. Waggener suggested that the complaint may have been related to the fact that the food containers used at the luncheon were not recyclable.

**C. Waste Disposal Letter- John Evans**

Waggener suggested changing the wording in the letter from "profitable" to "self-sustaining."

No further discussion occurred. Item will be discussed in more detail at a later date.

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

Waggener stated that Brent Hildebrand from Alpine Waste and Recycling in Denver would be willing to meet with the EAC. The City of Cheyenne has been using Alpine Waste and Recycling services for a little over a year and Bill Vance from ARK Recycling is considering using their services.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

No items.

**IX. SET AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

**A. Thursday, July 2, 2009**

The next EAC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009 at 6 p.m. Subjects that could possibly be included on the next agenda are as follows:

- Public Works Department Discussion of Pilot Composting Plan
- Ground Water Study for Albany County
- Techniques for Green Infrastructure

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

*Ellen J. Robinson for Sara Davis*  
Sara Davis, EAC Secretary