

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

**Meeting Minutes  
November 8, 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 November 8, 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 9:36 a.m. A quorum was achieved, with the following CAG members in attendance:

Ian Hartley – Vice Chair  
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary  
Mary Barber – Alternate Representative to the FCWD Governing Board and Web Manager  
Nancy Bernard  
Velma Campbell  
Tom Ready  
Jamie Valdez  
David Woolley

**CAG Members Not Present:**

Irene Kornelly – Chair and CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Christine Lowenberg  
Judith Rice-Jones  
Josh Watkins – TAC Representative to the CAG

**Also in Attendance:**

Larry Small, FCWD Executive Director  
Alli Schuch, Outreach Coordinator  
Tom Hughes, Visitor, Green Mountain Falls

- 2. Approve Agenda of Meeting.**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the November 8, 2019 Agenda was approved.**

- 3. Approve Minutes of the October 11, 2019 Meeting.**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, Minutes of the October 11, 2019 Meeting were approved.**

#### 4. Presentations

**a. iNaturalist: Fountain Creek Watershed Biodiversity Study, Jamie Valdez.** Jamie is the chair of the Sangre de Cristo Sierra Club group and vice chair of the Fountain Creek Water Sentinels.

- The iNaturalist platform is a joint initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, and this project is set up using the iNaturalist platform.
- Fountain Creek Water Sentinels is an issue team of the Sierra Club and is supported by both the Sangre de Cristo and the Pikes Peak groups. Their mission is to protect, preserve and restore the Fountain Creek Watershed. Among their many functions are water quality monitoring and community education.
- Water Sentinel data is used by various state agencies, including the Departments of Parks and Wildlife and Public Health and Environment. Water quality indicators of alkalinity, hardness, dissolved oxygen, and pH are currently recorded. DPW receives identical samples and runs metals and nutrients. The Sentinels are hoping to perform coliform counts in the future.
- The Fountain Creek Watershed biodiversity survey is another activity.
- Citizen observations are important for measuring biodiversity, a key indicator of watershed health.
- To participate in the survey, people are encouraged to submit observations of both flora and fauna, including photographs and location if possible, along with attempts to identify.
- An observation is a photo taken of an individual representative of a plant, animal, insect, etc.
- Since January 2019, there have been 14,000 observations in the watershed, involving 2,500 species. The most common submittal is the mule deer. The online community will also assist in identification or confirmation.
- Jamie encouraged the audience to register on iNaturalist and submit observations. Make observations within 50 feet of a stream or dry stream channel within the Fountain Creek watershed. This is the link: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/fountain-creek-watershed-biodiversity-survey>
- [0.30.0] Jamie uses the catch phrase “We’re all downstream.”

**b. 2020 Budget for Fountain Creek Watershed District, Larry Small, Executive Director.** Larry presented the projected 2020 consolidated budget. It was presented to the Board during the September 27th meeting, as statutorily required. [Editor’s Note: The audio of this portion of the meeting is unusable in many parts. Only major categories are reported here.]

- Revenues from all sources are forecast at \$11,119,926.
- Operating expenses are expected to be \$245,020 with project expenses at \$15,240,000. Total expenditures are forecast to be \$15,499,420.
- The estimated 2020 balance is \$18,715,149.

#### 5. Reports.

**a. Governing Board Meeting.** Larry Small reported on the October Board meeting.

- The Board heard a presentation from Colorado College giving the details of the six student interns we will have working for us next year. The six are funded by CC. In addition, we will also have an intern helping with Creek Week, funded by the District.
- The Board approved Velma Campbell and Jamie Valdez for membership in the CAG.
- The Enterprise Board approved the 2020 Capital Improvement Plan.
- Donala Water and Sanitation District sent a \$20,000 check, related to recurring SDS payments.

**b. TAC Meeting.** Larry reported that there was discussion of providing a TAC liaison to the CAG. Some current officers have indicated they will be stepping down and will have to be replaced.

**c. Outreach Group.** Allison reported on Outreach issues, primarily the Creek Week wrap-up.

- There were a total of 3,202 volunteers from 106 groups, a record!
  - There was actually 10,000 lbs less trash collected – hopefully indicating that we are making headway.
  - We also saw a \$10,000 reduction in contributions. We also received no support from Utilities, with respect to repro and office support.
  - Many new outreach efforts are beginning, including “Liquid Lectures” at various Brewshed breweries.
- December - January 2019-2020 Outreach Report (submitted by Alli Schuch, Outreach Coordinator. )
- 12/2 Met with City Communications about Tree Planting Challenge, Bachman PR meeting, Pueblo meeting prep
  - 12/3 Soil program prep, presentations to Woodland Park and Lake George schools
  - 12/4 Enviroscope programs for Challenger Middle School, CW presentation prep, met with David Wooley, meeting with Pueblo contacts about 2020 initiatives
  - 12/5 Met with April Speake from CS Utilities about 2020 initiatives, Creek Week planning, CC interview prep
  - 12/6 Creek Week summary presentation to District Board
  - 12/9 CC interview prep, meeting with Melody Daughterty from Manitou Springs about Pollinator program, PR work, CC interviews
  - 12/10 Attended GOCO Generation Wild partners meeting, met with Lauren Collier about a potential fundraiser for Creek Week/Brewshed
  - 12/11 Met with Ryan Trujillo from City of CS about tree planting, Creek Week, Sustain-a-Fest etc., CC interviews
  - 12/12 Developing CC and CSU partnership contracts, Brewshed Liquid Lecture with CO Water Trust
  - 12/13 Met with Birgit Landin from CSU, Brewshed work, CC candidate announcements
  - 12/16 Met with Mike Essam from City of Manitou about Creek Week, met with Nancy Fortuin and Karen Berchtold about District/Manitou projects
  - 12/17 Creek Week/CC work, helped brew Brewshed Ale at Cerberus Brewery, met with Karl Flowers at Formstack to begin process of document updates for CW.
  - 12/18 Met with Tish at Manitou Brewing for 2020 initiatives, met with Jane Mannon from CUSP about Brewshed work.
  - 12/19 Bachman PR meeting, Fishing Derby planning meeting, CW work
  - 12/20 2020 CAG, Brewshed, CW work
  - 12/23 CC/CW kickoff meeting planning, CC contract work, 2020 planning
  - 12/30 CC/CSU contract work, Brewshed planning
  - 1/6 Formstack documents, CC contract work and planning
  - 1/7 2020 District planning, outreach reporting, Fishing Derby coordination.

**d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee.** Larry’s report on the Monetary Mitigation Fund Committee’s recent meeting summarized the current Flood Plain Management process.

- The committee looked at some of the products generated by the Flood Plain Management Alternatives Study. Pueblo County is complete; El Paso County is still in process.
- Rather than look at individual sedimentation/erosion projects, as was done for the WARSSS Study, the FPM Study is identifying project blocks, or longer stretches of the creek, that require numerous individual projects. Relevant WARSSS projects are being incorporated into each overall block.
- A block would likely encompass most of the following potential FPM products: grade control, bank stabilization, channel re-alignment, wetlands restoration or creation, side detention, and flood plain re-connect.

- There will still be individual projects between blocks, which will be addressed as well.
- The process will prioritize blocks rather than individual projects.
- The cost to restore an individual block could surpass \$30 million. We will finally have an accurate cost to restore the corridor from Colorado Springs to the Arkansas.

**e. Website.** Mary Barber commented that it might be useful to look at the website's organization with Outreach more in mind.

- She thought it might be better to bring the fact sheets and newsletters into an immediately visible location.
- It was asked whether a more easily downloadable file of the WARSSS Report could be made available. Its large size prevents many interested people from using it. Larry thought that the report could be made available without the data-intensive maps, making it more manageable for general users.

**6. Current Business.** Larry gave an update on current projects.

- Barr Farms Phase I and Overton Rd are complete.
- The Pueblo Channel is ready to start.
- Barr Farms Phase II has purchased all the necessary trees for the toewood bank work.
- There is a 12 inch high pressure gas line somewhere in the project area, but the gas company cannot find it. Construction will eventually proceed based on the assumption that it's deep enough that no harm will come to it.

**7. Other Business.**

- There was no point in continuing the discussion of the proposed Fountain Creek Collaboration.
- Jack Wallick introduced a visitor, Tom Hughes, a Green Mountain Falls contractor who does various construction projects, many of which involve water. It was hoped Tom might want to join the CAG representing small municipalities.
- The CAG discussed the need for more members with the upcoming push for more outreach activity. CAG members were asked to check the by-laws for statutorily-required representatives and nominate such persons for membership in the CAG. Bylaws are under District Board's page on the website. The search function also returns that page.

**8. Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

**9. Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. January 10, 2020, at Fountain City Hall, 116 S. Main, Fountain, CO.

**10. Adjourn:**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.**