

**AIR QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012**

DATE: March 19, 2012
LOCATION: 215 N. Mason Conference Room 1-A
TIME: 5:30 – 8:30 pm

For Reference Greg McMaster, Chair - 484-3348
Ben Manvel, Council Liaison - 217-1932
Lucinda Smith, Staff Liaison - 224-6085

Present: Greg McMaster, Scott Groen, Rich Fisher, Nancy York, Dave Dietrich, John Schroeer, Hugh Mackay,

Absent: Michael Lynn, Dennis Georg

Staff present – Brian Woodruff, Alexis Hmielak, Susie Gordon, Caroline Mitchell

Guests: Greg Behm – liaison from the Energy Board

Guest comments:

Call meeting to order:

Greg McMaster called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Agenda Review - none

Public Comments: - none

Review and Approval of February 27, 2012 minutes

Greg McMaster had a few typographical corrections.

<p>Nancy York moved and John Schroeer moved to adopt the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously 7-0</p>
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Integrated Recycling Facility and waste stream analysis

Susie Gordon, Sr. Environmental Planner and project manager for the City's Waste Reduction and Recycling Program gave an overview of the Integrated Recycling Facility and waste stream analysis. She announced there will be a public open house on March 22 and a Council work session on March 27 to discuss it.

- As background, Susie Gordon explained that the City's Waste and Recycling Program began about 20 years ago. At that time the City's waste diversion was estimated to be 17%. In 1999, a resolution was passed setting a goal for 50% diversion of the community's waste stream by 2010. The waste diversion goal was not met in 2010, however, it came close to the goal with 43%. Because the City had not achieved its 2010 goal, City Council asked for more work to be done. A waste stream study was initiated through the City's budget and a feasibility study for an integrated recycling facility (IRF) waste was funded with Keep Fort Collins Great money.
- Data show that Fort Collins sends 130,000 tons of waste to the landfill every year.

- Fort Collins' waste stream is composed of organics, paper, problem waste (i.e. appliances), plastics, construction, and demolition materials. This waste goes to the Larimer County landfill and also to the Ault Landfill. We do not have a way to distinguish commercial from residential waste.
- The City hired consultants to do a study on the feasibility of adding an Integrated Recycling Facility (IRF) to recycle more of this waste. The results are being presented to boards and commissions, at an open house March 22, and to Council on March 27. The complete feasibility studies are available on line at <http://www.fcgov.com/recycling/reports.php>.
- Staff recommendation is to own and operate an Integrated Recycling Facility (IRF) on City property to help the community meet its projected recycling and greenhouse gas reduction goals. Materials to be handled would be metal, rubble, wood, green waste, electronics, and other hard-to-recycle items. Target users are projected to be self haulers, commercial contractors, and the general public. The IRF would be a convenient, one-stop recycling center. It would not handle food waste, however. That is regulated differently because of pathogens.
- The IRF would be built in 3 phases and is projected to annually divert 7,719 - 19,500 tons of low-value waste.
- Capital costs per phase are projected to be:
 - Phase 1 will cost \$747,000 to build - Entire annual costs = \$324,060
 - Phase 2 does not add capital costs - Entire annual costs = \$441,064
 - Phase 3 is additional \$705,000 for equipment and infrastructure- Entire annual costs = \$823,742
- Staff recommends charging \$3.75 per cubic yard (32% lower than the landfill) to use the site. This is projected to recover the City's costs. Materials collected will be sent to processors.
- The site plan would be a flow-through model like those built elsewhere around the country
- The recommended location would be on an appropriate 7-acre, City-owned property on Timberline south of Prospect.

Discussion:

- To answer Greg McMaster, Susie Gordon stated she did not know if Larimer County would participate with the City in operating the IRF. Relocating recycling from Rivendell to the new IRF location would also save \$16,000 a year because the City currently rents the Rivendell site from the Rivendell School.
- Greg Behm asked why Fort Collins does not have curbside yard waste pick up. Susie Gordon explained there is one hauler that has a yard waste program. Setting up a composting facility is difficult and there is not a very good market for the compost.
- To answer Nancy York, Susie Gordon stated the organics in the City's waste stream are more food than yard waste.
- Brian Woodruff pointed out that the AQAB put an air quality strategy around recycling in the Air Quality Plan in order to expand recycling. He asked the board if they support putting the IRF facility into a BFO offer in order to impact air quality through expanded recycling.
- John Schroeder stated the IRF would save fuel.
- To answer Rich Fisher, Susie stated the IRF should break even with the fees the pro forma has suggested.
- Greg McMaster stated it would be good to have food waste recycling/composting. Susie Gordon stated anaerobic digestion uses compostable material and could be viable for processed food waste. The City has also been using a small-scale system to compost food waste from several restaurants and it has been making good compost for downtown flowerpots. There may be other ways to be innovative recycling organics.
- Rich Fisher asked if the City could team up with CSU, which is already composting. Susie Gordon stated the City is in conversations with CSU. CSU bought a 100-yard composter and is investigating many options including an anaerobic digester.
- To answer Greg McMaster who asked what Loveland does with compost, Susie stated A-1 Organics grinds it on site and takes to their Denver composting facility. Loveland has their own trash utility and can therefore afford to do this.
- Greg McMaster asked how much waste paper is generated by commercial operations. Susie Gordon said that is unknown at this time. However, a cardboard ban would force businesses to have cardboard recycling programs. She is not sure if or when Council will consider a cardboard ban.

- Nancy York stressed the importance of educating the public about separating glass in their trash so it does not contaminate the loads.
- Susie Gordon announced the City's recycle stream will begin to accept beverage cartons like milk cartons in April. It will be announced on Earth Day.
- To answer Greg Behm, Susie Gordon stated there would be three employees at the IRF to help people understand how the place works and how to sort their loads.

Introduction of Energy Board liaison to AQAB

Greg Behm, a member of the new Energy Board and appointed liaison to AQAB, introduced himself and gave a brief overview of the Energy Board. He plans to attend as many future AQAB meetings as he can. He can be contacted at gregbehm@yahoo.com.

Environmental Health BFO process

Brian Woodruff, Environmental planner, pointed out that AQAB staff liaison Lucinda Smith is also the chair of the Environmental Health Results Team. Their Request for Results is still in progress. The final version will be available April 3. Brian presented the Environmental Health Results Map to the AQAB and stated the AQAB had previously commented on it and their comments are currently under consideration. However, they can always make further comments if they wanted but suggested they move on to selecting BFO strategies.

Discussion

- Greg McMaster pointed out the AQAB had discussed "future thinking" at their last meeting. He felt it is important that the City address where it wants to be in 20-25 years. He wondered where in the BFO process is long term vision addressed. Brian Woodruff stated Council formed a Futures Committee that focuses on specific outcomes that will become part of the BFO process but he was not sure how far they were looking into the future.
- David Dietrich asked why oil and gas development as a causal factor on air quality was not in the results map. Brian Woodruff stated it is difficult for the City to deal with air that blows in from a neighboring county.
- Rich Fisher stated he and David Dietrich met to consider how to draft comments to City Council on behalf of the AQAB to address, in strategic terms, where City would like to be in 20 years, considering all the challenges it faces. They suggest problems from outside the City limits could be addressed by working with the state of Colorado and organizations like Embrace Colorado to address and better regulate those challenges. Rich and Dave will email a draft of their recommendation to the AQAB for their consideration and comment.

Air Quality Plan – Strategy Discussion

Brian Woodruff asked the AQAB to consider which strategies in the long list of air quality strategies in the 2011 Air Quality Plan they would like to make into a BFO offer for the 2013/2014 budget. Brian stated the existing short-list strategies that became a BFO offer are: Climate Wise Commute Trip Reduction; Alternative Fuel Vehicles; Healthy Sustainable Homes; promoting individual action through information and outreach and radon mitigation behavior study and asked the group if they wanted to remove or revise any of these.

Discussion

- Regarding alternative fuel vehicles, Hugh Mackay stated he did not feel qualified to make any recommendation until he knew how many electric cars there are in the Fort Collins and how many are projected in the future.
 - Nancy York stated car dealers that sell electric vehicles have charging stations for them and wondered if commercial enterprises like hotels also have charging stations.
- Greg McMaster wondered why there was not a BFO offer addressing the fact that northern Colorado is out of compliance regarding ozone. Brian Woodruff stated the City's role is to support the state of Colorado's regulatory process. The City informs people about ozone and creates opportunities to help reduce it, i.e. the Lawnmower Rebate program and No Idling campaigns. However, those types of outreach activities are included in the "base" funding. BFO offers would be enhancements to the basic funding of the department.

- Dave Dietrich asked if it would be appropriate to make a BFO offer asking City government to support the state of Colorado in the enforcements of existing air quality regulations of the oil and gas industry including having sufficient inspectors to monitor in the field.
 - Brian pointed out that type of BFO would be a policy, not an action. To make it a BFO offer it would have to fund an activity such as hiring a staff person to monitor or lobby the State's activities. We can encourage the state to take action, however, the City is not in a position to do anything more than manage City resources. Brian also stated the state is currently looking closely at oil and gas development in Weld County relative to ozone.
 - Hugh Mackay suggested it would be a good idea to have a staff person in that type of watchdog position. Dave Dietrich also wanted a staff person hired to keep track of air quality issues.
 - Brian Woodruff stated if the AQAB wants the City to take a stronger role here, it would be appropriate to make a recommendation to Council for staff to birddog the state in the best interests of the City.
 - Rich Fisher stated this type of action would be atypical for a city to do this. The state could write into a SIP that a local government can have a greater role in air quality monitoring.
 - John Schroeer would like to see another air quality monitor east of the City to monitor the quality of air that is blowing in from the oil fields.
- Nancy York wondered if anyone is working on planning and funding alternative transportation. She felt the future is alternative transportation and was concerned staff is planning for increased automobile use such as funding a roundabout on Vine and Shields. Brian Woodruff stated a current BFO proposal is a Climate Wise program to help businesses with alternative commuter choices.
- Greg McMaster stated he felt the City's current transit system is poor and negatively affects air quality. He would like to see more funds allocated to promoting alternative transportation.
 - Brian Woodruff stated the AQAB could recommend making a BFO offer in the transportation area to increase resources to public transit to match up with the Mason Corridor. Much of the Mason Corridor's funding is federal, but some money can be allocated for Fort Collins activities around the corridor. In addition, the City is working on a plan to educate City employees about driving more efficiently, driving less, properly maintaining vehicles and encouraging employees to ride their bikes to work.

Board Priority Work Plan Items

Over the next two months, the AQAB will continue discussions about which work plan items to focus on in 2012.

- This item was tabled for later discussion.

Brief updates & announcements

- Bike Advisory Committee report
 - As Michael Lynn was not present there was no report.
- Greg McMaster pointed out that election of officers will be in the April meeting. Other comments?

Adjourn

Nancy York moved and John Schroeer seconded a motion to adjourn.
 Greg McMaster adjourned the meeting at 8:13 pm.

Approved by the Board on April 16, 2012

Signed [Signature]
 Administrative Secretary II

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 Date / /