

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

**Meeting Notes
November 9, 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 November 9, 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 9:38 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
Mary Barber – Alternate Representative to the FCWD Governing Board and Web Manager
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary

CAG Members Not Present:

Sherie Caffey
Darcie Hannigan
Christine Lowenberg
Dana Nordstrom
Allison Plute
Tom Ready
Josh Watkins, TAC Representative to the CAG
David Wooley

Also in Attendance:

Lisa Miller, USGS Pueblo Office
Larry Small, FCWD Executive Director
Terry Hart, Pueblo County Commissioner and FCWD Board Member

2. Approve Agenda of November 9, 2018 Meeting.

The November 9, 2018 Agenda could not be approved without a quorum.

3. Approve Minutes of October 12, 2018.

The October 12, 2018 minutes could not be approved without a quorum.

4. Presentation: USGS Fountain Creek Water Quality Study, Lisa Miller, USGS Pueblo Office.

Lisa presented an overview of USGS studies being done in the Fountain Creek Watershed.

- The Waldo Canyon burn scar early warning network, in cooperation with CDOT, to alert authorities when Highway 24 or other roads should be closed due to imminent flooding or debris flows.
- A similar network is used in Colorado Springs for flood warning.
- The USGS, with the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, created and maintains the Transit Loss Accounting Program, which is used to determine transit losses, as well as water allocation of native and trans-mountain water by the Colorado Water Resources Board.
- Habitat, invertebrate, and fish monitoring at ten sites, in cooperation with Colorado Springs Engineering and Utilities, to monitor changes and allocations due to use of trans-mountain water in the watershed.
- Geomorphic monitoring of Fountain Creek annually (after leaf drop) to see changes in the stream channel configuration.
- Upper Black Squirrel water quality monitoring for elevated nitrate levels over time.
- Existing unused monitoring wells will be used to determine the quantity of El Paso County groundwater, most of which lies within the Denver Basin Aquifer.
- Long-term, biannual nutrient monitoring for phosphorus, ammonia, and specific conductance (total dissolved solids) in the Black Squirrel, Widefield, and Fountain Creek aquifers. These are shallow aquifers at risk of surface pollution.
- The Fountain Creek alluvial aquifer will be studied to determine geochemical and water quality conditions in the Widefield, Security, and Fountain areas. While not specifically looking for PFOAs and similar fire fighting compounds, this work will complement the work of others who are studying those materials.
- Ft. Carson streamflow, sediment, and water quality studies to determine the effects of military activities on water quality, streamflow, and other factors.
- Of particular interest are long-term studies of water quality and suspended sediment in Fountain Creek, ranging from Manitou Springs and Monument down to the Fountain area, including tributaries, to determine streamflow, nutrient levels, specific conductance, dissolved oxygen, E. coli, and trace elements.
 - These show that in the low flow periods E. coli numbers are generally lower. In warmer weather, marked by higher flows and flood events, E. coli numbers rise, especially during flood events. During the summer most sites exceed the 126 colonies per 100 ml standard for recreational use, frequently by an order of magnitude.
 - Nitrate was shown to spike at the confluence of Cottonwood Creek with Monument Creek, showing the role of tributaries in pollutant loading.
 - Arsenic and other trace elements and metals spiked on upper Fountain Creek between Manitou Springs and 8th Street. Although most readings were lower than their corresponding standards, some readings exceeded standards during storm flow, some of which could be attributed the Waldo Canyon burn scar.
- Lisa's take home messages were that there is a lot of work being done in the Fountain Creek Watershed.
 - There are many long-term studies monitoring water quality and stream biota.
 - Real-time stream flow and rain data are being collected for flood control and warning.
 - Data collection is being performed for responsible water resource management.
 - Water quality in the watershed varies spatially and by flow regime, as determined by geology and activities past and present in individual basins.

- Inflows from treatment plants, tributaries, and groundwater influence water quality and quantity. Treatment plants primarily add to the quantity and serve to dilute sediment and other substances. Tributaries are often significant point sources of nutrients, bacteria, and sediment. Groundwater likewise affects quantity and quality of the stream.
- Irene asked if the District's work in eliminating sources of sediment would have an effect on contaminants. Lisa replied in the affirmative, because many contaminants, especially E. coli and metals, are transported on or in sediment. Lisa added that although we might be making progress in eliminating sediment from certain areas, the overall scale of development within the watershed is creating risks for greater and greater sediment loss and concurrent contamination. Development in areas formerly devoted to mining and milling activity is especially at risk of releasing heavy metals and related contaminants.
- An interesting discussion ensued for another 30 minutes, concerning Fountain Creek water quality and quantity as influenced by myriad different factors. [1.25.30]

5. Reports.

a. [0.56.0] Governing Board Meeting. Larry reported on the October 26 Board meeting.

- The Board discussed financial support of Creek Week in order to fund a person to replace Allison's efforts. A plan is needed before a firm can be brought on board. The District also needs to receive its financial support from the participating governments in the watershed.
- Terry Hart commented that both marketing and polls are required to help position us for the future ballot proposal. That brought about a discussion on the value and accuracy of polls, which was acknowledged as marginal in most cases.
- Terry also suggested that each of the participating governments name a staff member as their contact person to interact with the District on things like Creek Week, so that projects are more quickly implemented across the watershed.
- Mary added that Mark Shea is the new chairman of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable. The Greenway Fund is on pause while they consider restructuring and find a new executive director. She also announced that the bylaws are posted on the website.
- The Enterprise portion of the meeting discussed another tour of projects in May or June.
- The next Board meeting will be December 7.

b. TAC Meeting. Larry reported on the TAC meeting.

- The TAC heard Lisa Miller's presentation on USGS studies in the watershed.
- The TAC also discussed flood plain encroachment enforcement authority, with an agreement to visit the subject in the coming months.

c. [1.39.0] Outreach Group. Irene reported that the Outreach Committee has been dormant, but Allison will give a final report on the 2018 Creek Week in January.

d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee. Irene reported that the group had a brief meeting in October. The meeting day needs to be changed in step with the change of meeting day for Pueblo County Commissioners, but no decision will be made until after January, when new TAC and CAG officers will be elected. The next meeting will be in January.

e. Website and Facebook Page. Mary Barber reported that we have received another proposal for website work. The proposal looks good, a member of the firm had done some Creek Week support and was familiar with our operations and needs. We are going to go with this proposal.

6. Current Business. Larry reported on our projects.

- The Highway 47 project is complete and contract close-out will be December 7.
- The Piñon Bridge project will not go to construction until next year some time. Construction access is an issue.
- The Barr Farms project is about ready to issue an RFP.
- The Pueblo Channel project has done some preliminary data collection and there will be a stakeholder meeting in the next week.

7. Other Business. Irene reported that several of our members have resigned.

- Dana Nordstrom will not be able to serve next year and expects that Nancy Bernard will represent El Paso County Parks.
- Darcie Hannigan and Sherie Caffey have also resigned.
- Any current CAG members who cannot attend a majority of meetings may be asked to resign or commit to more consistent attendance.
- Allison is also leaving the CAG due to a change in job functions. She will transition to the TAC next year.
- We need replacement members, especially from Pueblo County. Please submit suggestions to Irene.

8. Public Comment. There were no public comments.

9. Next Meeting. The next scheduled CAG meeting will be January 11, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fountain City Hall, 116 W. Main, second floor meeting room.

10. Adjourn.

The meeting closed at 11:16 without reaching a quorum.