

New Castle Climate & Environment Commission Minutes

February 19, 2026

Attendees: Chair Sharon Morris, Commissioner Myrna Candreia, Commissioner Bruce Leland, Commissioner Kendall Bakich, and Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Chair Morris called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

State Recycle Program

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds and Assistant to the Administrator Rochelle Firth presented information on Colorado's extended producer responsibility (EPR) program – the state's recycling program. State law (HB 22-1355) requires producers of packaging materials to fund and support Colorado's recycling system. The law requires that companies that create packaging help pay to recycle it. This law passed in 2022, and implementation is now underway.

Fees collected will fund local recycling collection programs, education and outreach, expansion into underserved areas, infrastructure improvements, and transportation and processing. Residents should see more consistent recycling rules, expansion of acceptable materials, and increased access in rural communities.

Communications Update

Firth demonstrated the CEC's updated webpage on the Town of New Castle's website. The webpage reflects the CEC's updated mission, vision, and activities and complies with the state's accessibility requirements.

Chair Morris will be the CEC liaison to Firth for future updates.

The CEC logo and badge designs are complete. Chair Morris has ordered 500 Nature Guardians badges from Micro Plastics and requested that bag fee funds be used to cover the cost.

Multiple logo versions are available in various file formats, and a new flyer template is in development.

Commissioner Leland will be cycling off the commission and will transfer Facebook administrator access to Michelle Huster and potentially Commissioner Julia Koch.

Action: Reynolds will find out if bag funds can be used to pay for the badges.

Film Screening Debrief

Commissioner Barnes reported that the "The Last Drop" film screening and panel discussion was a success. Thirty-two community members attended the program. Chair Morris obtained twelve emails from attendees interested in future CEC events.

Budget Update

The CEC has \$1,000 in its 2026 budget.

Bag Fee Update

The bag fee fund has approximately \$14,000 remaining. Reynolds recommended allocating the remaining funds and suggested supporting the town's Dump Days. Commissioner Bakich proposed producing a magnet or label outlining single-stream recycling guidelines. Reynolds also noted that the Rec Center needs recyclable dinner plates and requested that bag fee funds be used to purchase them.

Business Grant Applications

The second round of business grant applications is available and due by March 13.

Action: Firth will create an online form for the CEC's business grant application.

Earth Day

Chair Morris submitted paperwork to reserve Burning Mountain Park for the April 25th Earth Day event. Eight vendors have confirmed their attendance.

Action: Commissioners should identify potential Earth Day games for attendees.

Action: Commissioner Bakich will contact last year's compost subscription winners to determine why they did not renew and will distribute a follow-up survey.

Approval of January 15th Minutes

Motion: Commissioner Bakich moved to approve. Commissioner Candeia seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Leland reported that Town Council is preparing for summer drought conditions and will update their emergency plan if water calls occur on Elk Creek. Raw water use will face restrictions this summer due to drought conditions.

Commissioner Bakich inquired about the new Council liaison. The CEC will learn about the appointment in April.

Commissioner Barnes shared information about the upcoming Middle Colorado Watershed film program, *The American Southwest*, on March 28th at 5:30pm at the Vaudeville Theater in Glenwood.

Future Agenda Items

Rec Center funding request (March meeting).

Additional bag fee expenditures and a revised bag fee budget (April).

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Commissioner Nancy Barnes

Commission Chair Sharon Morris