

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

**Meeting Notes
July 12, 2019**

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

- 1. [0.19.55] Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions.** The July 12, 2019 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (FCWD) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Ms. Irene Kornelly, Vice Chair, at about 9:40 a.m. A quorum was not achieved, with only the following CAG members in attendance:

Irene Kornelly – Chair and CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board

Ian Hartley – Vice Chair

Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary

Mary Barber – Alternate Representative to the FCWD Governing Board and Web Manager

CAG Members Not Present:

Nancy Bernard

Christine Lowenberg

Tom Ready

Judith Rice-Jones

Josh Watkins – TAC Representative to the CAG

David Woolley

Also in Attendance:

Anne Berlemann, Colorado Springs Utilities

Alli Schuch, FCWD Outreach Coordinator

- 2. Approve Agenda of Meeting.**

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

- 3. Approve Minutes of the June 14, 2019 Meeting.**

Without a quorum, minutes of the June 14, 2019 meeting could not be approved.

4. Presentation: Fountain Creek Watershed E. coli Study. Anne Berlemann of Colorado Springs Utilities presented the Nine-Element Plan for Management of E. coli by AF CURE (the Arkansas-Fountain Coalition for Urban Rivers Evaluation). The Plan and presentation are both posted on the District's website (www.fountaincrk.org).

- The EPA requires nine elements be addressed in a Watershed Plan:
 - Identify causes and sources of pollution.
 - Estimate pollutant loading into the watershed and the expected load reductions.
 - Describe management measures that will achieve load reductions and targeted critical areas.
 - Estimate amounts of technical and financial assistance and the relevant authorities needed to implement the plan.
 - Develop an information/education component.
 - Develop a project schedule.
 - Describe the interim, measurable milestones.
 - Identify indicators to measure progress.
 - Develop a monitoring component.
- The causes and sources of E. coli pollution in the Fountain Creek Watershed include the following regulated point sources:
 - Ten major domestic wastewater treatment plants.
 - Two Phase I MS4 Stormwater permit holders.
 - Ten Phase II MS4 Stormwater permit holders.
 - Numerous Non-Standard MS4 permit holders.
- Unregulated non-point E. coli sources in the Watershed include the following:
 - Human waste from homeless camps, leaking septic systems or Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTSs), and illicit RV waste dumping.
 - Pet Waste – approximately 350,000 dogs in the Colorado Springs area produce a total of 92,400 lbs of waste annually.
 - Wildlife.
 - Livestock.
- E. coli pollution loads were analyzed with respect to flow regimes in the creek, e.g., high, moist conditions, mid-range, dry conditions, and low flow.
 - Load reductions during high flow events needed at 11 out of 12 stream sampling locations.
 - Increases in wet weather loading start at the Monument Creek at North Gate location through the urban corridor.
 - Loading largely attenuates through the rural reach of the Fountain Creek Corridor.
 - Loads slightly increase from the Fountain Creek at Pueblo location to the confluence with the Arkansas River.
 - Upper Fountain Creek is impaired during all flow regimes.
 - Most exceedances occur during the recreation season of May-October.
 - Wastewater treatment facilities must meet permit limits and report permit violations.
 - No wastewater effluent was reported as exceeding stream standard.
 - At multiple locations effluent contributes flow with very low E. coli levels, diluting overall concentrations.
 - A 2007-2008 USGS E. coli DNA study suggests high E. coli concentrations in Upper Fountain Creek during warm months is likely attributable to birds not humans or ruminants
 - The E. coli impairment changes in different parts of Fountain Creek suggest different contributing sources.
- Strategies for water quality improvements-nonpoint. There are over 50,000 OWTSs in El Paso and Pueblo Counties. Potential control measures include:
 - Review permits and maintenance records, use aerial photography and dye testing.
 - Use mapping to identify locations, ages, and historical information.

- Provide education and outreach to owners of OWTSSs, homeowners, and RV parks.
- Potential control measures for homeless camping:
 - Encourage development of additional shelters and support services..
 - Partner with organizations to address homelessness.
 - Perform ongoing cleanup of homeless camps.
 - Provide increased access to public restrooms/alternative waste disposal.
 - Adopt and enforce codes that prohibit camping near public waterways.
- Potential control measures for livestock:
 - Fence off stream corridors to exclude livestock from riparian areas.
 - Divert runoff away from pens and manure stockpiles.
 - Remove manure from drainage ditches and stream channels.
- Potential control measures for pet waste:
 - Install signs instructing pet owners to pick up pet waste, pet waste bags and disposal containers
 - Adopt and enforce pet waste ordinances
 - Establish Education/Outreach programs
 - Develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for dog parks
 - Locate dog parks away from environmentally sensitive areas
 - Maintain vegetative buffers along streams to discourage access
 - Explore options for pet waste composting.
- Potential control measures for wildlife:
 - Reduce food sources available to rural wildlife.
 - Manage garbage, dumpsters and litter.
 - Install bird roosting deterrents.
 - Consider population controls and habitat modifications that may reduce bird waste input.
- Strategies for wastewater/stormwater quality improvements:
 - Eliminate cross-connections between wastewater and storm water, both direct (improperly connected lines) and indirect (leaking wastewater infiltrates stormwater systems).
 - Programmatic inspections and maintenance
- E. coli best management practices (BMPs) and monitoring plans are either in-place or sufficient guidance is given in the Plan that individual entities can readily implement them.
- Given the size of the watershed, the complexity of contributing E. coli sources within the watershed, and the multitude of unknowns, progress will be measured by:
 - Any reduction in E. coli concentrations within the watershed.
 - Achieving a more comprehensive understanding of the nonpoint sources contributing to increased loading
 - Successful education of citizens about their role in helping to reduce E. coli levels.
- Next Steps
 - There is a continuing need for additional data collection and analysis.
 - Verifying locations and ages of OWTSSs throughout the watershed (eliminate the knowledge/data gap).
 - Review locations of active/inactive wells, map infrastructure, obtain additional water quality data, and review records.
 - Review available data, consider additional sampling, and engage additional appropriate stakeholders.
 - Based on this stakeholder process, a map has been developed proposing new sampling locations.
 - Much of this work will require resources so exploring grant opportunities is high priority.

5. Reports.

a. Governing Board Meeting. [1.10.36] There was no report.

b. TAC Meeting. Irene reported that the TAC did not meet.

c. Outreach Group. [1.10.50] Alli reported on Outreach issues.

- There will be a Brewshed tabling at the upcoming Brewers Cup full moon runs. Volunteers are needed.
- July 20 is a massive Fountain Creek clean up, from Dorchester Park all the way out to Manitou. Trails End Tap House will donate. That day is a Brewshed/Creekweek fundraiser. 15% of all proceeds go to Creek Week.
- There will be a Creek Week meeting at the new Peaks and Pines in Fountain on the 22nd of July.
- We were featured as an inland partner by Ocean Conservancy.
- Colorado College has secured \$15,000 to support Creek Week next year. They will fund six students to serve on the steering committee from January through October.

d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee. Irene reported that no decisions have been made regarding next year's capital improvements plan. Their next meeting will be July 16.

e. Website and Facebook Page. Mary demonstrated various features of the new webpage, and how to navigate within it.

Mary also reported that the Peak Alliance for Sustainability has a category within Peak Radar and that Creek Week and many of our other events would qualify for publicity in that category. Any input from the District is needed two weeks prior.

6. Current Business. There was no Current Business.

7. Other Business. There was no Other Business

8. Public Comment. There were no public comments.

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

10. Adjourn: The meeting ended at approximately 10:50 a.m. without reaching a quorum.