



**Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control, and Greenway District
Citizens Advisory Group Meeting Agenda Friday, March 8th, 2024**

Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99749871376>

(Meetings are open to the public)

1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions

Chair Hart called the meeting to order at 9:34 am

In attendance:

Terry Hart, Committee Chair

Hannah Mooney, Watershed Outreach Coordinator

Melody Daugherty, Manitou Pollinators

Jeanette Lara, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Annie Berlemann, CSU

Jessica Mills, Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District

Ian Hartley, Citizen at Large

Alli Schuch, Executive Director

Allen Beauchamp, Trails and Open Space Coalition

Mary Barber, Vice Chair

David Woolley, City of Fountain

Heidi Abed, Citizen at Large

Guests:

Katie Helm, Conservation and Sustainability Manager -City of Fountain

Billy Richard, Rick's Garden Center

Matthew Nelson, Manitou Springs

2. Approve Meeting Agenda

Executive Director Schuch motioned to make modifications to the agenda. Director Schuch requested that the State of the Watershed get moved from Ongoing Business to New Business, move New Business under Presentations, and add Melody Daugherty to the agenda under Presentations.

Member Hartly motioned to approve the amended March agenda which was seconded by Member Wooley, and the motion was unanimously agreed upon. The Amended March Meeting Agenda was approved.

3. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting(s)

- a. February 16, 2024

Ian Hartley clarified the language for the hybrid meeting schedule. We will be transitioning to quarterly hybrids moving forward. However, in 2024 April and September will be the only hybrid meetings, held over Zoom and at Fountain City Hall.

Member Hartley motioned to approve both the annual and regular meeting minutes, which was seconded by Member Barber, and the motion was unanimously agreed upon. The prior meeting minutes were approved.

4. Committee Member Comments

None

5. Reports:

- a. Governing Board – Alli/Terry
 - i. Met on 16th of Feb
 - ii. Matrix gave a Presentation on Project effectiveness work
 - iii. Received an update on 6035 from Strategic Planning work
 - iv. Richards Rubbish Roundup, Tuesday Night Cleanups in hopes of inspiring additional businesses
 - v. Hired Steven Rodriguez as the Operations Manager, starting in 2 weeks
 - vi. The Board amended the bylaws for chair and vice chair alterations, using “preferred” alterations North and South of the county line and Officers “preferring” to be elected
 - vii. Tamera Estes is staying on as Chair and Jessica Mills as vice chair, the secretary remains Terry Hart, treasure Stan Vanderwerf
 - viii. The Next Board Meeting is Next Friday 15th, at 9 am at Fountain City Hall and via Zoom. Hearing from Gary Barber and the Manitou Springs Creek Walk Program
- b. Projects - Alli
 - i. Design reviews of Highway 47, Eagle Ridge, and Southmoor Drive are underway
 - ii. Hired local firm; Stantec who will be helping with revisions and recommendations by early April
 - iii. Strategic planning meetings are still underway, the team is meeting with the creative consortium later today
 1. We are in the implementation process so please bring edits to Allis' attention
 2. Terry makes a point that governments contribute annually and they should be mentioned as funding sources
 3. Recommendation to expand that language to capture this has been a team approach that the district is built on
- c. MMFAC - Alli
 - i. Met 21st of Feb - 19 million balance in MMF account
 1. \$ 4.4 million dedicated for the Eagle Ridge project
 2. \$ 2.2 million dedicated to the Southmoor Drive project
 3. \$12 million left
 - ii. Proposed design changes could lead to higher costs, however the final number is not yet determined.
 - iii. Ian Patton presented other potential projects the district could prioritize
 - iv. CDOT will start a project at the Highway 50 interchange in Pueblo later this year

- v. Meeting in March to determine if that project could be a good fit for the remaining funds
- vi. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 20th at 10 am via Zoom
- d. TAC – Mark/Annie
 - i. Did not meet because most of the committee was attending the Arkansas River Basin Water Forum
 - ii. The next meeting will be March 13th from 9-10:30 am via Zoom

The Citizens Advisory Group paused reports to begin item 9a, presentations.

- e. Website - Mary
 - i. Going to have accessibility policy and officer requirements, will be presenting for the boards approval
 - ii. Have been working on educational resources on the website
 - iii. Please provide edits or suggestions
- f. WOC- Hannah/ Susan
 - i. Cervis Registration for Great American Cleanup
 - ii. Outreach and Educational Event planning for summer
 - iii. Susan will be interviewed by KDZA, Nick Donovan and hoping to do this on a monthly occurrence
 - iv. CDPHE grant application for outreach funding- nonpoint source pollution prevention education
- g. AFCURE – Andra/Annie
 - i. Met Tuesday the 5th
 - ii. Discussing feedback on the state 10-year Roadmap
 - iii. and changed the deadline because they were not going to meet it

The Citizens Advisory Group resumed presentations 9v FCWD The Year Ahead.

6. New Business:

7. Ongoing Business:

- a. State of the Watershed Discussion Continued
 - i. June of 2025? A 1-day event that could include a site visit component
 - ii. Who we are, what we have done, and what we can do in the future
 - iii. Subcommittee of CAG to plan for this offline of CAG
 - iv. Save the date way in advance

8. Old Business:

9. Presentations:

- a. Water Hot Topics Panel:
 - i. Katie Helm- Conservation & Sustainability Manager, City of Fountain
 - 1. Fountain Utilities Water Use
 - a. 75% surface water and 25% groundwater- treat annually
 - 2. Programs

- a. Lawn replacement program
 - i. Cost share program
 - ii. Purchase garden-in-a-box kits with starter plants, native seeds, and design plans
 - iii. Promotes pollinator-friendly habitats, saves water, reduces lawn maintenance
 - 3. Slow the Flow Program
 - a. Free sprinkler system evaluation sponsored by your utility
 - b. Irrigation specialist will test all zones in your lawn- customized watering schedule for your plants
 - ii. Matthew Nelson- Arborist & Horticulturist, City of Manitou
 - 1. Fountain Creek tree planting restoration efforts in Manitou Springs
 - a. The first step for restoration is inventory- species composition, size, and condition
 - b. The goal is to improve species diversity
 - 2. Improve the canopy by planting more trees along the riparian corridor to start the next generation
 - a. Currently determining holes in the canopy to assign special markers indicating “potential tree site”
 - b. Plan to start propagating own stock in-house from trees that have proven to be successful locally
 - 3. Plans for Spring 2024 - The Manitou Urban Renewal Authority (URA) has tentatively agreed to fund a planting effort along their portion of the riparian corridor in east Manitou Springs.
 - a. Generous funding will allow for ~15 trees along the Creek Walk Trail.
 - iii. Melody Daughtry- Executive Director of the Manitou Pollinators District
 - 1. Began in 2018 After the Bee Colony collapse along the front range, received Municipal Pollinator District certification in 2023
 - 2. Will continue to provide metrics so that Manitou Springs can receive the recertification in 5 years
 - 3. Several municipalities asked if they could also become pollinator districts.
 - 4. Future for Manitou Pollinators: Establishing a stronger state-wide pollinator initiative
 - iv. Billy Richard- Nursery Manager, Rick's Garden Center
 - 1. Been in business for 76 years, 3 owning families, from a Dairy Farm to a Tree Farm to a Retail Nursery, reincorporated to Rick's Garden Center.
 - 2. Ricks Native Plant Initiative
 - a. Potting medium is 70% breeze and 30 % compost that mimics native soils
 - b. Very cost-effective
 - c. Horticulture is in an exciting place in Colorado Springs, people are starting to understand natives benefit

Discussion:

Member Woolley shared about the Manitou Seed Library. The Manitou Seed Library happens every second Saturday from September to April at Manitou Public Library.

The Citizens Advisory Group resumed item 5e, Website Reports.

- v. FCWD Year Ahead
 - 1. Alli Schuch- Executive Director, Fountain Creek Watershed District
 - a. FCWD background and history
 - b. \$ 50 million resulted from a mandate on CSU allowing the pipeline to be put in, approved with stipulations that Pueblo County benefited most.
 - c. CAG is appointed by the board to advise and provide recommendations on the management of the watershed from the perspective of citizens within the District.
 - d. CAG Speaker Schedule for the year
 - i. Chair Hart suggested a speaker to discuss restoration efforts on the burn scar, perhaps Rocky Mountain Field Institute
 - ii. Member Mills requested a speaker to discuss water quality and how it affects below the confluence; Brad or Kahnan Dyker.
 - e. District Projects 2024
 - f. Funding Updates
 - i. Submitted multiple grants for conservation and outreach projects
 - 2. Hannah Mooney- Upcoming Events
 - a. Great American Cleanup- Registration Coming Soon
 - b. Rain Barrel Sale- Need volunteers for both pickup events
 - c. Brewshed Alliance Programing- 3rd Thursday's
 - i. March 20th- Watershed Weather at Storybook
 - ii. April 16th- Winged Wonders at OCC Brewery
 - iii. May 16th- Water Wellness at Red Leg
 - d. Pint Nights at Cerberus 4-7 pm
 - i. 3/12
 - ii. 6/11
 - iii. 9/10
 - iv. 12/10
 - e. Scoop the Poop Events
 - i. April Stools Day 4/6
 - ii. 5/29 and 7/31 10 am-12
 - f. Susan Finzel: Will be running a booth at Western Landscape Symposium, school programs, native seeds at Confluence Park, Great American Cleanup, nonpoint source pollution mini-grant, liquid lectures, Pueblo County Fair, and day camps.
 - 3. Mary Barber- Strategic Planning Discussion
 - a. The Citizens Advisory Group will move this line item to the April Agenda
 - b. Vice Chair Barber suggests strategic plan Goals, Priorities, and Objectives, recommends putting them on the next agenda, and leaves room for discussion about how the CAG can support the strategic plan goals

Executive Director Schuch revisited the State of the Watershed idea which was mentioned in the Strategic Plan. This could be a one-day event that could include a site visit component. A ticketed event in June 2025, with food and drink for attendees. Member Mills and Member Beauchamp volunteered for a planning subcommittee for the State of the Watershed.

10. Public Comment:

None

11. Next Meeting:

- a. CAG: April 13, Zoom 9:30- 11:30 am

12. Adjourn:

Chair Hart called consensus on adjourning the meeting.