

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

**Meeting Notes
May 10, 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 May 10, 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
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary
Christine Lowenberg

CAG Members Not Present:

Irene Kornelly – Chair and CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
Mary Barber – Alternate Representative to the FCWD Governing Board and Web Manager
Nancy Bernard
Tom Ready
Judith Rice-Jones
Josh Watkins – TAC Representative to the CAG
David Woolley

Also in Attendance:

Larry Small, FCWD Executive Director
Alli Schuch, FCWD Outreach Coordinator

- 2. Approve Agenda of Meeting.**

Without a quorum, the May 10, 2019 Agenda could not be approved.

- 3. Approve Minutes of the March 8 2019 Meeting and Notes of the April 12 2019 Meeting.**

Without a quorum, minutes of the March 8, 2019 and April 12 2019 Meetings could not be approved.

4. Presentation: District 10-Year Performance Report, Larry Small – FCWD Executive Director.

Larry reviewed the District's first decade's worth of projects, programs, and financials.

- Comprehensive Planning Projects. Larry began with the District's involvement in fourteen comprehensive planning projects.
 - The Fountain Creek Corridor Restoration Master Plan (2011) was the first conceptualized vision for Fountain Creek between the southern boundary of Colorado Springs and the confluence with the Arkansas in Pueblo. This is the high-level document that is the foundation for all subsequent plans. It sets out specific projects, methods/techniques and mentions a greenway.
 - The Fish Marking Study, partially funded by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, followed. We helped fund a USGS study that tagged fish at the confluence of the Arkansas and Fountain Creek and then tracked them upstream. The study led to construction of a fish ladder over a diversion structure that had blocked fish movement. An interesting result of the study was that only one tagged fish was found upstream of the diversion. Speculation was that a heron had captured the fish, but then dropped it upstream as it was flying.
 - The Drainage Criteria Public Policy (2012) was also funded by CWBC. They surveyed the policies of the constituent governmental entities, summarized their similarities and differences, and set a plan of working groups to establish a single set of criteria for the entire region. The District Drainage Criteria Manual likewise resulted from this effort.
 - The USGS Flood Control Study, (2013) was funded by Colorado Springs Utilities as required by the 1041 permit for SDS. Numerous scenarios, involving a variety of dams, pipelines, or detention facilities were examined, all based on reducing flows at the Pueblo gauge.
 - The USGS Post-Burn Water Quality Evaluation (2014) was funded by Colorado Springs Utilities, the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, and the District, using water quality data from both before and after the fire. Although increases in organic phosphorus and nitrogen were found, there were no hazardous materials, as would have likely been found if industrial sites had been involved.
 - The CAG was awarded the CDPHE-funded Outreach Communications Plan (2015) and those funds are still in use today for our outreach activities.
 - The CWCB, Colorado Springs Utilities, Colorado Springs, El Paso County, and the District funded the Upper Fountain Creek and Cheyenne Creek Restoration Master Plan (2015). These are the foundational documents for restoration in those two watersheds.
 - The Water Rights Protection Task (2015) was associated with our flood control studies. The purpose was to determine how detention facilities on the Fountain could function without injuring junior water rights holders. It was found purchasing 350 acre feet of water in Pueblo reservoir for augmenting downstream flow would mitigate that impact.

- The Monument Creek Watershed Restoration Plan (2016), funded by the State Department of Local Affairs, used the same methods and coalition as the Upper Fountain Creek and Cheyenne Creek Restoration Master Plan process. Colorado Springs Stormwater, Utilities, and El Paso County are using these plans in their ongoing restoration work.
- The 2016 Flood Control Alternatives Needs Assessment looked at scenarios from the USGS Flood Control study of 2013: a dam and ten detention facilities. We added one large detention facility to the study. Alternatives were evaluated, but not eliminated.
- The Fountain Creek Corridor WARSSS Assessment (2017) identified projects determined by sedimentation and erosion.
- The District Design Criteria Manual was also completed in 2017.
- The Flood Control Alternatives Needs Assessment took the alternative flood control measures evaluated in the Flood Control Alternatives Evaluation Study, added Flood Plain Management, and determined the needs/costs associated with each alternative.
- The Flood Plain Management Opportunities Study will be complete this year.
- Other Planning Projects. The District performed other planning studies with less expansive scopes.
 - The Fountain Creek Watershed Stormwater Management Study was performed because Colorado Springs Utilities and the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority wanted to know the financial magnitude of the stormwater issue. Summit Economics did the study and concluded that the issue is a billion dollar problem spread among the various jurisdictions.
 - The District performed a service for El Paso County, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo by writing and submitting the GOCO River Corridor Regional Grant Application for \$2.4 million. The money was awarded in 2012. None of the award went to the District; the funds went to the El Paso County Nature Center, Colorado Springs' natural playground in America the Beautiful Park, the extension of the Front Range Trail through Clear Springs Ranch, and the Pueblo Skate Park.
 - The District Financing Feasibility Study (2013) looked at alternatives for funding the District. The study concluded that the most feasible avenue is through a mil levy which would require a vote in both counties and provided the roadmap to get there.
 - When the District was completing the Design Criteria Manual, Colorado Springs Stormwater requested we evaluate the NOAA Atlas 14 24-Hour Storm Criteria for the Fountain Creek Watershed and paid us \$44,500 (2017).
 - The City of Fountain Reservoir Feasibility Study resulted from a group of citizens who asked Fountain City Council to look into creating a reservoir at the large cut bank at Riverside Mobile Home Park. As a service to the City of Fountain, the District wrote a report outlining the necessary steps and some ballpark estimates of the cost.
 - The District, through its Monetary Mitigation Committee, has done two Capital Improvement Plans, 2018 and 2019, for the Water Activity Enterprise.

- At the request of Pueblo County Commissioner Terry Hart, the District performed the Pueblo County/Pueblo West Williams Creek Channel Assessment (2019). The creek has undersized culverts, flows onto Purcell and other roads, is full of sludge and trash, and stinks. The plan represents a \$450,000 project. Larry will be meeting with the two jurisdictions to go over the details.
- Construction Projects. Thus far, the District has managed twelve construction Projects.
 - The Pueblo Sediment Collection/Removal Project (2011) and the Pueblo Off-Channel Detention Basin (2011) were successful demonstration projects that proved their concepts, but both have now been superseded by newer projects and removed from operation.
 - The Frost Ranch Bank Stabilization Project (2012) involved 400 feet of bank stabilization as a demonstration project. Floods caused later disruption of some of the bank work, but the willows have grown back and the channel work remains today. It proved the method was viable for the purpose, and the same method was used in some locations on the Highway 47 Project.
 - The Pueblo Levy Dredging (2017) went from 8th Street to the confluence with the Arkansas.
 - The Masciantonio Trust Bank Stabilization Project was complete in 2018, as was the Highway 47 Bank Stabilization and Channel Realignment.
 - Barr Farm Phase I Bank Stabilization and Channel Realignment, Piñon Bridge Bank Stabilization and Channel Realignment, and the Pueblo Channel Bank Stabilization and Channel Realignment projects were all started in 2018 and are in various stages of design, construction, or nearing full completion.
 - Barr Farm Phase II Bank Stabilization and Channel Realignment and the Overton Road Bank Stabilization are in design and won't go into construction until fall 2019.
- Land Use Applications. The District approves all land uses in the Corridor – the FEMA-defined 100-year floodplain south of the city of Fountain and north of the city of Pueblo, and has recommending authority (notice and comment) outside the corridor throughout the watershed. The District has processed and approved eight Land Use Applications and denied one. This authority has generated \$14,000 of revenue.
- District Income and Expenses. From May 1, 2009 to April 10, 2019, the District has received income of \$3,368,019. Expenses have been \$2,993,186, leaving a net income of \$374,833.
- Enterprise Income and Expenses. From May 1, 2010 to April 10, 2019 The Water Enterprise has received \$47,489,588. Expenses have been \$16,642,737, leaving \$30,848,907 for future projects.
- Creek Week. Creek Week has had five successful years. A quick summary:
 - 19 Organizations and Individuals on the Steering Committee,
 - 39 Cash and In-kind Sponsors,
 - 9,774 Participants,
 - 349 Crews,
 - 19,548 Volunteer Hours,
 - \$469,152 Value of Volunteer Hours,
 - 84.2 Tons of Trash Removed,

- All nine District-represented governments, plus Woodland Park, Trinidad, and Greenhorn Valley participated this past year.
- Next Creek Week is September 28 to October 8, 2019. Save the dates!

5. Reports.

a. **Governing Board Meeting.** Larry reported on the April 26 Board meeting.

- The Board approved Alli Schuch's contract for Outreach Coordination.
- Lisa Bachman also gave her presentation to the Board.
- The Board heard the presentation on the District's 10-year performance. Birthday cake was had.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Friday the 17th, because of the holiday. There is no business on the agenda.

b. **TAC Meeting.** The TAC meeting apparently centered on the tour of projects and reports on the work they are doing.

c. **Outreach Group.** Alli reported on Outreach issues.

- She has implemented an outreach tracking document to log all the events we could or will be participating in. She passed around a hard copy as an FYI to potential volunteers.
- New people have been added to the Creek Week steering committee for this year. Alli envisions the committee being split into a working group and an advisory group. People have a hard time making meetings; so much of this year's committee work will be done by phone.
- Pueblo County has a new Trash Tacklers program targeting illicit dumping. The director of the program has expressed interest in being on the Creek Week steering committee.
- Fourteen groups have already been confirmed for Creek Week. As soon as our intern gets on board, they will send out mailers to all of last year's groups giving them first right of refusal on their sites for this year. Hopefully that will get more people signed up early.
- We're also looking for sponsors for this year. Alli brought sponsorship information for CAG members to approach their local businesses with. She asks that she be informed of any sponsor recruiting efforts so she can track them all and avoid unnecessary duplication.
- Trails and Open Space Coalition (TOSC) has a Creek Week page on their web site under Programs.
- Alli is working to get the Brewshed Alliance active again this year. Encourage your local brewery to join. Alliance members hold at least one Creek Week fundraiser per year. Jack got a bunch of children's watershed activity/coloring books from Jerry Cordova at Colorado Springs Water Resources. These were to be taken to various Brewshed members.
- The tour of projects is coming up, May 31, so sign up!
- The Kids Fishing Derby will be held at South Catamount Reservoir on Pikes Peak this year. Pikeview Reservoir is having water quality issues, so they can't stock there. The District is partnering with Catamount Institute and Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

d. **Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee.** Larry reported that a landowner with four WARSSS projects requested the District put his property on the capital improvements list. He has funding from various governmental entities for some of the projects and for clearing trash and debris from the creek. The committee will look into it for 2020. The only other 2020 project will be the Hanson Creek Trailhead with El Paso County. Larry thinks it's best to wait for the results of the Flood Plain Management Opportunities Study before scheduling any more projects.

e. Website and Facebook Page. There was no report. Neither David nor Mary was present. A demonstration of the new web page design is expected soon.

6. Current Business. Larry previously reported on the projects during his presentation. Everything is moving along well.

7. Other Business.

- **Tour of Projects.** Discussion centered on planning for the tour. Participants will meet at Fountain City Hall at 8:30, and then proceed to the Hanson Creek Trailhead before going to the other project locations.
- **CAG Membership and Attendance.** The problem of the CAG being unable to muster its members into a quorum was the topic of discussion. The bylaws permit a member to be dropped after three missed meetings, but those present were not willing to take that sort of action at the time. Larry said he'd write Tom Ready. Jack said he'd check with Nancy Bernard about naming an alternate. Any member can send an alternate or representative if unable to attend. Representatives do not need to be Board approved.

8. Public Comment. There were no public comments.

9. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. June 14 2019, at City of Fountain, City Hall, 116 S. Main, Fountain, CO.

10. Adjourn: The meeting ended at approximately 11:10 a.m. without reaching a quorum.