

## Watershed Activities *(continued from page 3)*

### ◆ **United States Geological Survey (www.usgs.gov)**

USGS is continuing to work on the Fountain Creek Transit Loss Model for Monument and Fountain Creeks. As part of this model, a stream aquifer model component is being included for Monument Creek. The USGS is also continuing to work on the stormwater program and look at biological and water quality assessments. Reports are scheduled to be completed on this work in 2005 and 2006.

### ◆ **Colorado Springs Utilities (www.csu.org)**

CSU is constructing drop structures along Monument Creek, Camp Creek and other reaches in the Fountain Creek Watershed. Drop structures are used to reduce the amount of sediment and erosion occurring.

### ◆ **City of Colorado Springs (www.springsgov.com)**

Colorado Springs is pursuing formation of a Stormwater Authority. A presentation was made to Colorado Springs City Council in March 2004 with an update followed up in December 2004/January 2005. For more information, please contact Ken Sampley at 719-385-5417.

*This newsletter was written, compiled, edited and produced by Rich Muzzy and Jayne Blewitt.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

September 17, 2004 - 10:00 a.m., PPACG

October 15, 2004 - 10:00 a.m., PPACG

November 19, 2004 - 10:00a.m., PPACG

For more information, meeting agendas or copies of previous newsletters, please call Rich or Jayne at (719) 471-7080, ext. 109 or 119.

### **Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments**

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# Fountain Creek Watershed Plan Newsletter

*Pikes Peak & Pueblo Area Councils of Governments*

*September 2004*

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### **Special Insert**

Selenium in the Fountain Creek Watershed

This newsletter and agendas for upcoming meetings are available on the Fountain Creek Watershed Plan website ([www.fountain-crk.org](http://www.fountain-crk.org)). If you have suggestions for articles in an upcoming newsletter, please call Rich Muzzy at (719) 471-7080, ext. 109 or send email to [rmuzzy@ppacg.org](mailto:rmuzzy@ppacg.org).

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## GREETINGS!

This newsletter is possible through a donation from the Central Colorado Soil Conservation District! The Fountain Creek Watershed Newsletter is now being produced on an annual basis. Current information and updates are posted on the Fountain Creek Watershed website [www.fountain-crk.org](http://www.fountain-crk.org). If you have any suggestions regarding information that should be included in future newsletters, please contact Rich Muzzy at 719-471-7080 x109 or by email at [rmuzzy@ppacg.org](mailto:rmuzzy@ppacg.org).

## Army Corps of Engineers Watershed Study Update

The Army Corps of Engineers Watershed Study is intended to be a comprehensive analysis of the Fountain Creek Watershed that establishes the existing conditions and identifies an array of problems and opportunities in the form of a Watershed Management Plan. The primary goal of the Watershed Study is to develop the study from a regional perspective in which all participating governments benefit by "spinning off" projects under other authorities which address flood control, erosion, sedimentation and environmental restoration problems.

URS Consulting was awarded the contract for the Army Corps of Engineers Watershed Study. URS recently completed Task Order No. 1, which is available on the Fountain Creek Watershed website [www.fountain-crk.org](http://www.fountain-crk.org) under Army Corps of Engineers Watershed Study. Some of the activities completed as a part of this task order are:

- Conducted an initial project kick-off meeting with key personnel from the USACE Albuquerque District, local stakeholders and URS.
- Conducted over 3 days, site visits of select locations and reaches of the Fountain Creek Watershed system.
- Reviewed digital mapping products provided by the local sponsors to determine the suitability of the mapping for use in developing a hydraulic model.



*The Corp Study will address flood control, erosion, sedimentation and environmental restoration of the Fountain Creek Watershed.*

The next task will focus on hydrologic, hydraulic and sediment analysis for problem identification in Fountain and Monument Creeks and the main tributaries. The type and level of detail of the modeling and a list of the stream/creeks to be included is available at [www.fountain-crk.org](http://www.fountain-crk.org). An environmental baseline of existing conditions is also being conducted. This will consist of conducting an inventory of existing natural resources, including geology, soils and in-stream biota, wildlife and threatened and endangered species. This analysis is expected to be completed by May 2005.

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**Fountain Creek Watershed  
Technical Advisory Committee**

- Bill Alt, Turkey Creek CD
- Carol Baker, Colorado Springs Utilities
- Gary Belew, Fort Carson
- Andre Brackin, El Paso County
- David Buttery, City of Woodland Park
- Jay Frost, Central Colorado CD
- Jean Garren, Teller County
- Byron Glenn, Town of Monument
- Bob Hamilton, SECWCD
- Kim Headley, Pueblo County
- Dennis Maroney, City of Pueblo
- Bob Miner, Town of Palmer Lake
- Larry Reisinger, U. S. Air Force Academy
- Ken Sampley, City of Colorado Springs
- Dave Smedsrud, City of Fountain
- John Valentine, USDA/NRCS
- Kathy Verlo, City of Manitou Springs

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Public meetings will be held in Colorado Springs and Pueblo during the fourth quarter of 2004. Updates will also be given to the PPACG and PACOG Board of Directors in September 2004. A separate announcement will be sent out on when these meetings are to be held. The Watershed Study is scheduled to be completed by March of 2007. Updates on the status of the study will be posted on the Fountain Creek Watershed website. For more information, please contact Rich Muzzy, PPACG at (719)471-7080x109.

**Is the Drought Over?**

**NO!** Stream flows from the mountains were just 50 to 70 percent of normal this spring, resulting in below normal amounts being added to Colorado Springs Utilities reservoirs. As of June 2004, reservoir system totals are at 59 percent capacity. This is a little higher than at the same time last year. Normal storage for this time of year is 82 percent of capacity.

**Map Modernization**

The Colorado Water Conservation Board, under contract with Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) is working with El Paso, Teller and Pueblo Counties and incorporated municipalities to update existing floodplain maps. Maps will be prepared for each of these three counties. The goals of the FEMA Map Modernization Program are:

- develop up-to-date flood hazard data for all floodprone areas nationwide to support sound floodplain management and prudent flood insurance decisions;
- provide maps and data in digital format to improve the efficiency and precision for mapping program customers (El Paso County region has digital maps already available);
- fully integrate FEMA's community and state partners into the mapping process to build on local knowledge and efforts;
- improve processes to make it faster to create and update the map; and
- improve customer services to speed processing of flood map orders and raise public awareness of flood hazards.

CWCB anticipates that the project duration will be approximately 27 months, with meetings occurring at periodic intervals during that time. The scoping process for the Map Modernization Program is expected to be completed by March 2005; maps are expected to be completed by October 2006; and formal adoption of the maps by February 2007.

PPACG has prepared a Draft White Paper which provides background information to communities on the FEMA Map Modernization Program. This paper explains the problems and issues, possible consequences of changes to flood insurance maps, timeline, funding, and key tasks that would be included in a Scope of Work. This paper includes information that has been discussed, collected and gathered regarding the FEMA Map Modernization Program. As this Program continues this paper will be expanded in an effort to help resolve and clarify issues and concerns, and avoid unnecessary confusion. The white paper can be accessed from the Fountain Creek website at [www.fountain-cr.org](http://www.fountain-cr.org).

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II**

*by Barbara Dallemand, El Paso County Stormwater Coordinator*

The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requires urbanized areas to have an NPDES permit and to take measures to protect surface water by reducing contamination of stormwater runoff. Permits are issued by the Colorado Department of Health and Environment. Phase I of NPDES for communities with population over 100,000 began permitting in 1997. The City of Colorado Springs is covered under a Phase I permit. The first Phase II permits in Colorado were issued in 2003. Fountain, Manitou Springs, Monument, the City and County of Pueblo and unincorporated El Paso County have NPDES Phase II permits. In addition, large school districts, Pikes Peak Community College and University of Colorado/Colorado Springs have non-standard permits.

Phase II permits do not have numeric limits on discharge quality. Instead, each permit holder develops a 5-year plan of action to reduce contamination. One of the major potential sources of contamination is construction and its related sediment discharge. Since construction can be a major source of sediment and other pollutants, programs to control, regulate and inspect stormwater protection practices at construction sites are underway. In addition, special features will be included in new developments that will help retain contaminants on site.

To address the many small sources such as over-fertilized lawns, the permit holders are developing programs of education and public outreach such as brochures, signs identifying streams, stenciled reminders on storm drains that they drain to streams (not treatment plants), and school programs. To deal with illicit discharges of contaminants directly in the storm drain systems, an ordinance is to be written for El Paso County and a system for locating the source of contaminants is to be developed. And lastly, each permit holder is required to set up a program to control pollutants at their own sites.

Some of the more visible parts of NPDES programs are stenciled storm drains in Manitou Springs, stream crossing signs in Fountain, and stormwater protection displays and brochures at festivals and fairs. As a part of an extensive effort to revise and update its engineering and development criteria, El Paso County has also been focusing on developing stormwater quality requirements for developers and home builders.

A comprehensive inventory of their storm drainage system is also to be completed by the end of this year utilizing GPS technology so that drainage facilities can be accurately incorporated into the County GIS map system.



*For more information on stormwater quality programs, contact Barbara Dallemand, El Paso County Stormwater Coordinator, 719-520-6826.*

**Watershed Activities**

**◆ Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)**

([www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)) NRCS is continuing to encourage homeowners associations to take an active role in watershed management. As work continues and more homes are built, the stable small watersheds within the Fountain Creek basin will provide the infrastructure to manage the entire watershed, protecting the citizens within this community. Selection of grass and brush species that provide stability and visual breaks in the landscape is the focus of this type of assistance.

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**Fountain Creek Watershed  
USGS Gage Summary  
Period: July 16-17, 2004 and July 23-24, 2004  
Data taken from online USGS Graphs**

Location	Peak Discharge (7/16/04 - 7/17/04)	Peak Discharge (7/23/04 - 7/24/04)
Cottonwood Creek at Woodmen Rd. (USGS Gage #7103980)	240	380
Monument Creek at Pikeview (USGS Gage #7104000)	2,750	2,650
Monument Creek at Bijou Street (USGS Gage #7104905)	3,600	2,220
Fountain Creek near Fountain (USGS Gage #7106000)	10,800	11,400
Fountain Creek near Pinon (USGS Gage #7106300)	5,320	3,550
Fountain Creek at Pueblo (USGS Gage #7106500)	4,780	3,320

Note: All flows are in cubic feet seconds (cfs)

The above Table compares the recorded streamflow from the storms that occurred during July 16-17, 2004 and July 23-24, 2004. For more information, including rainfall amounts, please go to the USGS website <http://water.usgs.gov/>. The location of the USGS monitoring stations is available in the insert of the March 2003 Fountain Creek Watershed Newsletter.

To put these flows in perspective, flows at Monument Creek at Pikeview and at Fountain Creek near Fountain were 4,890 cfs and 20,100 cfs, respectively, about half the flows of the July 2004 storm event. When URS completes the hydraulic modeling of the Fountain Creek Watershed it will be easier to determine the recurrence interval of these flows.

*Drop Structure at Cottonwood Creek on April 28, 2004  
Photo courtesy of URS.*



*Drop Structure at Cottonwood Creek on July 16, 2004  
Photo courtesy of URS.*