



## Board of Directors Meeting

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

April 18, 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. Mark Aliff – 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
Jay Kita	Small Municipalities
Mark Aliff	City of Pueblo
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. Recognition and remembrance of Jim Romanello, moment of silence
- c. Introduction of Guests: Mark Shae, Colorado Springs Utilities; Annie Berlemann, Colorado Springs Utilities; Jen Yoon, Colorado State University Fort Collins
- d. Approval of April WAE Meeting Agenda

Chair Hart requested any changes to April WAE Meeting Agenda. None were made so Chair Hart announced the April WAE Meeting Agenda approved by consensus.

2. Consent Calendar 9:05-9:10



# FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

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

3. Old Business 9:15-9:25
  - a. Project Updates
    - i. WAE Balance 4/15/25 = \$15,385,557.32
      1. 2025 Projects
        - a. Eagleridge
          - i. 70% completion
          - ii. On track to complete end of May
        - b. Southmoor Dr
          - i. Finished wall and working on final toe wood
          - ii. On track to complete end of May
        - c. MMF looking at potential 2026 projects
4. New Business – None
5. Executive Session – None
6. Adjourn WAE Meeting 9:20

Chair Hart adjourned the WAE Meeting.

7. Convene **District Board of Directors** Meeting 9:20-9:35
  - a. Approval of April District Board Meeting Agenda
  - b. Board Member "Watershed Moments"
    - i. Chair Hart is interested in watching the significant flow this spring and checking on FCWD projects. All appear to be holding up soundly.
  - c. Consent Calendar 9:35-9:45

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

8. Executive Director Report 10:35-10:45
  - a. A big thank you to Jim Romanello, "You will be missed!"
  - b. PPORA Pikes Peak Outdoor Industry Leader Award, presented on a Stewardship panel and was nominated for the award.
  - c. CDPHE hosted a meeting for the upcoming TMDL in development for the Fountain Creek Watershed. Next meeting is in January. 9 Element plan for E Coli.
  - d. In Lieu Fee Program – developing Pro Forma sample project to flesh out finance piece. Procurement process for investment manager for these new funds? RFP process or have Piper Sandler manage these funds as well? How much would we ultimately be managing? \$10s of millions, potentially.
  - e. Discussion continued regarding In Lieu Fee funds and how the FCWD will evolve as previous stipulations of MMF monies will not be required for the In Lieu Fee funds. The new program will hopefully be up and running in 2026 as MMF funds are being used up. ED Schuch received a scholarship to attend the Environmental Markets Conference in May in Seattle, WA related to In Lieu Fee programming development.



# FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

- f. Attended a meeting invited by Mayor Yemi of City of Colorado Springs regarding the #KeepitCleanCOS. A collaborative program with external partners, City of Colorado Springs Public Works, Operations and Maintenance, Stormwater Enterprise, Work COS, and Quality of Life Team, and Residents to keep our communities clean. Additional meetings to come.
- g. When would you like me to present to you/your Council or Commission?
- h. Outreach
  - i. Great American Cleanup – 45 events happening across the watershed
  - ii. Monthly Liquid Lectures
  - iii. Pueblo *Ride the Watershed* bike tour – Fri, May 30, 2025
  - iv. State of the Watershed – in development with new Strategic Planning consultants, potential time: Oct/Nov 2025

## 9. Old Business - None

## 10. New Business 10:45-11:10

- a. Strategic Planning
  - i. 2023 Strategic Plan in April Board Folder
  - ii. Plan Priorities: Sustainable funding; strengthening regional collaboration; improve District name recognition, our work, and raising awareness of growing watershed issues
  - iii. Memo from Counsel Atencio on sustainable funding options in Board Folder
    - 1. Establish service charges
    - 2. Mill Levies on all taxable properties in the District, issuance of bonds (no more than 5 mils) (approved by a vote)
    - 3. Improvement districts, special assessments for those districts (approved by a vote)
    - 4. Accept gifts, grants, and donations
    - 5. Certificates of participation
    - 6. Any other lawful means
    - 7. Statute amendment
    - 8. State tax is NOT an option, though municipalities/counties could establish a small sales tax increase for the District.
  - iv. Regional Collaboration
    - 1. Identification of projects/programs to support for member governments
    - 2. Participate in internal and external monthly meetings
    - 3. Host monthly events
  - v. Improve District Name Recognition
    - 1. Outreach & Education programming
    - 2. State of the Watershed event in November
    - 3. Media engagement – Fox 21, Pikes Peak Bulletin
    - 4. Community Presentations – Ark Basin Forum, PPORA Summit, Rotary, Execs, etc.
  - vi. June – In Person Board Strategic Planning Workshop
  - vii. Fri, July 11 – Invitation to see the CSU stream restoration pre-construction site on Pikes Peak

## 11. Presentation – Richard Skorman, FCWD Origins



# FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

- a. As a city that doesn't have its own substantial water source, Richard suggests that population growth should've stopped around 30,000 inhabitants.
- b. In 1999, 5 inches of rain in 48 hours, City of Colorado Springs' sewage system couldn't handle the amount and had backup and overflow in peoples' homes. Sewage was released into Fountain Creek and impacted all downstream communities all the way to farmers in La Junta and Rocky Ford.
- c. Fountain Creek was an intermittent stream – maybe flowing half the year – and now sees excessive flow due to the development of land and impervious surfaces in Colorado Springs in addition to the SDS returns.
- d. City of Colorado Springs continued to have a challenging history with stormwater and sewage management/prevention until a tax was finally established in 2018 to use on capital improvements including stormwater and sewage.
- e. In Richard's opinion, the best option is for growth of the city and El Paso County to slow down or stop.
- f. Richard's Rubbish Roundup – a cleanup crew nonprofit organization that was established due to the efforts of Creek Week and the Great American Cleanup and were motivated to clean up every week. The group cleans up areas around Colorado Springs and will help outfit other groups with cleanup materials.

## 12. Public Comment 11:10-11:20

- a. Mark Shae shared a brief presentation on a lengthy study from the USGS in collaboration with Colorado Springs Stormwater Enterprise: *Characterization of Suspended Sediment Flux and Streamflow Trend in the Fountain Creek Watershed, Colorado, 1998 through 2022*.
  - i. Demonstrates decrease of sediment transport at Janitell and Pinon (south of several FCWD completed projects).
  - ii. He will make a presentation available to share with Board members, TAC, CAG, and have USGS present to the Board.
- b. Some discussion was had on landscaping and minimizing stormwater impacts and overall water use through native planting, rain gardens, and water wise landscaping.

## 13. Executive Session

- a. Counsel Atencio requested the Board enter into Executive Session for conference with an attorney to discuss legal advice regarding the Greenview Trust claims targeting the District.
- b. Director Mills made a motion to enter into Executive Session, Director Estes seconded, and the Board entered into Executive Session.
- c. The Board returned to the regular meeting. Counsel Atencio shared the Board had a conversation regarding the Greenview Trust claims against the District. No decisions were made during Executive Session in regard to this matter.

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

- a. Friday, May 16
- b. Jun/Jul - no meetings
- c. Friday, Aug 15
- d. Friday, Sept 19
- e. Friday, Oct 17
- f. Friday, Nov 21



# **FOUNTAIN CREEK**

## WATERSHED DISTRICT

g. Dec - no meeting (tentative)

15. Adjourn Board Meeting 11:25

Chair Hart adjourned the Board Meeting.