



**Public Works Committee
Meeting Summary**

Tues. Jan. 20, 2009 1:30 p.m. Conference Room 391

Members Present: Johnson, Lehmann, López, Nevitt

1. Recognition of Public Works Innovative Achievement Awards

Committee Action

The Committee commended the Department and the individuals responsible for the initiative and hard work of implementing the array of creative projects.

Summary of Discussion

Bill Vidal, Manager of the Public Works Department, said the Colorado Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) recently announced that the Department had won five awards in the Large Community category (over 100,000) for extraordinary projects and programs initiated and/or completed in 2008. He is very proud of these accomplishments and the people involved, and he noted that much of the work was done while the City was handling the Democratic National Convention and budget reductions.

Category: Drainage & Flood Control

South Platte River, Globeville & North Areas – Jim Potter, Wastewater

The South Platte River project in North Denver is the single largest flood control project undertaken by either the Urban Drainage & Flood Control District or the City & County of Denver. It represents state-of-the-art water resources engineering along 2.5 miles of the channel. Major components included: channel improvements and bank stabilization; 7300 lineal feet of flood levees and flood walls; trail improvements; replacement of a railroad bridge; relocation of a major diversion dam and irrigation intake structure; aquatic and wildlife habitat improvements. This 13-year project took 320 acres out of the floodplain, increasing public safety and helping revitalize the Globeville neighborhood.

Category: Environmental Design/Maintenance/Operation

The Greening of Red Rocks Amphitheatre – Charlotte Pitt, Solid Waste; Scott Yeager, Aramark Leisure Services

Theatres & Arenas, Public Works, Greenprint Denver, Aramark, and All Together Recycling used a \$48,000 EPA grant to successfully implement numerous green initiatives, including a comprehensive waste diversion program. Composting was added in 2008, and Red Rocks has seen savings. In addition to water and energy, and the program has achieved an 85% waste diversion rate (the goal was 35%). The 5-year, no-cost contract with All Together Recycling also includes the Coliseum and Denver Performing Arts Center. Aramark is a member of the Green Venues Group. The Group has partnered with the Denver Zoo, which will accept all of the venue waste as fuel for its gasifier plant to provide heat to all facilities at the Zoo.

Category: Fleet Management/Operation*Fuel Savings & Conservation Program – Nancy Kuhn, Fleet Maintenance*

Public Works Fleet Maintenance's Fuel Conservation Committee is implementing numerous initiatives aimed at conserving fuel. Denver uses alternative fuels and has saved over \$1 million since 2005 with its strategy to lock in fuel prices to protect against fuel cost spikes. Fleet has reprogrammed 3 trash trucks to shift gears earlier, resulting in a 10-17% fuel savings. The goal is to reprogram the total 115-vehicle fleet. A pilot program is using retread tires on light duty vehicles, saving one barrel of oil per tire. Denver has one of 12 hybrid trash trucks in the country. All fleet vehicles run on bio-diesel. In 2008, Denver was selected 9th in North America for the inaugural Government Green Fleet Award, and Fleet Maintenance was recognized as "one of the leading thinkers in America on how to break our foreign oil dependency".

Category: Public Works Administration*Smart Meters – Rob Duncanson & Lindsey Strudwick, Right-of-Way Enforcement*

Denver began a pilot program with 126 "smart meters" in the downtown area. These are wireless, solar-powered devices that accept coins and credit or debit cards. Phase II is one block in Cherry Creek North. Once the pilot program is complete, driver feedback (collected from an on-line survey) as well as other technical data will be analyzed to determine the feasibility of purchasing additional machines for other parts of the city. The meters can be remotely programmed for variable parking rates in up to four periods of the day. Drivers may eventually be able to locate vacate parking spaces using data sent from the meters.

Category: Solid Waste Management/Operation*Recycling in Denver Public Schools – Becky Wike-Goyton, Solid Waste*

Denver Recycles and Denver Public Schools Recycling Pilot Program created a successful model for implementing and maintaining recycling programs in 11 public schools for 23 weeks. During that time, 5,700 pounds of material was recycled. More children have access to recycling education and are more likely to increase their recycling habits everywhere. Plus, fewer tons of waste enters the landfill, conserving natural resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and supplying recycled feedstock to manufactures. The program will be expanded to other schools.

In Closing

Randy Schnicker, Public Works Department and member of the Colorado Chapter of APWA, said this is the 23rd year of the Innovative Achievement Awards. Denver won in five of the 12 categories, and several other Denver projects were nominated.

APWA has 30,000 members nationally; the Colorado Chapter has 700 members. It is a professional development organization that holds conferences and on-going education around various aspects of public works. The national conference in 2011 will be in Denver, which he will help host as President of the Colorado Chapter.

2. Curbside, Inc. - Contract for Hazardous Household Waste CollectionCommittee Action

The Committee approved extending the contract with Curbside, Inc., through 12-31-09 and adding \$95,000, bringing the total 2-year contract amount to \$575,000, for collection and disposal of hazardous household waste.

Summary of Discussion

Darren Mollendor, Wastewater Management, said he manages the financial aspects of the program and Solid Waste Recycling oversees the day-to-day operation. The program began in 2001 as a requirement under the City's MS4 Permit (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

Permit) issued under the state and federal Clean Water Acts. The current contract was originally let in 2008, and this request is to extend and fund it through 2009. This puts the total contract to \$575,000, requiring an ordinance.

The program's goal is to keep hazardous household materials out of the water and wastewater systems. Such materials include paint, pesticides, solvents, cleaners, motor oil, and batteries. These materials can be toxic and should not be put in the trash, poured down the drain or storm sewer, or left at the curb or in the alley.

Charlotte Pitts and Becky Wike-Goyton, Solid Waste, discussed the program, which is not actively marketed because it is operating at capacity. Information on the program is included in *WasteWise*, the Department's publication sent to every household annually, and instructions are on the DenverGov site.

- **Basic standards:** Minimum pick-up is 3 items or 25 pounds (consider combining with a neighbor). Maximum container size is 5 gallons. Maximum total is 125 pounds. Only one pick-up per year.
- **Schedule your pick-up:** Call 800-449-7587 (800-HHW-PKUP) or contact hotline@curbsideinc.com, leave a message, and you will be contacted. Pickups are only scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- **Kit sent to you:** You will receive a collection Kit within a few days of scheduling your collection. It includes a bag to contain your materials, instructions, labels and a tie to secure the bag.
- **Before Your Collection:** Assemble all of your materials according to the instructions provided in the Kit. Use provided labels to ensure materials are clearly marked. Containers must have lids and be of 5 gallon capacity or less. No unidentified materials, leaking containers or containers without lids will be accepted. The bag holds approximately 125 pounds. If you have more waste than will fit into the bag and are willing to pay for its collection, please call the hotline for instructions.
- **Pick-up:** On your collection day, place items as instructed by 7 AM. You do not need to be home. Curbside will pick up your waste and leave a confirmation receipt.

Program statistics follow:

Year	No. of Collections	Weight in lbs.	Cost
2006	2,184	193,000	\$220,350
2007	2,503	206,000	\$258,056
2008	2,501	206,686	\$265,525

The program costs include staffing the hotline, providing and mailing the kits, doing the pick-ups, properly disposing of the waste, and maintaining a warehouse near Brighton and 52nd Avenue.

The Committee discussed the program and other possibilities, such as holding an annual drop-off day. The staff said the annual drop-off idea is great except it is very expensive. The site and personnel must be certified to receive a large quantity of hazardous waste material. Cost-sharing with residents for the service is another possibility, but Denver has a long-held philosophy of not charging for trash pick-up, and this service might fall into that same category.