

City of Greeley, Colorado
AIR QUALITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
May 24, 2022

1. Call to Order

Chair Yeater called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

2. Roll Call

The hearing clerk called the roll.

PRESENT

Chair Justin Yeater
Commissioner Erik Briscoe
Commissioner Jeff Carlson
Commissioner Chelsie Romulo
Commissioner Larry Modlin

ABSENT

Commissioner Brian Franzen
Commissioner Christian Schulte

3. Approval of Agenda

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda. It was approved as presented.

4. Approval of Minutes

Approval of January 28, 2020 meeting minutes.

Commissioner Briscoe moved to approve the minutes dated January 28, 2020.
Commissioner Carlson seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0. (Commissioner Franzen and Commissioner Schulte, absent).

5. 2022 Annual Air Quality Report Update

Becky Safarik introduced the 2022 Air Quality Report Update, presenting the on the background of the report highlighting:

- Code amendments were adopted in 1995 to “regulate activities that contribute to the degradation of the air quality within City limits”, regarding offensive odors.
- The Air Quality and Natural Resource Commission was established to manage and become proactive with issues and standards related to odor issues as well as to act as the Plant Management Advisory Committee for noxious weeds.
- Ms. Safarik outlined the Commission's functions.
 - Develop and recommend an Odor Management plan every 3 years
 - Review complaints
 - Issue “Odor Control Permits”
 - Consider appeals.

has achieved since 1995. Including:

- History of where the odor complaints originated from.
- Responsiveness to the complaints.
- How initiatives were created.
- Markers showing progress.
- Further updates to the plan over the years based off the number of verifiable complaints and strategies (including the odor hotline) to enable success in gaining compliance.

Ms. Safarik continued to outline the progress made after 1 year of the ordinance being adopted.

- Further adjustments were implemented to achieve higher responsiveness and evaluate the progress of the program.
- A community survey was completed that identified odor as being the 2nd greatest issue.
- Number of confirmed calls to be received to issue a violation was reduced to three from 10 (in 6 hours).

Continuing, Ms. Safarik summarized the progress over the next several years:

1997 through 2001 minor adjustments continued to be made to the ordinance.

- Hundreds of complaints received annually.
- The number of complaints did fluctuate some between these years and ended in a decrease from 650 complaints in 1997 down to 230 complaints in 2001.

2001 through 2002, seven different companies were cited with violations.

- Identified the issues and provided an opportunity to correct the violation.
- Established compliance agreements to remedy the violations.

2002 through 2010 there was a significant reduction in the number of complaints.

- In 2004 a Citizen Survey was completed, and it concluded that odor had dropped to the 8th greatest concern.
- The lower call volume lessened staffing requirements.

2011 through 2016 there was a spike in the odor complaints, many of them identified as "rendering" from JBS.

- Staff proactively worked with JBS to address the complaints and were able to establish a voluntary compliance plan to address the issues.

2017 through 2018 there were not any violations and a low number of odor complaints.

2019 produced an uptick in odor complaints that did not result in any violations.

2020 there was minimal odor complaints and due to pandemic related staff furloughs, there were not any violations.

2021 also resulted in minimal odor complaints without any violations.

- JBS does continue to be the source of most of the complaints and the city continues to work with JBS on their voluntary compliance plan.

Becky Safarik continued with outlining the complaint sources:

- 2017 had 22 total source complaints:
 - Rendering-3

- Oil and Gas- 14
 - Feed Lot- 3
 - Other- 2
- 2018 had 23 total source complaints:
 - Rendering-15
 - Agriculture- 3
 - Chemical- 1
 - Other- 4
- 2019 had an uptick with 71 total source complaints:
 - Rendering- 40
 - Hide Plant- 15
 - Agriculture- 4
 - Sewer- 1
 - Oil and Gas- 2
 - Other- 9
- 2020 had 4 total source complaints:
 - Hide Plant- 2
 - Other- 2
- 2021 there were 10 total sources complaints:
 - Hide Plant- 6
 - Burning Smell- 2
 - Dog Waste- 1
 - Other- 1

Becky Safarik explained how odor violations are determined, the investigation process and what steps are taken if a violation level is present.

- To measure odor and evaluate if a violation is necessary the odor source can be evaluated by either:
 - **Threshold** (Minimum of 2 confirmed 7:1 d/t readings within 1 hour (15 minutes apart).
 - **Complaint** (requires three independent complaints within 6 hours that can be verified in the field).
- Odor Certification can be obtained by the Colorado Air Pollution Control Commission.
 - Only certified inspectors can measure odor emissions.
 - Either by use of Nasal Ranger or Scentometer to determine and grade odor emissions.
- Investigation Process includes:
 - Investigate within 1 hour of the complaint.
 - Identify the possible source.
 - Inspections can only be done outside of the property line.
 - Confirm complaints if applicable.
 - Use instrumentation measurement as warranted.
- If an odor violation level is present the next steps are:
 - Contact the source representative to determine the circumstances.
 - Possible Notice of Violation
 - Show cause hearing before Commission (or considered stipulation).
 - Staff follow up.

Ms. Safarik concluded with final findings including that in January of 2022, 6 complaints had been received. Further action items moving forward should include:

- Odor question in the bi-annual community survey to discern the level of community concern.

- Review of City Council Strategic Plan for odor related action steps.
- Odor Management plan Update should be prepared per 3-year review cycle for Commission review and consideration, slated for January 2023.

Becky Safarik introduced Buxton Demers, Code Compliance Supervisor. Mr. Demers started by explaining how staff obtain Odor Certifications. He demonstrated how the Nasal Ranger is used and outlined how odor complaints are received and processed.

Ms. Safarik asked Mr. Demers how many staff are certified, and he replied that 5 staff hold the certification.

Mr. Demers volunteered to bring the Nasal Ranger up to the dais so that the commission could see how the device works. Commissioner's, Ms. Safarik, and Mr. Demers conversed back and forth regarding use of the device and its functions as he continued to demonstrate its functions as well as types of what causes odors by certain sources.

Commissioners and Ms. Safarik continued to discuss further the times of the complaints, seasonal factors, compliance measures and what additional reporting measures could be implemented.

Chair Yeater commented that the progress is huge, and it is very impressive to compare the numbers of complaints several years ago to the number of complaints currently. The discussion continued to include other processes for gaining compliance from odor sources and proactive measures that can be taken, follow up to the residents complaining and further process improvements to streamline the process and ensure an inspector can get out to a complaint site within an hour.

Chair Yeater thanked Becky Safarik for her time and presentation and adjourned the Air Quality and Natural Resource Commission.

Staff Report

Chair Yeater opened the Air Quality and Natural Resources Commission up for the staff report.

Becky Safarik stated that there was not a staff report.

Adjournment

With no further business before the Commission, Chair Yeater adjourned the meeting at 2:43 PM.

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Justin Yeater

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Justin Yeater, Chair

DocuSigned by:

Becky Safarik

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Becky Safarik, Secretary