

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

**Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2018**

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 October 12, 2018 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (FCWD) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Ms Irene Kornelly, Chairperson, at 9:42 a.m. A quorum was noted, with the following CAG members in attendance:

Irene Kornelly – Chair and CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
Ian Hartley – Vice Chair
Josh Watkins, TAC Representative to the CAG
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary
Dana Nordstrom
Allison Plute
David Wooley

CAG Members Not Present:

Mary Barber – Alternate Representative to the FCWD Governing Board and Web Manager
Sherie Caffey
Darcie Hannigan
Christine Lowenberg
Tom Ready

Also in Attendance:

Larry Small, FCWD Executive Director
Amy Brautigan, Fountain Creek Sentinels

2. Approve Agenda of October 12, 2018 Meeting.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the October 12, 2018 Agenda was approved.

3. Approve Minutes of August 10, 2018.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the August 10, 2018 minutes were approved.

4. Presentations

a. Proposed Fountain Creek Watershed District 2019 Budget. Larry Small presented the proposed 2019 budget.

- By statute, a proposed budget for the following year must be submitted to the Board in September, with an approved budget by December 31st. Some numbers may be adjusted to account for interest income, a possible grant award, and other factors between now and the end of the year.
- Total Revenues are projected at \$10,743,900. \$340,300 will go to the District for its operations, and \$10,403,600 will go to the Enterprise Fund for projects.
- Expenditures were broken down into Operating Expenses and Project Expenses, with most Operating Expense categories being split 20/80 between the District and the Enterprise Fund.
 - Operating Expenses are projected at \$311,225 and the mandated TABOR Reserve is set at \$14,400.
 - Project Expenses are projected at \$16,690,000, with less than 1 percent allocated to the District. A \$150,000 line item was projected for a public relations firm to help with outreach, with an eye to the eventual mill levy ballot question.
 - The 2018 Fund Balance is projected to be \$22,385,711.
 - The 2019 Fund Balance is projected to be \$16,128,386.

b. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee. Larry gave a presentation on the 2019 Board-approved capital improvement projects.

- The committee is chartered to develop the Capital Improvement Plan for the mitigation funds the District receives, to review the CIP annually, provide technical review, and formulate recommendations to the Board for projects that meet Condition 6 of the 1041 permit. The committee is comprised of two members from Pueblo County staff, two members from Colorado Springs Utilities staff, the Executive Director, the TAC chair, and the CAG Chair. Except for the Executive Director (who only votes in the case of a tie), each member has an alternate who is encouraged to attend all meetings and participate in discussions, but the alternate can only vote in the member's absence.
- The 2018 CIP contained two combined Barr Farms WARSSS projects (now Barr Farms Phase 1), the Piñon Bridge project, and the Pueblo Channel Project, which combines 5 WARSSS projects.
- For the 2019 CIP, the committee evaluated a number of projects.
 - The T Cross projects were considered upon request of the owner, but there were issues that led to its rejection.
 - The 11 WARSSS projects from 13th Street to Highway 47 would complete most of the projects in Pueblo from the city limits to the confluence with the Arkansas. However, those projects were all rated as low or medium priority, and their cost would have been around \$17 million, so the combined project just couldn't be justified at this time.
 - The three remaining Barr Farms WARSSS projects are just north of the Phase 1 Barr Farms project, and the committee looked at extending Phase 1 into the remaining projects for greater efficiency. The entire project could be re-positioned as a true Floodplain Management project rather than just fixing eroding banks. The project is estimated at \$6.2 million and will be recommended in the 2019 CIP to the Board.
 - The Overton Road Project, passed over in 2017 and 2018, is eroding enough to be recommended for the 2019 CIP. The estimate is \$1 million.
 - The final project for the 2019 CIP is a Floodplain Management Opportunity Study. For \$107,000 we will identify areas of opportunity to implement Floodplain Management, which includes practices of channel realignment, decreasing velocity, habitat improvement including wetlands, and bank stabilization. Floodplain Management was selected as the preferred flood control option in stakeholder meetings of 2017. The study will cover the channel from the confluence with Sand Creek to the confluence with the Arkansas. Larry is applying for a \$60,000 CWCB grant to help pay for this study.

- The total cost of the 2019 CIP is \$7.4 million.
- This year's Capital improvement report also included a section on water quality, which is included in the requirements of the 1041 permit, along with erosion, sedimentation, and flood control already addressed in the previous CIP. Water quality is mostly addressed by working with local governments in the implementation of their MS-4 permits and by educating the public through programs like Creek Week.

5. Reports.

a. Governing Board Meeting.

- The Board gave its input to the proposed 2019 Budget.
- The Watershed Activity Board approved the 2019 CIP
- The next Board meeting will be October 26. There will not be a November meeting due to the proximity of Thanksgiving.

b. TAC Meeting.

- Irene commented that enforcement is a problem of personnel, budget, and severity.
- Larry added that a large part of the issue centered on landowners along the creek who might attempt to shore up their banks with old concrete or whatever, without knowing that they need a Corps of Engineers' permit for such activity.

c. Outreach Group.

- Allison Plute reported on the Outreach Group activities.
 - Creek Week is officially over, although some groups still have clean up events scheduled. Allison gave a preliminary report, which will be followed by the full report to be sent out when final numbers have been tallied.
 - A new record was set with 2,630 volunteers, surpassing last year's 2,500 volunteers.
 - 20 tons of litter were collected, about 10 tons less than last year, giving hope that we are getting ahead of the historic litter out there.
 - Over the past five years we have engaged about 10,000 volunteers and removed 80 tons of litter.
 - This year we had new sponsors and support was about constant with last year. Our partnership with Colorado Springs Parks & Recreation allows us to store our material at their facility – a great benefit.
 - Allison is preparing a five-year wrap up of Creek Week accomplishments.
- Allison announced that her position with Colorado Springs Utilities is changing to a more engineering-focused position, and she is leaving the CAG to serve on the TAC. This will obviously affect our outreach efforts and the Outreach Subcommittee, as Allison has been instrumental in all phases of the CAG's outreach.
- Irene commented that with the loss of Allison, she asked Rich Mulledy of city stormwater to allow Jerry Cordova to return to the CAG.
- Irene went on to say that because Allison's position as Chair of the Outreach Subcommittee will have to be filled, it has been proposed that we petition the Board for funds with which to contract for a three-quarter FTE person to fill the vacancy left in Creek Week and other outreach by Allison's departure. Irene pointed out that the program is too big and important to the District's visibility to continue to rely solely on volunteers.
- Larry emphasized that even with a dedicated, paid employee the CAG would still be required to actively support our outreach programs, and that members who do not show up are at risk of being dropped. This brought about a plea from Irene for new members from Pueblo County.
- Larry was also concerned that an individual hired to run Creek Week would lack the resources currently available to Allison through her position at Utilities, such as computers, high end graphics support with large format printers, vehicles, etc. In reality, only a full-scale public relations firm can provide those capabilities on an as-needed basis. He foresees using a PR firm much as he uses Matrix – on a task order

basis.

- It was eventually decided that we will give the Board notification at its October meeting that the CAG intends to solicit services from PR firms to support outreach projects. A proposal detailing expectations and products will be developed for the eventual entities chosen to compete.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the CAG voted to recommend to the Board that an entity be hired to oversee Creek Week and other CAG outreach projects.

- d. **Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee.** Irene reported that the committee has its next meeting Tuesday, but the agenda is essentially empty.
- e. **Website and Facebook Page.** Mary Barber was not present, but the website is operational and there seem to be no current problems. There are funds available for an upgrade, and a new vendor has expressed interest. The \$3,000 PEPO grant money will soon go away, so something needs to be done.
6. **Current Business/Project Reports.** Larry reported that El Paso County is about ready to start work on the giant cut bank in Fountain below the Riverside Mobile Home Park on Crestline.
7. **Other Business.** Allison reported that the deadline to apply for a summer CC intern is approaching. The \$4,000 cost will come out of the Creek Week account, not District funds.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the CAG voted to authorize Allison to apply for a student intern from CC for help with Creek Week, and to commit \$4,000 for that purpose.

8. **Public Comment.** Amy Brautigan, who has worked extensively with Creek Week, commented on the enthusiasm expressed in the after-action survey.
9. **Next Meeting.** The next scheduled CAG meeting will be November 9, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fountain City Hall, 116 W. Main, second floor meeting room.

10. Adjourn:

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