

City of Amarillo
Environmental Task Force

On April 22, 2021, the Environmental Task Force (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	9	9
Roger Gloe	Y	14	13
David Moody	Y	9	9
Adam Schaer	N	9	4
Howard Smith	Y	22	19
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS/STAFF			
Stephanie Coggins	Y		
Donny Hooper	Y		

The following guests were also present:

Julie Allegretti, Utilities Program Manager
Jonathan Gresham, Director of Utilities
Julie Herman, Public Works Program Coordinator
Damen Ratliff, Assistant Director of Utilities
Will Smith, Solid Waste Superintendent
Courtney White - City Attorney I

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 P.M. by Donny Hooper, Chairman. Mr. Hooper stated that he and Stephanie Coggins are the new ex-officio members/staff. He also shared that Ryan Zimmer, previous chairperson, resigned from the Environmental Task Force. The following items of business were conducted:

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

2. CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

David Moody was nominated for Chairperson by Roger Gloe and was seconded by Howard Smith. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote. Adam Schaer was nominated for Vice Chairperson by Mr. Gloe and was seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

3. MINUTES

A motion to approve the January 21, 2021 minutes as written was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Gloe. The motion passed with a 4-0 vote.

4. WATER CONSERVATION INCENTIVES

Julie Allegretti stated that the rain sensor rebate program is ready to commence. The website has been updated and brochures are printed. The program provides residents with up to a \$50 credit on their utility bill for providing proof of rain/freeze combination sensor purchase and installation. The program applies to residential customers with retrofitted systems from or before 2009, at which time requirements for water sprinkler system installations changed.

5. WATER CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS

Ms. Allegretti stated that based on previous guidance from the Task Force, the Legal department is working on a draft ordinance change that will include a clear definition of water waste and identify steps taken to prevent water wasting and additional research is needed by City staff. Task force members expressed appreciation and will provide assistance, as needed.

City of Amarillo
Environmental Task Force

6. TIERED RATE STRUCTURE CHANGES

Jonathan Gresham explained that this is a complex process involving multiple steps and coordination of multiple City departments. Ms. Allegretti shared she is working on tiered rates based on recommendations from the Task Force and City management. Mr. Gloe shared concerns that the tiered rate structure may appear to be a penalty. Mr. Gresham stated that it would be promoted as an effective way to help conserve water and a tool to generate revenue to address Utilities infrastructure. Mr. Gresham stated that the task force will focus on promoting sensors and educating the public. Mr. Hooper stated the role of the Task Force includes providing recommendations, education, and ideas to enhance programs and conserve water.

7. COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL COMPOSTING

Will Smith stated that Ryan Zimmer dropped off two boxes (ten yards) for the Greenways HOA landscaping contractor as part of the pilot program. Mr. Smith stated that since January 1, 2021, the composting material has been processed through the grinder and sifter and is watered as needed. Mr. Smith stated he is optimistic about the final composting product. Mr. Moody noted that there are contractors interested in placing leaves collected in the Fall into containers, but they are not willing to drive or haul the leaves. Mr. Hooper and Mr. Smith stated they will obtain the information. The Task Force asked about how the composting final product will be used. Mr. Smith shared that staff is analyzing this question, and options may include selling the composting or providing it for free to the community. Mr. Moody stated that he is involved with Potter County Horticulture and will spread the word about composting.

8. SET DATE AND AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The Task Force discussed and set the next meeting for Thursday, May 20, 2021 at a time to be determined. Agenda items will include a tour and related discussion of Landfill operations.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 P.M.