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**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF FORT COLLINS**  
**FUTURES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Date:** July 10, 2017  
**Location:** CIC Room, City Hall, 300 Laporte Ave.  
**Time:** 4:00–6:00pm

**Committee Members Present:**

Wade Troxell, Chair  
Ray Martinez  
Kristin Stevens

**City Staff:**

Jeff Mihelich, Deputy City Manager  
Darin Atteberry – City Manager

**Presenters:**

Honore Depew, Environmental Planner  
Jason Graham, Water Reclamation and Biosolids Manager

**Additional Staff Present:**

Kelly DiMartino – Assistant City Manager  
Kevin Gertig – Utilities Executive Director  
Lucinda Smith, Director – Environmental Services  
Susie Gordon, Environmental Program Manager  
Caroline Mitchell, Sr. Environmental Planner  
Chris Johnson, Bike Fort Collins  
Molly Saylor, Environmental Planner

**Community Members:**

Stephen Gillette, Director, Larimer County Solid Waste  
Ron Gilkerson, Solid Waste Project Director - Larimer County Solid Waste  
Terry Jones, Interim Chief of Police  
Tyler Bandemer, Superintendent, Solid Waste Division - City of Loveland  
Dee Dee Henry, guest  
Kevin Jones, Fort Collins Chamber of Commerce  
Dale Adamy, Fort Collins citizen

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**Meeting called to order at 4:04 pm**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Kristin moved and Ray seconded a motion to approve the June 12 minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0-0.

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## Think Tank Item 3-2017:

### Innovation Fort Collins of the Future: Becoming a Zero Waste Community

**Honore Depew, Environmental Planner, Environmental Services presented a high level summary of current waste management conditions around waste reduction and recycling as well as potential future options for materials management.**

- In 2013, the City established a community goal of zero waste by 2030 including: improved access to recycling; compostable organics out of landfills; regional cooperation; and education and outreach.
  - Driving factors:
    - Larimer County Landfill is filling up and forecast to reach capacity in 2025.
    - Increasing population means more garbage.
    - Majority of items in landfill can be composted or recycled but currently is not.
    - The U.S. is lagging in recycled and composted waste as a share of total municipal waste world wide.
- So how to move past where we are now to a successful zero waste future with landfill as last resort:
  - Create incentives and regulations for increased materials management.
  - Provide effective education and community engagement to increase recycling.
  - Create means for collection and processing waste materials including infrastructure and technology, financial balance and partnerships and end markets..
- Need to be aware of Life Cycle Assessment of products (raw material → manufacture → distribution → use → disposal) and measure impacts such as GHG emissions, water and energy use, health effects, toxicity, etc.
  - Most visible part is end of life (disposal and recycling and recovery)
  - Most intensive resource use is design and production
  - Challenge is to help people understand this
  - Local example of Life Cycle Assessment was done by New Belgium Brewing on Fat Tire beer analyzing its manufacture for impacts and emissions.
    - Highest impact was glass use as a resource and they are working with the Glass Packaging Institute to reduce this.
- Increasing leadership from the national and global business community to promote Circular Economy approach to manufacturing.
- The City of Fort Collins is participating in a regional wasteshed process for the future.
  - Current regional collaboration with City of Fort Collins, Loveland, Estes Park, Larimer County, and others
  - Analyze how materials move through our community and get to places to be composted/recycling.
  - Research innovative material recovery facilities - i.e. resource recovery park.
  - Inclusion of organics and construction and demolition debris in recycle stream
  - Energy from waste facility

- Need to think about how all systems work together.



**Jason Graham, Water Reclamation and Biosolids Manager presented a summary of the evolution and future of the City of Fort Collins Utilities water resource recovery facilities**

- As background: the Clean Water Act of 1972 requires restoration and maintenance of the biological, chemical, and physical integrity of U.S. waterways.
- Fort Collins Utilities Water Resource Recovery facilities originally focused on organics and solids removal. Now, they are developing processes for waste-to-energy and new business opportunities with public and private entities, plus equipment replacement and energy efficiency.
  - Harvesting biodegradables - with possibility to process food waste and brewery waste
  - Extracting phosphorous as a revenue-generating product to agriculture to go back to the environment and that meets regulatory compliance
  - A Co-Gen system could help reduce high energy use by the facility by taking methane collected in the process and converting it to energy to help power facility.
  - Future possible project opportunities include: water top solar; grease processing; and water reuse at Rawhide
- Are researching a new way of looking at a waste water facility as a factory
  - Energy factory –burn biogas for heat and power and put back on grid
  - Nutrient factory – side stream treatment to recover phosphorous and sell on the open market
  - Water factory – water reuse
- Challenges
  - Regulatory compliance, sustainability, and third party accreditation
  - Staff issues: turnover; knowledge transfer; paradigm shift to more scientific based jobs
  - How to blend aging facilities with new facilities
  - Budget: – how to balance benefits for community innovation, regulatory compliance, money, and time
- Important discussions for future
  - How can the City encourage a zero waste future?
  - What role should wastewater treatment have?

**Discussion**

- Much progress has been made with both areas: wasteshed and wastewater
- Can well water and grey water use be included in our building codes?
  - There is infrastructure for that but may need to include land use implementation.
  - Could be managed in residential use including putting more down the garbage disposal and removal of phosphorous containing detergents..
  - Industrial use would need pre-treatment. Could be a good fit.
  - Decentralizing treatment is a benefit but odor is an inherent problem.

- Grey water usage is a challenge mainly because Colorado water law prohibits some of these opportunities. We might have to work to change the law especially as water resources become constrained.
- Working regionally is a challenge to get other communities to share this vision of the future.
- Be sure there are no disincentives to allow production and use of raw water.
- How do we improve trash diversion rates?
  - Overall, our community-wide diversion rate ranges between 50% - 70%; residential/commercial rate hovering in the 30% – 35% range. Increasing these numbers substantially would require including a broad organics recycling program. Some trash haulers offer yard waste recycling, but subscription to it has been slow. Messaging is important.
- Program is named Road to Zero Waste. It will not get us to absolute zero waste. Suggest including Circular Economy and Sustainable Materials Management messaging in the discussion, rather than just Zero Waste to educate about the benefits of a process rather than linear journey somewhere.
- The future of waste water infrastructure for the next 20 – 30 years will require substantial capital improvement funds in the BFO process. How can process be shortened and be more economical?
  - Perhaps repurpose a brewery system and use it for ourselves.
  - Suggest making short, middle and long term goals here and also partnering with other regional stakeholders to get a facility in place before the landfill closes.
  - From a wastewater aspect, would need additional anaerobic digester and co-gen system to handle all the additional food waste going down the drain.
  - Some of the new facilities would generate revenue
  - Keep in mind we will need to comply with current regulations.
- Explain status of fluctuating recycling market
  - Different factors affect the recycling market. Prices were very low for a while but are moving up to around a break-even point. Another factor helping pricing is better materials management to have materials go directly to market.
    - Regionally, there is a new cardboard sorter at the transfer station so cardboard goes directly to market instead of sending it to Denver as before.
    - We are also getting a plastic bag baler at the Timberline Recycle Center that will enable us to send them directly to market.
- What is status of Heartland Biogas facility.
  - They are still shut down and litigation is pending.
  - Would be nice if someone bought it and kept it in Colorado.
- What is status of the landfill and wasteshed initiative?
  - Ron Gilkerson – Project Director for the Wasteshed Initiative reported there are some “low-hanging fruit” items currently being put in the landfill that can be diverted from the landfill: yard waste; food waste; construction and demolition materials
  - There are very constructive discussions among the regional stakeholders on how to move forward with diverting these items from the landfill.

- Mayor Troxell congratulated Susie Gordon for her recent Lifetime Achievement award from the Colorado Association for Recycling.
- Citizen input: Consider constructing a “green park” at the new landfill and a transfer station with a rail line running to it.



### **DO: Next Steps**

- Look at annual building code updates, especially as they pertain to gray water use options. Also legislation for grey water use, relative to Colorado Water Law
- Pre-treatment policy for residential waste water
- Continue with concept of “green factory” water treatment plant
- Marketing and education for waste diversion

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### **Bloomberg Harvard City Leadership Initiative**

- Mayor Wade Troxell reported that he, City Manager Darin Atteberry and Assistant City Manager, Kelly DiMartino will be attending various meetings and on-line conversations sponsored by this initiative in the next week or two. They will attend and report back to the group
- Among the topics discussed will be:
  - Seeing the big picture
  - Culture of innovation
  - Exercising public leadership
- Citizen input: Also report this in the City Manager’s Report for the public to read.

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*Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm*