



FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting

This meeting will be held in person at Fountain City Hall, 116 S. Main Street, Fountain, CO 80817, and online via Zoom. Meetings are open to the public.

May 16, 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

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
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
Jay Kita	Small Municipalities Representative, alternate
Alli Schuch	Executive Director
Stephane Atencio	Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

- b. Introduction of Guest: Angela Woolcott, Kearns and West; Caitlin Sheridan, Kearns and West; Sue Gonzalez, Walker Schooler Districts; Christopher Olney, Colorado Springs Utilities; Annie Berlemann, Colorado Springs Utilities
- c. Approval of May WAE Meeting Agenda

Chair Hart made a motion to approve the May WAE Meeting Agenda. The WAE Meeting Agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Consent Calendar 9:05-9:10

Chair Hart made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, the Consent Calendar was approved by consensus.



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3. Old Business 9:15-9:20

i. Project Updates – ED Schuch

1. WAE Balance 5.15.25 = \$13,908,078.61
2. Early May storm
 - a. Southmoor Drive site access wash outs and erosion under erosion blankets.
 - b. Eagleridge had erosion behind the berm on the east side, the west side held up well.
3. Frost Ranch
 - a. Received technical assistance grant to write a BOR WaterSmart Grant, but federal funds are frozen. If they open again that will be worked on to cover construction costs.
 - b. CWCB (Colorado Water Conservation Board) allows us to use the data, designs, and narratives to pursue their Water Plan grant, allowing an upgrade of 60% to 100% design.
 - c. Design modifications are underway after Lessons Learned evaluation from Santec, which will be presented on in August.

4. Adjourn WAE Meeting 9:20

Chair Hart adjourned the WAE meeting.

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

a. Approval of May District Board Meeting Agenda

Chari Hart made a motion to approve the May District Board Meeting Agenda. May District Board Meeting Agenda was approved by consensus.

b. Board member “Watershed Moments”

- i. No Watershed Moments were discussed.

c. Consent Calendar 9:35-9:45

Board member Estes made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Board member Wysong seconded and the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

6. Presentations 9:45-10:20

a. Strategic Planning – Kearns and West, Angela and Caitlin

- i. Digital communication is a strength, our reach is above average: E-Newsletters have a 44% open rate (42% on average) and a 4% click rate (2% on average), social media is being received well and is getting impressive numbers of engagement, website average monthly views have increased by 20%.
- ii. Creek Week: Participation in increasing, 2023 Creek Week participants tripled compared to 2014.
- iii. FCWD values and priorities align with the community, and the organization is getting more known within the public - strong brand recognition.
- iv. Suggestions for the FCWD to be a bridge between agencies and the community to pull everyone together.
- v. A more detailed work session focused on the In Lieu Fee program will occur on June 5th, 2025.

b. 2024 Audit – Biggs Koford, Max Neuman and Chris Jorgensen

- i. Presentation of the districts financial audit.



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- ii. Highlights the WAE fund changes, project finance changes, and explains that they are healthy and as expected.
- iii. Post audit letter captures required communication from auditors to Board about how the audit went. Highlights two recommendations related to internal controls:
 1. Contractor and project related expenses and how they are recorded. Recommended to be converted to an annual accrual basis instead of a cash basis.
 2. Recommended the Board considers adopting a formal investment policy, is the same recommendation as last year.

Chair Hart proposed a motion to approve the Audit and allow officers to sign the acceptance of the auditor. Board member Estes made a motion to approve the Audit. Board member Bills seconded, and the Audit was unanimously approved.

7. Executive Director Report 10:20-10:35 – ED Alli Schuch

- a. Steve Rodriguez and ED Schuch attended the Mile High Flood District Annual Symposium.
- b. Received funding to install two more rain gardens in the Stratton neighborhood, installs will be in June and October.
- c. Working with IMEG on grant identification. There's a report in the Board folder containing background information and a chart of opportunities outside of federal grants.
- d. There is a plan to do a ribbon cutting at the Southmoor Drive project site.
- e. TACAG meetings are postponed in the summer, but there will be a TACAG field trip on 7.11.25 to Pikes Peak to see Colorado Springs Utilities project work on beaver damn analogues that help slow water flow and catch sediment.
- f. In Lieu Fee Program: Finishing up Environmental Markets Conference in Seattle, received from WaterNow Alliance, and met with Rachael and Beth from the Division of Water Resources (DWR) to discuss a collaboration by helping modify landowner ponds and working it into the In Lieu Fee program.
- g. Received two grants from the Colorado Alliance of Floodplain and Stormwater Managers, will be using the money to do a free riparian restoration workshop for landowners on Fountain Creek (5.28.25).
- h. Watershed Risks: Paying attention to the CO drought monitor map and staying aware of Manitou Springs critical water issue.
- i. Outreach:
 - i. Rain barrel sale – sold ~100 rain barrels
 - ii. Monthly Liquid Lectures
 - iii. Pueblo Ride the Watershed Friday May 30th
 - iv. Working with Kearns and West for the State of the Watershed event for October/November
 - v. A new team member, yearlong Colorado College Fellow Lucy Rogers will be starting at the end of May
 - vi. Submitted 5-year budget for the next round of GOCO GenerationWild funding.
 - vii. Collaborations with the new GenerationWild group forming in Pueblo.
- j. In-person board strategic planning workshop with Kearns and West – Thursday June 5th
- k. June and July invoiced are to be approved via email.
- l. Next board meeting is Friday 8.15.25
- m. Request to make a map of the rain gardens we have helped create.



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8. New Business 10:35-10:40

a. District Treasurer

- i. Job consists of approving district invoices via Bill.com. Opening it up to the group to see if anyone is interested.
- ii. Board member Wysong is willing to accept the position. He has to receive the job description and go through the necessary legal processes before he is officially District Treasurer.

9. Old Business 10:40-10:45

a. Small municipality representative

- i. No nominations from the small municipalities have been received; a primary representative is needed. They must be approved by El Paso County and the City of Colorado Springs.

10. Public comment 10:45-10:55 – none

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

- a. Thursday, June 5, 2-5 PM – in person Board Strategic Planning Workshop, Fountain City Hall
- b. July – No meeting
- c. Friday, Aug 15
- d. Friday, Sept 19
- e. Friday, Oct 17
- f. Friday, Nov 21
- g. Dec - no meeting (tentative)

12. Adjourn Board Meeting 11:00

Chair Hart adjourned the Board Meeting.