



Board of Directors Meeting

This meeting will be held virtually only this month. Meetings are open to the public.

March 21, 2025

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

[Board of Directors Meeting Zoom Link](#)

Draft Minutes

1. Call **Water Activity Enterprise** meeting to order 9:00-9:05
 - a. Roll call and establish a quorum
 - i. Welcome New Board Members:

1. Roger Gomez/Regina Maestri – City of Pueblo

Chair Hart called the Fountain Creek Watershed District Board of Directors Meeting to order. In attendance were the following duly designated members of the District Board of Directors:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Terry Hart	Chair, CAG Representative
Jessica Mills	Lower Ark Valley WCD
Jim Romanello	Small Municipalities
Miles Lucero	Pueblo County
David Leinweber	City of Colorado Springs
Dr. Bob Barr	Pueblo Landowner
Bill Wysong	El Paso County
Cory Applegate	El Paso County, alternate
Tamara Estes	City of Fountain
Dr. Detra Duncan	City of Fountain, alternate
Alli Schuch	Executive Director
Stephane Atencio	Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

- b. Introduction of Guests: Jim O'Donnell, author; Brianna Fett, FCWD; Max Mojab, Piper Sandler; Annie Berlemann, CSU;
- c. Approval of March WAE Meeting Agenda

Chair Hart requested changes be made to the agenda to clarify the WAE meeting as separate from the District Board meeting. Director Estes made a motion to approve the March WAE Meeting Agenda with those changes. Director Wysong seconded and the March WAE Meeting Agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Consent Calendar 9:05-9:10



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Director Mills made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Estes seconded and the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

3. Old Business 9:15-9:25

a. Project Updates

i. WAE Balance 3/18/25 = \$16,810,764

1. 2025 Projects

a. Eagleridge

i. \$4,474,515 Approved Budget

ii. \$1,678,761 Spent to Date

iii. \$2,795,754 Remaining

b. Southmoor Dr

i. \$6,267,724 Approved Budget

ii. \$2,765,479 Spent to Date

iii. \$3,502,245 Remaining

c. Total to be spent in 2025:

i. \$6,297,999 E + S Remaining

ii. \$100,000 Pueblo Woody Debris

iii. \$97,011 Frost Ranch Grant Match

iv. = \$6,495,010

v. WAE Remainder = \$10,315,754

ii. MMFAC Update

1. Southmoor

a. Tour with MMFAC; 50% complete, importing more material, cost offset by finding bedrock sooner than anticipated

b. Southmoor Dr Public Information Meeting: Tuesday, 3/25/25, 6pm at American Legion or via Zoom. To include a presentation and tour of the site from above

2. Eagleridge

a. 40% complete, bollards removed

3. Frost Ranch

a. Well within remaining funds with potential budget of \$4-5M. Reclamation grant award could cover up to 50%.

iii. University Partnerships

1. Colorado College

a. Students have created 6 storyboard based on research for the District thus far. These outline the FEMA 100 year floodplain and the fluvial hazard zone and illustrate changes over time.

b. No cost

2. UCCS GIS Lab – Supports community needs of orgs like FCWD.

a. Develop a Fountain Creek base map for maintenance project management and tracking – build upon over time

b. Web based ap where landowners can add geolocated pictures

c. Use their maps, databases, drones, etc.

d. Minimal to no cost

b. New Business – None

c. Executive Session – None



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d. Adjourn WAE Meeting 9:20

Chair Hart adjourned the WAE Meeting.

4. Convene **District Board of Directors** Meeting 9:20-9:35

a. Approval of March District Board Meeting Agenda

Chair Hart requested changes be made to the agenda to add Approval of the March District Board Meeting Agenda to item 4.a. Director Mills made a motion to approve the March District Board Meeting Agenda with those changes. Director Estes seconded and the March District Board Meeting Agenda was unanimously approved.

b. Board Member "Watershed Moments"

- i. Director Mills expressed pride in Lower Arkansas Valley and Otero County farmers coming together and commissioners supporting less water leaving their agrarian communities.
- ii. Director Estes recommended that any projects that are completed or established during 2026 (USA's 250th Anniversary and Colorado's 150th Anniversary) be branded as such to promote the successes of the District and integrate an historical aspect with FCWD's projects and programming. Participation may be a positive marketing opportunity.
- iii. Director Lucero explained that the Greenview Trust and its legal counsel contacted Pueblo County (commissioners). Further discussion was had and Chair Hart requested Director Lucero have Pueblo County legal counsel contact Counsel Atencio for further discussion to ensure all are in clear communication regarding any new developments.

c. Consent Calendar 9:35-9:45

Director Mills made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Barr seconded and the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

5. Presentations 9:45-10:35

a. Piper Sandler Investment Account – Max Mojab, Vice President

- i. Investments Review
 1. As of Feb 28, 2025, \$17,814,418.50; with accrued interest \$17,881,454.62
- ii. Project Cash Outflows
 1. Projections: Estimated total outflow first half of 2025: \$11,892,803
 2. Ensures enough liquidity is allocated in case it needs to go out
- iii. Manage Investments in Wetland Banking Credits (2026 project)
 1. Going to do more research in this area as we prepare for In Lieu Fee Program

b. *Fountain Creek: Big Lessons From a Little River* – Jim O'Donnell, author

- i. Fountain Creek watershed is one of the smallest, fastest growing watersheds in the country, with predictions of population growing to 1Million in just 10 years.
- ii. "There are no natural disasters, just human created vulnerabilities." An environment may experience a challenge that humans need to adapt to. We may be able to find a way if we're willing to go beyond our preset limitations.
- iii. O'Donnell researched, did many interviews and walked multiple the tributaries and 95% of the length of Fountain Creek while preparing for his book.
- iv. He witnessed a lot of trash and met many unhoused individuals. He spoke with them and learned more about their experiences and what drove them to live on the creek.



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- v. Colorado Springs is a unique municipality in that it's one of the only large cities that doesn't have its own water source. 80% of Colorado Springs water comes from the Colorado River watershed and others. And then that water outflows into Fountain Creek.
- vi. Sprawl also causes so much runoff into the creek. Now Fountain Creek is trying to adapt to so much flow that it never held before which would take hundreds of years. Your task as the District is to manage those changes as they intersect with human life and infrastructure.
- vii. We're not going backwards, but this is the situation we have. What are the options for how we move forward from here?
- viii. Conversation continued regarding the complexities of how to move forward including flow to the Arkansas River and Kansas, water rights, water detention, flooding and more.

6. Executive Director Report 10:35-10:45

- a. Introduction: Brianna Fett, Watershed Outreach Coordinator
- b. ARBWF in Pueblo – tour featuring District project, panel about the current status and future of Fountain Creek
- c. Hired Kearns & West for Strategic Planning
- d. Had a Small Municipality meeting with Palmer Lake, Monument, Green Mountain Falls, and Manitou Springs to hear from the smaller communities within the watershed. Was well received and will be recurring.
- e. Applied for and received a scholarship to attend Environmental Markets Conference in Seattle May 12-15, (\$900 value). (Will cover topics like wetland banking and in lieu fees.)
- f. Invited to attend a kickoff meeting with Mayor Yemi on trash cleanups and the unhoused. Hoping to continue the conversation so we can share City of COS experience and learning with other jurisdictional partners.
- g. Met with Gold Hill Mesa and CS Rotary Fountain. The groups have interest in creating amenities on Fountain Creek. Considering building an arboretum or creekside learning space.
- h. Rain Barrel Sale – online sale through April 6
- i. Great American Cleanup – May 3
- j. Monthly Liquid Lectures
- k. Conducting interviews with Brianna to find a Colorado College year-long Fellow (intern).

7. Old Business - None

8. New Business 10:45-11:10

- a. Strategic Planning
 - i. 2023 Strategic Plan in March Board Folder
 - ii. Priorities: Sustainable funding; strengthening regional collaboration; improve District name recognition, our work, and raising awareness of growing watershed issues
 - iii. Sustainable funding options:
 - 1. In Lieu Fee program in development
 - 2. Mil Levy
 - 3. Sales Tax
 - 4. Fees
 - 5. Grants
 - 6. Other?
 - iv. Regional Collaboration



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1. Pre Disaster Planning / Post Disaster Followup
2. Support Member Government projects
3. Development input
 - a. Possible connection with Arkansas River Watershed Collaboration
- v. Name Recognition, work, and awareness
 1. Outreach and education programming
 2. State of the Watershed event in November
 - a. Switchback stadium or other event space
- b. Letter of Support – City of Fountain
 - i. Will be discussed in the future

9. Executive Session - None

10. Public Comment 11:10-11:20

11. Confirm Next Meetings; via Zoom or in person at Fountain City Hall (116 S. Main St. Fountain, CO 80817)

- a. Friday, Mar 21
- b. Friday, Apr 18
- c. Friday, May 16
- d. Jun/Jul - no meetings
- e. Friday, Aug 15
- f. Friday, Sept 19
- g. Friday, Oct 17
- h. Friday, Nov 21
- i. Dec - no meeting (tentative)

12. Adjourn Board Meeting 11:25

Chair Hart adjourned the Board Meeting.