

City of Amarillo
Environmental Task Force

On August 27, 2020, the Environmental Task Force met remotely via Zoom at 12:00 P.M., with the following members present:

MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD	NO. MEETINGS ATTENDED
Tim Dillon	Y	3	3
Roger Gloe	Y	8	7
Michael Graham	Y	8	5
David Moody	Y	3	3
Adam Schaer	N	3	2
Howard Smith	Y	16	13
Ryan Zimmer	Y	8	7
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS/STAFF			
Blair Snow	Y		

The following guests were also present:

Julie Allegretti, Utilities Program Manager
Jonathan Gresham, Director of Utilities
Julie Herman, Public Works Program Coordinator
Will Smith, Superintendent of Solid Waste
Anthony Spanel, Director of Environmental Health
Courtney White - City Attorney I
Craig Workman, Assistant Superintendent of Solid Waste (Disposal)

The meeting was called to order at 12:04 P.M. by Ryan Zimmer, Chairman. The following items of business were conducted:

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

2. CONSIDER AND APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING HELD JULY 30, 2020

Motion to approve the July 30, 2020 minutes as written was made by Howard Smith, seconded by David Moody and passed with a 6-0 vote.

3. CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION REGARDING RESIDENTIAL COMPOSTING

Anthony Spanel described the composting process, environmental benefits and challenges including education and enforcement. Blair Snow discussed current resources focused on composting at the landfill and the possibility of a pilot neighborhood composting program for residents or commercial companies. Will Smith stated that there are 5 to 7 tons of finished composting product that is not high quality due to lack of green waste. A meeting was held with a consultant to identify options for improvement. Blair Snow explained that the composting program was approved by City Council to produce a product to sell to commercial companies. The City is considering partnering with a company that will provide equipment and infrastructure. Michael Graham identified Chuck Tucker as a knowledgeable composter near Dumas, David Moody suggested placing a roll-off in a central area to collect grass clippings and Ryan Zimmer offered to provide cattle manure to improve the compost mixture.

Action Item 1: The task force will identify large landscaping companies and Will Smith will contact the companies and the Greenways neighborhood association regarding a composting pilot program. Ryan Zimmer will deliver a roll-off dumpster for grass clipping collection.

Action Item 2: A City staff member will identify a target neighborhood for a composting pilot program.

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4. CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WASTE DIVERSION METHODS AT LANDFILL

Will Smith (Solid Waste) reported that 2199 tons of brush was diverted from the landfill from September 1, 2019 through July 31, 2020. This does not include brush site weights.

5. CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WASTE DIVERSION EDUCATION

Blair Snow reported that the Big and Bulky Item Pickup program is growing every week and suggested posting a Facebook reminder.

6. CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Julie Allegretti has been researching cities with similar weather and population and has contacted the new stations. Target usage times are spring and summer. She plans to rearrange the page on the City website and add conservation tips. The goals are to lower usage/increase conservation by raising awareness. Education in schools is on hold due to the COVID-19.

7. CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WATER CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS

Changes are needed to the City ordinance to define “waste”, restrictions, enforcement actions, and rate structures. Utilities Operations is seeking guidance from the task force.

Action Item: Utilities staff, with assistance from David Moody, will provide an update at the next meeting, including a better definition of “waste”, proposed restrictions and an enforcement plan.

8. CONSIDER RECOMMENDATION REGARDING WATER CONSERVATION INCENTIVES

Ryan Zimmer tabled this discussion until the next meeting due to a shortage of time.

9. SET DATE AND AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Task Force will be held remotely via Zoom on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 12:00 PM. Agenda items will include discussions of commercial and residential composting with Will Smith (Solid Waste Division), water conservation education, requirements and incentives with Jonathan Gresham (Utilities Department).