

City of Amarillo
Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting

On the 18th day of October 2011, the City of Amarillo Environmental Advisory Committee met at 12 Noon in City Hall Room 306, with the following members present:

John Sawyers	Keith Grays	Angie Hanna	Amber Spencer	Barbara Whitton
Rosemartha Cates	Kim Vincent	Michael Rice	Julie White	

Absent were:
Terence Ng

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. and the following items of business were conducted:

Reading of last meeting minutes, motion to accept the minutes as printed was made by John Sawyers, seconded by Amber Spencer, motion passed.

Presentation from Utilities Division:

Floyd Hartman, Assistant Director of Utilities, spoke to committee about the following water topics:

Water Conservation

- o Every Drop Counts Program
- o Spoke about the City Growth factor
- o Daily water use
 - Effect of water use has on tiered water rates
 - How the sewer rates are figured
- o Spoke about the monthly water demand from 2006 through Sept. 2011
 - Provided handout of monthly water demand comparisons
 - Discussed how irrigation effects the results of the water demand
- o Presented a pie chart of how water is used
- o Showed residential water use inside vs. outside water (AWWA data)
- o Conservation Efforts
 - Door hangers
 - Program called "Reduce Your Use"

Water Right Holdings

Floyd showed the committee where all the water fields for the City of Amarillo are located and explained the requirements that have to be met in order for the City to be allowed to pump water from each site. He spoke about how much water was taken out of the Oglala Aquifer and how much was replenished.

What the EAC can help with

- Pass out "Reduce Your Use" door tags
- Hand out information to the public at events about water usage / conservation.
- Help educate the public about Xeriscape gardening
 - o Educated the public about gardening options from bluegrass to Xeriscape and options between.
 - Bermuda grass
 - Turffalo grass
 - Water less at the right time of day
 - o Speak with parks about a Xeriscape demonstration garden

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Various Topics

Discussion was also held about rainwater catchment.

Floyd discussed plans for a Spring Event where the top ten water users will be asked to attend and discuss what they are doing to minimize water usage.

The committee was shown where to access information about "Every Drop Counts" water conservation on the City's website.

Floyd discussed that 70% of the annual waste water is reused at the power plants (10 million gallons per day). The wastewater permit requires a certain amount of water to be discharged so not all the water can be used.

Each member was given a three year comparison of their water consumption at their residents. Michael explained how to interpret the information. This was done to educate committee members on their personal water usage.

Barbara requested that per capita water usage from several cities be available at the next meeting.

Review Updates to the "What Can I Recycle" page

Committee members turned in the needed corrections to the "What Can I Recycle" page of the EAC website.

Discussion of financially feasible and publicly supportable community outreach and education efforts:

This topic was tabled until next meeting.

Agenda for Next Meeting:

Discuss the statistics for recycle.amarillo.gov website

Discuss financially feasible and publicly supportable community outreach and education efforts.

Comments from Public:

None

With no other business to be conducted the meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.