



FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED

Flood Control And Greenway District

Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Meeting Minutes Wednesday April 3, 2019 - 1:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order, Introductions, Establishment of a Quorum

The meeting was held at Fountain City hall, 116 S. Main Street, Fountain, Colorado. A quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance

Andra Ahrens	City of Pueblo, Water Quality
Joshua Carpenter	US Army Corps of Engineers
Mike Essam	City of Manitou Springs, Stormwater Manager
Jeff Hawkins	City of Pueblo, Stormwater
Jim Heckman	Fountain Sanitation District
Dominga Jimenez-Garcia	Pueblo County, Public Works
Jason Meyer	El Paso County, Parks
Brian Mihlbachler	USAF Academy
Lisa Miller	US Geological Survey
Richard Mullydy	City of Colorado Springs, Stormwater
Joseph Rasmussen	City of Colorado Springs, Water Services
Jeff Rice	El Paso County, Engineering
Mark Shea	Colorado Springs Utilities
Larry Small	FCWFCGD, Executive Director
Brandy Williams	City of Fountain, Engineering

Others in Attendance

Annie Berlemann	Colorado Springs Utilities
Oun Brown	Bohannon Huston, Inc.
Brad Hartmann	El Paso County
Doug Hollister	State of Colorado Division of Water Resources, Division #2 Water Commissioner
Jerod Lee	Bohannon Huston, Inc.
Julia McCarthy	USEPA, Region 8
Kenny Morris	Fort Carson
James Roberts	U.S. Geological Survey

2) Approve Agenda – April 3, 2019

A motion was made by Andra Ahrens to approve the agenda, seconded by Jim Heckman. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

3) Approve Minutes – March 6, 2019

A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Andra Ahrens, seconded by Mark Shea. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

4) **Committee Member Comments**

- Mark Shea introduced Doug Hollister, State of Colorado Division of Water Resources, Division #2 Water Commissioner and ask Doug to provide a brief background of his duties and responsibilities as the local water commissioner. Doug provided a self-introduction stating the Division of Water Resources is tasked with administering and monitoring water rights noting that Fountain Creek is very unique because of the amount of regional flows. Doug stated that he would be happy to be a resource to help the TAC identify areas that may be impacted by the work of future projects. Doug believes it would be beneficial for all involved to get any potential impacts identified early in the process.

- Mark Shea, Brandy Williams and Executive Director, Larry Small all felt it would be beneficial to have Doug Hollister sit on the Technical Advisory Committee as an official member. Doug stated he would be happy to sit as an official member and either he or the Deputy Water Commissioner, Jacob Olsen would be attending future meetings. Mark Shea made a motion to add Doug Hollister and his alternate, Jacob Olsen as representatives from the State of Colorado Division of Water Resources, Division #2 as official members of the FCWFCGD Technical Advisory Committee, seconded by Richard Mulledy. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

- Mark Shea introduced Annie Berlemann with Colorado Springs Utilities as the alternate for the Technical Advisory Committee. Annie provided a self-introduction stating she is new to Mark Shea's group but has been Colorado Springs Utilities for 12-years. Annie came over from the Water Quality Lab and she has a background in biology and general chemistry and is very familiar with water quality. Annie also had a published article in the American Water Works about a water quality index for Fountain Creek in 2013. Mark Shea made a motion to add Annie Berlemann as the alternate for Colorado Springs Utilities, seconded by Richard Mulledy. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

5) **Public Comments**

No public comments.

6) **Presentations**

- a. Fountain Creek Aquatic Biology – James Roberts, USGS (30 minutes)
 - o James Roberts with the USGS stated for the last year he has been overseeing the Biology Program which samples aquatic life in Fountain Creek. Mr. Roberts provided a brief “what”, “why” and “how” overview of their Aquatic Life Sampling Program in Fountain Creek. The presentation covered the importance of water quality and quantity, what is measured, the complexities of monitoring and its overall functions with the ecosystem. They measure fish, macroinvertebrates and the bio-habitat. The presentation ended with display of some recent publications and summary of results. Richard Mulledy from the City of Colorado Springs Stormwater indicated that the presentation is only a fraction of what the sampling program covers and would be willing to provide the full report to any interested members. They committee members thank Mr. Roberts for his presentation.

- b. Mitigation Banking/Colorado Stream Quantification Tool – Josh Carpenter, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Julia McCarthy, EPA (1 hour)
- o Julia McCarthy (EPA) and Josh Carpenter (USACE) provided an introduction and indicated their presentation will be covered in separate parts. Ms. McCarthy introduced the Stream Quantification Tool which purpose is to calculate functionalism loss associated with stream impacted restoration projects by quantifying existing and future changes of an individual site. They have been working on developing a Stream Quantification Tool in Wyoming and in Colorado. Wyoming released a 1.0 version of the tool in July of 2018. The Wyoming tool is the basis for the Colorado beta version which is in the final stages of completion. Ms. McCarthy provided the overarching context of the tool and use with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act indicating that the 404 program is administered jointly with USACE and EPA. The EPA helps with the development of tools and advancement of the program in whole. USACE is the permitting agency for the 404 program and the tool will be used to help with the determination 404 permits. The tool covers what type of mitigation or compensatory action will be required on the different impacts occurring through a 404 permit. The background of the 2008 Mitigation Rule was discussed and the difficulties of measuring success of mitigation. Ms. McCarthy indicated the 2008 Mitigation Rule ties together nicely with the Stream Quantification Tool and accomplishes the goals of measuring success with five levels of the Stream Functions Pyramid. “Functions” are the actual processes in the stream. “Functional capacity” is the degree that an aquatic resource performs a specific function. The Stream Quantification Tool doesn’t measure the functions or processes of the stream it looks at the structural indicators or condition of the system to provide those functions. The tool can also be used for monitoring plans and to set performance standards and more broadly in stream restoration. Ms. McCarthy pointed out the tool is not intended to be used for design but can measure the effectiveness of a certain type of design.
 - o Josh Carpenter (USACE) presented the regulatory framework of how to make the Stream Quantification Tool useful. The development of the tool is being driven from two sides, the stream development industry which the tool will help provide guidance for when they develop and the mitigation industry which can sell their mitigation projects to those who are causing impacts in the development industry. The tool will develop a common currency to help USACE control types of mitigation or impacts and comply with 2008 Mitigation Rule. The tool is designed to maintain site and regulatory consistency. The tool is a statewide initiative. Mr. Carpenter stated the Stream Quantification Tool would satisfy the requirements of the 2008 Mitigation Rule, help USACE set goals and objectives, performance standards that are meaningful and achieve some desired outcomes. The tool will allow USACE the basic infrastructure which will allow the banking industry to come in and build. They are hoping to have the tool running and released by the end of April. It is currently under internal review. The committee thanked Julia and Josh for their presentation.

- c. Hanson Trailhead Bank Stabilization – Brad Hartman, El Paso County and Jarod Lee, Bohannon Huston (20 minutes)
 - o Brad Hartman (EPC) and Jarod Lee (BHI) introduced themselves and presented a proposed plan to stabilize the bank, trail and pedestrian bridge at the Hanson Trailhead location. Brad stated that EPC did receive \$1.4 million in FEMA funds for the flooding damages, but the amount falls well short of what is needed to properly complete the damages. Time constraints with FEMA are also a concern. EPC would like to take a different approach on the restoration efforts and Jarod Lee (BHI) provided the alternatives evaluated:
 - Alternative #1 keeping the pedestrian bridge at its current location and stabilize the floodplain area around the 140-ft bridge span again. This alternative also included lowering the trail for a low water crossing and bank armoring.
 - Alternative #2 and the preferred alternative was to relocate the pedestrian bridge 800-feet south away from the sweeping curve. They would reuse the existing pedestrian bridge but add some abutments. They would still be completing floodplain improvements to include bendway weirs, abandoning the western floodplain trail and rerouting and extending eastern trail into the floodway terrace. It also includes an overbank on the high flow channel and floodplain terrace to turn the creek into the original channel. Budget is a concern with the preferred restoration alternative. The bendway weirs and high flow channel would be bid alternates. The estimated project budget today is \$1.8 million, and it will be at least two years before they can start. Brad with EPC is requesting this project be considered by the Monetary Mitigation Fund Committee for some potential funding. A 60% project design will be submitted to FEMA in May.
 - o Executive Director, Larry Small indicated that the EPC project went before the Monetary Mitigation Fund Committee in March. Larry spoke to how the proposed project falls within the District’s WARSSS identified high priority projects list and the amount of sediment that would be saved if the District’s four identified projects within the same area were completed. Larry stated the benefits for a partnership with EPC. The MMFC did not take any action on this project at their March meeting. The 2020 CIP is currently under development and the list will be brought before the Board at their August meeting.
 - o Jason Meyer made a motion to recommend the Hanson Trailhead Bank Stabilization Project be presented to the District for their consideration and support seconded by Mike Essam. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

7) Reports

- a. District Board/Water Activity Enterprise Board/Project Updates – Larry Small
 - o Larry Small stated that the Enterprise Board and the MMFAC met on March 22, 2019. District Board approved the appointment of Allison Pulte as the Districts Outreach Coordinator. Allison is working on keeping Creek Week a success, working on finalizing the District’s brochure which has been a draft form for the past couple years

and updating the current District presentation which goes around to the different organizations. She remains very busy with the outreach efforts. The District Board also approved the land use application for the Owens-Hall maintenance access for CSU. The next District Board meeting will be April 26, 2019 at 2pm at Fountain City Hall council chambers.

- Larry indicated the Enterprise Board had no activity other than reports.
- Larry reported that the 13th Street Bridge project design is at 90%. There may be an underrun of the grant funds. The next stakeholders meeting will be held on April 25th.
 - Barr Farm project has been delayed due to the recent inclement weather. The site was not accessible for almost two weeks.
 - Barr Farm Phase II has started and is in the data collection and evaluation process. No substantial work yet. Planned for September contracting and commencement of work in October 2019.
 - Pinon Bridge project is ahead of schedule and going very well.
 - The site survey for the Overton Road project has been completed and is working on an equipment access plan to complete the soils investigation. The design is progress.
 - Larry also reported the Floodplain Management Opportunities Study has started and is in the data collection process. Larry indicated this is scheduled to be a six-month project. Parts of the Study should be completed enough to consider items for the 2020 CIP. Stakeholder meetings will be held.
- b. Citizens Advisory Group – Irene Kornelly
 - Larry Small reported that Irene will be out for medical reasons for least the next couple of months and her alternate will be covering her report. The committee wished Irene well and for a speedy recovery. Larry stated the CAG meeting was held at the Nature Center and they reviewed the Fountain Creek exhibits. Larry gave a presentation on the current projects and respective location. The Owens-Hall Diversion Maintenance Access Project was presented and was approved for recommendation. Upcoming Creek Week meetings were discussed.
- c. Monetary Mitigation Fund Committee – MMFAC Committee Members
 - Mark Shea stated that the MMFAC met in March and the main topic of discussion was developing an approach for the 2020 CIP. The Hanson Trailhead Bank Stabilization project was discussed with some general support to look at the project for the 2020 CIP. They continue to discuss the benefits identified in the 1041 permit. Mark reported that the E.coli Watershed Plan for Fountain Creek is very close to completion and thought it would be great to have a presentation on the Plan to the TAC.
- d. AFCURE – Andra Ahrens
 - Andra reported that AFCURE is working on review and update of their Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) discussing the current sampled parameters and frequency for both Regulation 85 and their Baseline monitoring samples. AFCURE is also considering adjusting one of their Periphyton sampling months. Andra reported that the final E. coli Watershed Plan has been delivered to the Division and AFCURE will be looking to for some other entity and or organization to begin the stakeholder process to implement the plan. Andra mention the TMDL for E.coli on Fountain Creek is slated for 2020. AFCURE would be a good place to start the stakeholder outreach.

8) New Business

- a. 2019 Projects Tour – Friday May 31, 2019 – Itinerary Development
 - o Mark Shea presented a draft itinerary for the planned May 31, 2019 projects tour. There was some discussion around the logistics of the tour. Larry Small suggested that the Hanson Trailhead Bank Stabilization project be added to the list and tour should start at this location, then travel south to the various project locations. The order of project review will be slightly modified to accommodate travel/time efficiency. A handout like last year will be provided. The logistics for transportation has yet to be finalized. Attendees will be limited by the number of seats available. Mark will be working with Allison to send out an RSVP.

9) Old Business

- a. District Floodplain Overlay Committee 2019 Workplan Update – Rich Mulledy
 - o Rich Mulledy reported the March meeting was cancelled because of several conflict with the members. The next scheduled meeting is April 18, 2019 at 10 am. and would like the meeting location to be in Pueblo. Rich will be holding a one-hour presentation on Friday, April 5, 2019 at 10:30 am at Pike Peak Region Building about the City of Colorado Springs Stormwater first trail on enforcement action. Larry Small requested Rich Mulledy provide a 2018 performance presentation to the Board at their April 26th meeting. Rich stated he would be there with his agreed 2018 performance presentation. Larry will add this item to the Board's agenda.

10) Future Business

- a. City of Colorado Springs DCM update – Erin Powers, City of Colorado Springs
 - o Rich Mulledy reported the City of Colorado Springs is continuing with updates to the City's DCM and will not be prepared to discuss any updates until settlement discussions with the USEPA and the State are complete. Mark Shea indicated that this item was always contingent upon when it was ready for presentation. Brandy Williams will have the item removed from future business.
 - o Fountain Creek Channel Restoration Project at Riverside Mobile Home - EPC
 - o Larry Small received a full development package and it will be on the TAC's May agenda.
 - o Water Quality Improvements Related to Channel Stabilization Projects
 - o Mark Shea noted this item is related back to MMFAC. Mark believes that with the release of the Stream Quantification Tool it will help the need to better define the water quality improvement projects for the upcoming future.
 - o Fountain Creek E.coli Watershed Plan – Wendi Knutsen, Colorado Springs
 - o Mark Shea reported that Wendi is scheduled to provide and update on the plan at the May meeting. Mark asked Larry to check with Allison to see if she would also be available, she completed a lot of work on the plan.
 - o Integrated Adaptive Management Plan – Mark Shea, Colorado Springs Utilities
 - o Mark Shea reported this item can be scheduled for the June 5th meeting.
 - o Larry Small reminded the TAC members about the upcoming Arkansas River Basin Water Forum on April 24th and 25th. The District will have their booth set up. Larry encouraged the TAC members to attend if their scheduled allowed it.

11) Set Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting:

- The next TAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 1 p.m. at Fountain City Hall.

12) Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.