



**FOUNTAIN CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

For the thriving life of the watershed and all it touches.

**Fountain Creek Watershed District
Citizens Advisory Group Meeting Minutes
Friday November 8, 2024
9:30-11:30am**

Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99749871376>
(Meetings are open to the public)

1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions

Alli Schuch, Exec. Director FCWD
Angie Schirtzinger, WOC of FCWD
Susan Finzel, Pueblo WOC of FCWD
Mary Barber, Vice Chair of CAG - led meeting
Annie Berlemann, COS Utilities
Jeanette Lara, City of COS
Ian Hartley, Pueblo West
Allen Beauchamp, TOSC
Jim O'Donnell, Author of Fountain Creek
David Woolley, CAG Rep City of Fountain
Melody Daugherty, Exec Director of Manitou Pollinators
Jessica Mills, CAG Ag. Representative
Heidi Abed, citizen
Kathy Harris, citizen, considering joining CAG

Established Quorum

2. Approve November Meeting Agenda

Approved by Consensus

3. Approve Minutes of October Meeting

Approved by Consensus

* David Woolley – added to meeting minutes

4. Committee Member Comments

Mary Barber:

- Recommendation to board for review and comment on development projects in the watershed, particularly in the area south of the city of Fountain to the confluence with the Arkansas.
 - Agreement that this would be a good topic for future discussion and suggestion that a subcommittee be formed with subject experts to work out the details.
 - Need to establish review process

5. Presentations

- a. Southern Delivery System Annual Report overview - Annie Berlemann
 - i. Presented Integrated Adaptive Management Plan for Colorado Springs Utilities & Permit Compliance Annual Report
 - ii. Decision making framework for the Southern Delivery System consistent with regulatory requirements, assessment of impacts and mitigation, systematic approach, flexibility to address full spectrum of outcomes
 - iii. Resource Areas: Water quantity, water quality, geomorphology, aquatic life
 - iv. IAMP incorporates Final Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision, Fish and Wildlife Mitigations Plan
 - v. Permit Compliance Annual Report
 1. Regulatory requirement prepared by CSU
 2. Pueblo Flow Management Program
 3. PCAR submitted by Jan 23st
 - vi. In 2025 - suggestion for someone to talk on water conservation efforts from CSU
 - vii. Shared graph of water usage that has significantly reduced while population has significantly increased from 1992 to 2022
 - viii. Mary asked about the need for additional environmental reviews - Annie responded that they wouldn't need to go back to the Record of Decision or Final Environmental Impact Statement if they operated within the boundaries of the existing plan.
 - ix. Water Quantity and Quality Management

Annie discussed the importance of water quantity and quality, highlighting the need to monitor selenium, E. coli, ammonia, and salinity. She explained that the system's flow rate cannot exceed 253 cfs at Pueblo Reservoir and that the flow management program below the reservoir is crucial for preserving the gold medal fishery. Annie also discussed the geomorphology of Fountain Creek, emphasizing the need to monitor sedimentation and erosion to maintain a balanced sediment movement. She mentioned that the data collected is publicly available and that the system's geomorphology is generally consistent, but changes can be expected due to factors like precipitation or new water supply sources.
 - x. 2023 Flood Events and Management

Annie discussed the 2023 flood events and the impacts on the watershed. She mentioned that despite high rainfall, the creek only experienced a 50-year flow event, which she interpreted as a positive sign that stormwater and other practices are starting to have an effect. Annie also discussed the aquatic life resource area, explaining how they monitor fish and macroinvertebrates, and how they manage flows. She mentioned that they are required to have an environmental management system platform and that they are working on making it more publicly accessible. Annie then moved on to discuss the Permit Compliance Annual Report (Pcar), explaining its purpose, content, and requirements. She also mentioned that they are required to submit it by January 31st of the following year. Towards the end of the meeting, Annie answered questions about E. Coli levels and the future plans for the Southern Delivery System (SDS) project.
 - xi. Colorado Springs Water Conservation Efforts

Annie discussed the significant water conservation efforts made by Colorado Springs Utilities, which now serves 120,000 more people with 50,000 acre-feet less water per year. She mentioned that the next phase of water management would involve indirect and direct potable reuse, which would mitigate creek flows but could introduce new pollutants. Annie also agreed to arrange a presentation from the water conservation team. Ian asked about the proportion of water used in the pipeline that returns to the

creek, to which Annie responded that it's not a 1:1 ratio due to various factors like consumptive use and time taken for water to return to the system.

- b. Fountain Creek: Big Lessons from a Little River Book Release and overview - Jim O'Donnel
 - i. Jim O'Donnel, a historian and archaeologist, shared his journey of understanding the Fountain Creek watershed. He discussed his background in community planning and urban watershed management, and how his curiosity about the creek's transformation from a dry, ephemeral creek to a full-time river led him to write a book about it. He emphasized that the creek's current state is a result of human choices and decisions, and that understanding the past can help make better choices for the future. Fountain also shared his extensive research, including archival research, historical research, and walking 90% of the watershed to gain a deeper understanding of the creek. He highlighted the importance of considering the perspectives of all stakeholders, including homeless individuals living along the creek, in managing the watershed.
 - ii. Grew up in Pueblo
 - iii. Attempt to understand larger patterns, comprehensive history of flooding
 - iv. Interviewed homeless along Creek to gain their perspectives of life on the Creek
 - v. Goal to get book into libraries
 - vi. Susan suggested that the book should be required reading for new elected officials in El Paso and Pueblo counties.
 - vii. Jessica suggested that Fountain should submit a session proposal for the 2025 water forum, and Susan recommended him to participate in the Sun, Soil, and Water Summit at Pueblo Community College.

6. Reports

a. Governing Board – Alli

Board of Directors meeting on 3rd Fridays - introduced new Board Member from Pueblo
High level overview of Capital Improvement Plan for 2025
2 letters of support: Fox Run Nature Center + CWCB Grant for Rain Barrels/Rain Gardens
Open Position - WOC
High level overview proposed budget 2025
New TAC Member from USAFA
Ally to share Jim O'Donnell's book with all board members as required reading.

● b. Projects - Alli

Southmoor Drive emergency meeting - one landowner holding up project (Camper World)
Matrix did a redesign to move El Paso County trail - new staging area on security sanitation property - notice to proceed
Eagle Ridge delayed due to large amount of unhoused in project area/safety concern
Colorado College students will study projects and develop storyboards
Jordan is installing a 3D model of Southmoor Drive FloodPlain at Fountain Creek Nature Center next week.
Bonner Fellowship/Shadowship with Colorado College
Going for full year PIFP student with CC June 2025-June 2026
Year Long Streamlining of sponsorship for outreach
Enhancing their volunteer program and planning for the 2025 liquid lecture schedules
Focusing on In-Leiu Fee program for sustainable funding
Ally to bring on a grant consultant/firm to seek, write and administer grants next year.
Liquid Lecture suggestion: Pueblo from Jessica - Jack
Action items: Ally to send the strategic planning report to CAG members.

c. MMFAC - Alli


d. TAC – Annie

Reg meeting was on Wed. presentation by El Paso County - Jeff Rice

Partnership Projects for collaboration
In-Leiu Fee final review with Army Corps of Engineers

e. Website - Mary

f. WOC- Susan/Angie

 WOC Report - November 2024 .pdf

Action item: CAG members to suggest speakers or topics for 2025 Liquid Lecture series WOC's

g. AFCURE – Andra/Annie

6. New Business

a. January 2025 CAG Meeting - hybrid (Fountain City Hall)

i. Establish which quarterly meetings will be by hybrid (Jan, April, Aug, Nov?)

b. District support for member governments in 2025 - Alli

7. Ongoing Business

None

8. Old Business

None

9. Public Comment:

10. Next Meetings

- Dec - No CAG meeting
- Jan - In Person Encouraged at Fountain City Hall

11. Upcoming Events

Thurs. Nov 21st, 6-7pm Liquid Lecture - COS - Food & Justice (Food to Power), Whistle Pig Brewing

11. Adjourn

Notes - Confirmed Presenters for Upcoming Meetings

- Jan: Brandon Bernard, Operations Manager of Water and Wastewater for Security Water and Sanitation Districts to present on PFAS
 - 20 min with 10 min for questions

Notes - Future Meeting Presentation Ideas

- Discussion of project reviews/development impacts
- CSU water conservation efforts
- Fish passage near Chilcotte Ditch, Fountain Creek Regional Park
- El Paso County Planning Department
- Water Quality topics
 - PFASs - CDPHE
 - AF CURE updates
 - CSU/City of CS Joint Funding Agreement for water quality testing
- Water Equity topics
- Amara - growth issues
- CO Stormwater Center
- Strategic planning updates
- Dredge and fill permitting
- Recreation in FC
- Wildlife
- Lessons learned from projects under MMF
- City of Fountain new reservoir