Fountain Creek Watershed District

Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee (MMFAC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2026 – 10:00 AM

Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of a Quorum:

The meeting was held virtually. Chair Alli Schuch called the meeting to order. A quorum was established.

Attendees:

- **Alli Schuch**, Executive Director & Chair, Fountain Creek Watershed District
- **Hadit Morales**, Outreach Assistant, Fountain Creek Watershed District
- **Mark Shea**, Vice Chair, Colorado Springs Utilities
- **Yvonne Wetzig**, Colorado Springs Utilities
- **Summer Slama**, CDOT / TAC Liaison
- **Steve Bauguess,** Stormwater Permit Coordinator, Pueblo County Public Works
- **Dominga Jimenez-Garcia**, Pueblo County Public Works
- **Terry Hart**, CAG Representative to the Board
- **Steve Rodriguez**, Operations Manager, Fountain Creek Watershed District
- **Chris Olson**, Wright Water Engineers (on behalf of Pueblo County)
- **David Willie**, City of Fountain / CAG Chair

Approve October Meeting Agenda:

The October 13, 2026 meeting agenda was approved by consensus, with the date corrected from August to October 13, 2026.

Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting:

The March 10, 2026 meeting minutes were approved by consensus as submitted.

Committee Member Comments & Representative Appointments:

In-Lieu Fee (ILF) Program Update

Mark Shea reported that the draft In-Lieu Fee (ILF) instrument is currently with GEI for final adjustments prior to submittal to the Interagency Review Team (IRT) for an imminently expected 45-day agency review. Following IRT review and District Board adoption, launch of the ILF program is anticipated for early 2027. An informational workshop for consultants, member governments, and landowners is scheduled for October 29, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Bear Creek Nature Center, with a virtual attendance option available.

Pueblo County Representative & Committee Secretary Appointment

Steve Bauguess introduced himself as the Permit Coordinator for Pueblo County Stormwater. Dominga Jimenez-Garcia confirmed that Pueblo County Board of Commissioners formally passed a resolution designating Steve Bauguess as primary representative (with Dominga Jimenez-Garcia as alternate) and Jonathan as secondary primary.

The committee formally recognized Steve Bauguess' appointment to the MMFAC. Mark Shea then

moved to nominate Steve Bauguess to fill the vacant committee Secretary position. Steve Bauguess accepted the nomination, Steve Rodriguez seconded the motion, and the committee approved the appointment unanimously.

Presentations / Current Business:

Financial Overview & Retainage Interest

Alli Schuch presented a financial update: the MMF investment account balance is currently just over $10.3 million, with $9.5 million allocated for MMF projects. A sub-account holding approximately $572,000 for project retainage (Eagle Ridge and Southmoor Drive) has accrued over $200,000 in interest to date (projected to reach $300,000–$400,000 upon final payout). Half of the retainage will be disbursed this year following fall maintenance, with the final check issued next year after another growing season. The committee discussed the utilization of accrued retainage interest. Following input from Terry Hart and Mark Shea, the committee confirmed the established consensus that interest earned on Monetary Mitigation Funds, including retainage sub-accounts—remains MMF funding and must be restricted to eligible mitigation activities under Condition 6 of the 1041 permit.

Resiliency Study Site Assessment Memo (Stantec)

Steve Rodriguez and Alli Schuch reviewed field notes provided by Stantec following their recent field reconnaissance along Fountain Creek (conducted with assistance from Colorado Springs Utilities). The field assessment evaluated priority reaches for future capital mitigation projects, highlighting four top candidate sites. Stantec is completing desktop analysis and is scheduled to deliver a full report by December 2026 or January 2027 to assist in prioritizing 2027 capital projects. Mark Shea requested that the final report include detailed, substantive descriptions of proposed process-based restoration activities.

Frost Ranch Project Update

Steve Rodriguez provided an update on the Frost Ranch project:

- **Design & Access:** Design is advancing from 60% to 90%. Project team assessments confirmed that property access through Aggregate Industries will not be necessary, avoiding additional land use agreements.
- **Landowner Coordination:** Discussions are ongoing with a downstream corporate landowner that submitted 42 detailed inquiries regarding intake infrastructure and water rights impacts. Legal counsel and staff are preparing responses.
- **Permitting & Schedule:** Anticipated revisions during FEMA Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR/LOMR) reviews—consistent with experience on Eagle Ridge and Southmoor—are expected to place construction in fall 2027.

Fall Maintenance & Fountain Creek Regional Trail Project

Steve Rodriguez reported on fall maintenance and regional trail activities:

- **Bar Farm Maintenance:** Hydroturf is conducting fall maintenance, including harvesting and dormant replanting of willows, seeding, top dressing, and invasive weed control.
- **Fountain Creek Regional Trail Paving:** The District is partnering with El Paso County Parks Department to manage project procurement and construction oversight for paving 1,050 linear feet of trail within the floodplain. El Paso County is funding the asphalt construction cost, leveraging District project management capacity.
- **Eagle Ridge & Southmoor Drive:** Replanting and routine vegetation warranty maintenance continue as scheduled.

2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Addendum

Alli Schuch presented the draft addendum to the CIP, which shifts Frost Ranch construction to fall 2027 and rolls over existing budget allocations without modifying the 2027 MMF Water Activity Enterprise budget. Chris Olson noted that the revised timeline allows additional time for potential WaterSMART grant funding awards.

Chris Olson moved to recommend approval of the 2027 CIP Addendum to the Water Activity Enterprise Board of Directors. Steve Boggas seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

No public comments were offered.

Next Meeting & 2026–2027 Schedule:

The next regular MMFAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2026. The December meeting is tentatively canceled pending the timing of Stantec's final resiliency report. The annual MMFAC meeting will take place in January 2027.

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned by consensus.