

**Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District
Citizens Advisory Group**

**Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2018**

The meeting was held at:
City of Fountain, City Hall
116 S. Main Street, 2nd Floor
Fountain, CO

1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions

The February 9, 2018 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (FCWD) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Ms. Irene Kornelly, Chairperson, at 9:32 a.m. A quorum was noted, with the following CAG members in attendance:

Irene Kornelly – Chair and CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
Ian Hartley – Vice Chair
Mary Barber – Alternate Representative to the FCWD Governing Board and Web Manager
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary
Sherie Caffey
Darcie Hannigan
Kristine Lowenberg
Dana Nordstrom
Allison Plute
Ross Vincent
David Wooley

CAG Members Not Present:

Tom Ready

Also in Attendance:

Josh Watkins, TAC Representative to the CAG
Kevin Binkley, Alternate TAC Representative to the CAG
Pranay Sanadhya, Stantec
Terry Hart, Pueblo County Commissioner and FCWD Board Member

2. Approve Agenda of January 12, 2018 Meeting. Irene announced that the presentation by the Monetary Mitigation Fund Committee is postponed.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the amended February 9, 2018 Agenda was approved.

3. Approve Minutes of January 12, 2018 Meeting.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the January 12, 2018 minutes were approved.

4. Presentation: Needs Assessment of Flood Control Alternatives. Pranay Sanadhya,

Stantec. Pranay reported on the Needs Assessment process, a stakeholder-driven evaluation of various flood control measures to mitigate 100 year flood events on Fountain Creek in the leveed sections of Pueblo, while also protecting water rights holders in the Arkansas basin.

- Phase 1, the appraisal study, looked at four potential flood control projects, and their subsets.
 - A single-purpose mainstem dam on Fountain Creek for flood control only; either relocating or protecting I-25 and railroad infrastructure.
 - A multi-purpose mainstem dam on Fountain Creek for flood control, recreation, and other benefits; either relocating or protecting I-25 and railroad infrastructure.
 - Ten single-purpose side (off-channel) detention basins between Colorado Springs and Pueblo.
 - Single large side (off-channel) detention basin between Colorado Springs and Pueblo.
 - Phase 1 ended in January 2107, and produced a matrix containing a range of technical, environmental, social and economic criteria. This analysis was the starting point for evaluating alternatives carried forward to the Phase 2 study.
- Stakeholders in the Phase 2 study narrowed the alternatives by eliminating the permanent pool reservoir and the ten off-channel detention basins.
- An additional alternative was added for Phase 2 – Floodplain Management. Floodplain Management would include the projects identified by the Fountain Creek Master Plan and the WARSSS Study, including channel realignment, habitat improvement, and bank stabilization. The Clear Springs Ranch project is one example of the types of projects envisioned. Three to six small detention basins were also included in this alternative.
- Phase 2 design objectives were to mitigate a 100-year flood of Fountain Creek in Pueblo by reducing flow from 39,400 CFS to 14,000 CFS, to promote natural features like wetlands, and to promote channel stabilization.
- Stakeholders were a wide-ranging group, including water rights holders, representatives of Colorado Springs and Colorado Springs Utilities, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Southern Colorado Water Conservancy District, the Colorado Division of Water Resources, landowners and trusts, irrigators, environmental groups and the Fountain Creek Watershed District. Monthly stakeholder meetings ran from June to November of 2017.
- Evaluation criteria included safety, resiliency, constructability/cost, environment, community, and schedule.
- Analyses show only the Mainstem Dam would reduce a 100-year year flood from 39,400 CFS to 14,000 CFS at the USGS gauge. The Floodplain Management is the most permittable. Costs among the alternatives were similar, but O&M costs were lower for Floodplain Management and the Off Channel Dam. Other comparisons generally gave Floodplain Management an advantage. In terms of schedule, only Floodplain

Management had the ability to be phased in over time. The other alternatives required the entire project to be complete in order to show any benefit.

- The recommended alternative is the Floodplain Management Alternative. Funding would be easier to obtain, and in combination with additional projects inside Pueblo, areas affected by 100-year flooding would also be protected.
- The areas near Highway 47 and near Highway 50 could be protected by additional levees, flood-proof buildings, or raising their elevation above flood stage.
- The total estimated cost of Floodplain Management would range from \$180 million to \$240 million and take up to 20 years to fully implement. The estimated cost of localized flood control in Pueblo would range from \$7.5 to \$15 million.
- Next steps:
 - Prepare the final report after circulating the draft.
 - Present results to the public.
 - Commence planning and funding for Floodplain Management.
 - Incorporate individual projects into the District's Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee's Capital Improvement Plan.
- Terry Hart recommended making the formal presentation, including local flood control, in Pueblo, given its importance to that community.

5. Reports.

a. Governing Board Meeting. Irene reported on the January meeting of the Governing Board.

- The Board approved the TAC and CAG membership lists.
- The CWBC grant of \$190,000 for planning the work between 8th and 13th Streets. The District is contributing \$200,000.
- At the annual meeting of the Enterprise Board, Larry Atencio was elected Chair, Richard Skorman is Vice Chair, Irene is Secretary, and Jane Rhoades is Treasurer.
- There was a long discussion with Wells Fargo Bank, after which it was decided to invest an additional \$5 million into the portfolio set up for our funds.

b. TAC Meeting. Kevin Binkley reported that the TAC heard the presentation on Assessment of Alternatives, as well as the usual business of the TAC. Mary Barber requested the TAC provide her with the minutes currently missing from the website.

c. Outreach Group. Allison Plute reported on Outreach Group activities.

- As previously reported, the District is a recipient of a GOCO Inspire Grant to sponsor at-risk kids in outdoor activities. The proposed program includes career pathways. The District gets \$3,500 over three years, which will support Creek Week and or scoop the poop activities in southeastern Colorado Springs. A portion of the funds can go to our CC summer fellow.
- The fifth annual Great American Clean Up, sponsored by El Paso County, is April 21. There are 30-some locations, including Pikeview Reservoir and the Legacy Loop. Allison encouraged everyone to participate. Allison or Christine Lowenberg can provide more information.
- Dana Nordstrom has changed the Nature Center's April Stools Day Scoop the Poop Day to the 21st to align with the Great American Clean Up.
- The Brewshed Alliance held its first meeting of the year, and the MOU between the District and the individual members was revised from being limited to breweries to now include other entities. Colorado Springs Utilities and Rocky Mountain Field Institute are now partners, and other conservation-minded entities are interested. By broadening the

focus, Allison sees many more outreach activities, such as Pawtoberfest at Bear Creek Regional Park, which will have a beer garden. The Brewers Cup of Running is another opportunity for outreach.

- The updated District brochure is in draft form, and will be released for comment at some point.
- Darcie, Allison, and Mary have been working on an RFP for the District website.
- Allison announced that she has been named Outstanding Environmental Educator for the State of Colorado. The CAG unanimously agreed that it was well-deserved.
- Allison has been contacted by someone with the Fountain Creek Water Sentinels who expressed interest in the Watershed's activities, and the Watershed Outreach Committee will be working to incorporate the new person in some of our Pueblo outreach. There are many festivals and activities at which we could do outreach, and interested/engaged people in Pueblo are needed. Allison also asked whether anyone wanted to do brewery research in Pueblo, with the goal of expanding the Brewshed Alliance. There were a number of attendees who expressed interest.
- The next Watershed Outreach Committee meeting is February 22, 8:00 a.m. at the Ivywild School.
- Discussion followed, during which comments were made about using the District's brochure to promote the many projects we've done in the Pueblo area, the very popular skate park being just one. Terry felt strongly that we need widespread recognition as a positive force in the area to be able to eventually go with a ballot question for support after SDS.
- Along that line, Allison added that she and Larry Small are putting together a tour of our projects for elected officials, VIPs, and of course, District personnel. We will be hearing more on this in the future.

d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee. Irene reported that the committee has held off finalizing the CIP until the results from the Needs Assessment are in so that can be worked into future projects. Irene expects the committee to present the CIP to the Board in March. The CAG will also see the CIP in March.

e. Website and Facebook Page. Mary Barber pulled up the website and discussed recent link and document additions and changes. She asked for volunteers to help with suggestions for website products for when we eventually get funding for the new website.

6. Current Business

a. Project Reports. Larry Small was at the Piñon Bridge project site with the Army Corps of Engineers, so Irene reported on current projects.

- Design should be starting on the Pueblo project between 8th and 13th Streets. The CWBC design grant money should be coming in soon.
- The Masciantonio project is nearly done, with only the planting remaining for spring.
- The Highway 47 Bridge project is coming along.

b. Update to Yearly Calendar. Irene distributed copies of the updated annual CAG meeting calendar and asked that members suggest topics or field trips for future meetings.

7. Other Business.

- Terry spoke on the opportunity to partner with a number of state and local groups to enlarge the outdoor recreation activities at Runyon Lake, near the confluence in Pueblo.

A planning group is advancing some great ideas and the District has opportunities for partnering and leading on corridor issues in this effort. A YES Project (Youth – Entertainment – Sports) is floating around. He feels that little is in the way of this project except the railroad tracks and a lot of homeless people. Irene asked when we might get a presentation; Terry thought later in the fall might be possible.

- Darcie Hannigan spoke to announce that the Palmer Land Trust is sponsoring a free symposium for Women in Conservation at Gold Hills Mesa in Colorado Springs. The event features an impressive lineup of speakers, including Amy Beattie, formerly of Colorado Water Trust, currently a candidate for the state house; and Amanda Hill, the GOCO Open Space Program Coordinator. The event will be at Gold Hills Mesa, Thursday April 26 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Darcie said you can register online at the Palmer Land Trust website, and it's free. She made it clear that this is not a women's only event – men are invited.

9. Public Comment. There were no public comments.

10. Next Meeting. The next scheduled CAG meeting will be Friday March 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fountain City Hall, 116 W. Main, second floor meeting room.

10. Adjourn:

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:22 a.m.