

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

**Meeting Notes
April 12, 2019**

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 April 12, 2019 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (FCWD) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Mr. Ian Hartley, Vice Chair, at about 9:40 a.m. A quorum was not achieved, with only the following CAG members in attendance:

Ian Hartley – Vice Chair
Mary Barber – Alternate Representative to the FCWD Governing Board and Web Manager
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary
Judith Rice-Jones
David Woolley

CAG Members Not Present:

Irene Kornelly – Chair and CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
Nancy Bernard
Christine Lowenberg
Tom Ready
Josh Watkins – TAC Representative to the CAG

Also in Attendance:

Larry Small, FCWD Executive Director
Alli Schuch, Outreach Coordinator
Lisa Bachman, Bachman PR
Monica Rainey, Bachman PR
Jason Meyer, El Paso County Parks

- 2. Approve Agenda of Meeting.**

Without a quorum, the amended April 12, 2019 Agenda could not be approved.

- 3. Approve Minutes of the March 8 2019 Meeting.**

Without a quorum, minutes of the March 8, 2019 Meeting could not be approved.

4. Presentations

a. 2019 Public Relations and Publicity Plan. Lisa Bachman, Bachman PR.

Lisa Bachman presented her plan for the Fountain Creek Watershed District public relations and publicity campaign. Lisa began by stating the goals of the plan. These are:

- Ongoing communications to increase awareness and to build the District brand,
- To revitalize the excitement of the District Board,
- To achieve the District's ultimate goal: Generate sustainable revenue for the District.

Among the audiences to be reached are

- Elected officials in the District's nine-member governing board,
- Agencies that provide the District with oversight or funding,
- The general public in each of the jurisdictions,
- Educational institutions,
- Fort Carson and Air Force Academy natural resource planners and PIOs,
- The news media.

Strategies and Tactics include the following

- Fact sheets, one per month initially, incorporating graphics, photos, and maps; with possible timely topics as follows
- The District, overall, and projects, processes, etc.,
- Flooding risk and control, water quality and MS4 permit compliance,
- Erosion/sedimentation,
- Recreation/aesthetics/greenways, wildlife habitat, wetlands,
- Stormwater management.
- Testimonials, e-newsletters, and social media posts,
- News releases, story pitches for District events or projects,
- Assist/promote activities (i.e., Creek Week),
- Provide website content/updates,
- Presentations to Governing councils of member jurisdictions, service clubs, chambers of commerce, Housing and Building Association. Larry commented that the standard District presentation will be re-worked to make it more flexible and easily delivered by anyone, even members of the CAG.

To measure PR program effectiveness, Bachman PR proposes to collect the following statistics on program outputs

- e-newsletters distributed,
- News releases/story pitches delivered,
- District brochures distributed,
- Database growth,
- Public Opinion surveys distributed/completed.

Bachman PR will also measure outcomes, such as

- Increasing awareness of the District and District priorities, through
- Changes in public and business awareness from baseline to subsequent polls,
- Increasing sophistication of comments and questions during public meetings and events.

- Media/news articles published/aired,
- Tone/content of social media posts,
- Feedback from attendees at community events.

Questions, comments, and discussion ranged from whether we can make the State Fair work for us (not easily), to Bachman PR's level of involvement in future presentations about the District (production, not necessarily presentation), and the feasibility of reviving the popular SpringSpree Rubber Ducky Race.

b. Hanson Trailhead Bank Stabilization Project. Jason Meyer, El Paso County Parks. Jason presented the current design for this project, in which Parks plans to address the underlying problems that have led to repeated flooding and property loss around the trailhead and bridge. The project area is west of the City of Fountain, alongside and within Fountain Creek.

- Most FEMA funding requires re-building in the same configuration, which has led to the repeated failures of previous restoration work. This time the county received funds under the Public Assistance, Alternative Procedures (PAAP) Program. This allows the design to address the site weaknesses and significantly reduce the potential for property damage.
- The project is designed to restore the channel and stabilize the bank. The consultant is Bohannon Huston, Inc. They will collect data for hydraulic analyses, develop the design, and provide all construction documents.
- They produced three conceptual alternatives, with the chosen design featuring:
 - Moving the bridge downstream to a location where it does not constrict the channel. Another 200 feet of bridge will be added to further lessen the constriction.
 - Incorporating bioengineering into the design.
 - Five optional bendway weirs to protect the bank in the bend upstream of the bridge, where much public land was lost and the channel is now adjacent to private land.
 - Providing overflow channels to reduce scour around the bridge abutments and increase resiliency during high water events.
- The design will be submitted to FEMA in Spring 2019, for construction in fall of 2020. A 2018 cost estimate for this alternative was \$1.8 Million, which included the weirs and channel improvements. \$1.2 Million would fund just the minimum needed to move the bridge, strengthen a portion of the bank, and re-align the trail.
- The FEMA construction cap of \$1.2 million constrains the options in Alternative 2, but the shortfall could be made up with assistance from the District. FEMA funds would be used to move the bridge, perform some bank work, and establish trail connections. The District would fund the bendway weirs and channel improvements to make it a resilient project. FEMA is providing 67 percent of project funding; the District is funding 33 percent.
- Larry spoke about the District's decision to join the project.
 - There are four WARSSS projects in this stretch of the creek, parts of epo 17 and epo 18, epo 62, and part of epo 63. Altogether, this project removes 33.5 thousand tons of sediment annually, and over 3,000 feet of bank are being addressed.
 - By partnering with the county, the District is leveraging its funds to get a very good return on its investment.
 - The District is not required to do any design work or construction management. It's a winning partnership.

Recommend Approval, Disapproval, or Amendments to the District Board on the Hanson Creek Bank Stabilization Project.

Without a quorum, the CAG could only indicate its unofficial approval, disapproval, or amendments to the project as presented.

The CAG unofficially recommended the Board Approve the Hanson Creek Bank Stabilization Project.

5. Reports.

a. Governing Board Meeting. Larry reported on the March 22nd Board meeting.

- The Board approved the land use application by Colorado Springs Utilities diversion access request.
- The Board also approved the contract with Allison (Alli) Schuch.
- The next Board meeting will be April 26. This will be the District's 10th birthday. Larry invited the CAG to attend, meet the board members, and share in the birthday cake.

b. TAC Meeting. The TAC heard the Hanson Creek Trailhead presentation from El Paso County Parks in their meeting held Wednesday March 6. Larry reported that the sequencing of project visits and other tour details were the other main topics of discussion.

c. Outreach Group. Alli reported that she would be going to the Arkansas River Basin Roundtable Forum and will have a table there.

- There is a Sustain-A-Fest in Acacia Park Saturday July 27, and the District will be there.
- Alli will be presenting at the Children's Water Festival, 17 May. It's an all day event.
- The Great American Cleanup is April 27. Find an event to participate in or make your own!
- The Pikes Peak Children's Water Festival is May 17. We are a sponsor. Alli needs your help.

d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee. Larry presented the District's interest in partnering on the Hanson Creek Trailhead Project. Other opportunities were discussed.

e. Website and Facebook Page. Mary Barber and David Woolley reported that the new website is coming along nicely and gave a brief preview using a mock-up site. They're hoping to go live in May.

6. Project Reports Larry reported on current projects, summarizing: Everything is moving forward.

- Piñon Bridge should be complete this month.
- Barr Farms is progressing, but with some changes being necessitated by the diversion operator. Storms damaged the access road, also causing delays. After lowering the specification from 18 inch diameter to 12 inch, we had enough trees for the toewood bank reinforcement design, saving us \$700,000 over using rock.
- Barr Farms 2 concept design is developing.
- Pueblo Channel Project is getting ready for bid.

7. Current Business. Larry gave details on Alli Schuch's contract with the District as Outreach Coordinator.

- As her title suggests, her responsibility is Outreach Coordination, meaning that she will coordinate all District outreach activities.
- She reports to Larry, but will be self-managed.
- She will oversee all outreach, to include that being done by Bachman PR.
- She will help to develop new and revised literature and presentation material.
- She will continue to work with the CAG, as the CAG is the locus of the District's outreach.

7. Other Business. We will have another project site tour Friday, May 31st. We will meet at Fountain City Hall, at a time to be announced.

8. Public Comment. There were no public comments.

9. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held at May 10 at City of Fountain, City Hall, 116 S. Main, Fountain, CO.

10. Adjourn:

The meeting ended at approximately 11:45 a.m. without reaching a quorum.