

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

**Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2020**

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 February 14, 2020 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (FCWD) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Ms. Irene Kornelly, Chair, at 9:36 a.m. A quorum was achieved, with 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

Annie Berlemann – TAC Representative to the CAG

Nancy Bernard

Velma Campbell

Judith Rice-Jones

Jamie Valdez

David Woolley

CAG Members Not Present:

Christine Lowenberg

Tom Ready

Also in Attendance:

Larry Small, FCWD Executive Director

Lisa Bachman, Bachman pr

Alli Schuch, Outreach Coordinator

Rick Rengler, Pueblo

- 2. Approve Agenda of Meeting.**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the February 14, 2020 Agenda was approved.

- 3. Approve Minutes of the January 10, 2019 Meeting.**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the amended minutes of the Annual Meeting and the amended minutes of the January 10, 2019 Meeting were approved.

4. Presentations

a. SDS Integrated Adaptive Management Plan, Annie Berlemann, Colorado Springs Utilities.

- Annie explained that adaptive management is an iterative process of decision making, refined over time via system monitoring and lessons learned. Colorado Springs Utilities is required to maintain this Integrated Adaptive Management Plan (IAMP) for the Southern Delivery System which brings water to Colorado Springs, Security, Fountain, and Pueblo West from Pueblo Reservoir. The total SDS capacity is 75 mgd.
- The IAMP is designed to meet regulatory requirements and provides a flexible structure for decision making. It also assesses impacts and mitigation measures, and can address the full spectrum of outcomes.
- The IAMP follows the typical feedback loop character of many quality control systems. When a change is made Utilities monitors and assesses the performance and if unexpected impacts result the mitigation measures are refined, performance is monitored and assessed, and the process continues to loop.
- There are nine steps in the IAMP.
 - Phase I includes the initial NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process begins with Stakeholder involvement.
 - Objectives are identified. In this case they are to avoid or minimize impacts to surface water volumes, water quality, adverse geomorphic impacts, and harm to aquatic life.
 - Management actions flow from the first two.
 - Models quantify impacts of the SDS project.
 - Monitoring plans are established.
 - In Phase II, decision making follows the iterative process described above, consisting of:
 - Follow up monitoring,
 - Assessment, and,
 - Iteration keeps the process going.
- The water quantity objective looks at flows in Fountain Creek and assesses compliance with flow management programs.
- Water quality looks at levels of selenium, E coli, ammonia, salinity in Fountain Creek, and methyl mercury in Williams Creek Reservoir.
- Geomorphology looks at annual cross-sectional surveys at 10 sites along Fountain Creek to look for adverse impacts.
- Aquatic life impacts in Fountain Creek, as measured by surveys of macroinvertebrates and fish, depend on aspects of flow management, physical infrastructure, vegetation, water quality, and geomorphology.
- The IAMP also has an environmental monitoring element, with four basic steps:
 - Planning, to include legal and policy objectives,
 - Implementation, training, and management,
 - Monitoring and corrective action, and
 - Reviewing and changing as indicated.
- Summarizing, the IAMP is an iterative process for maintaining the impact of SDS within objective standards.

b. Fountain Creek District Speakers Bureau, Lisa Bachman and Allie Schuch. Lisa updated the CAG on community outreach efforts to date.

- The Speakers Bureau will present information to various groups in the community to raise the awareness of what we do. Five speakers have volunteered to serve on the speakers bureau.
- A standard PowerPoint program has been put together, along with a speakers kit including handouts and a feedback report.
- Several presentations have already been given, including Fountain City Council.
- There are about 40 locations from Monument to Pueblo where we will have brochures and fact sheets for public dissemination.

- The Pikes Peak Newspaper chain, to include The Tribune, Cheyenne Edition, Pikes Peak Courier, and others, will begin carrying a regular column about the watershed.
- Alli Schuch then presented the standard watershed presentation, which can be modified to fit the needs of the particular audience. It was well received, and the graphic design and photos are impressive.

5. Reports.

a. **Governing Board Meeting.** Larry Small reported on the January 24 Annual Meeting and regular Executive Board meeting.

- A representative of Wells Fargo Investments reported the District's investment account earnings of about a half million dollars since the account was opened last year.
- The District received the last payment from SDS of approximately \$10.7M. The Board decided to put \$5M into the investment account, for a total of more than \$20M. The general fund, on the Enterprise side, has a little over \$12M. About \$33M of the \$50M is left.
- The annual election of officers was held. Terry Hart is Chair, Vice Chair is Greg Lauer, Secretary is Irene Kornelly, Treasurer is Richard Skorman.
- The TAC, CAG, and Monetary Mitigation Committee members were all reappointed.
- Larry Small's contract was extended until June 30, to allow him sufficient time to complete the audit and work with the new executive director.
- There have been 18 applications for executive director received, five were considered qualified, and there have been three interviews. A selection has been made, with the final decision to be made by the Board in the February 28 meeting.
- There was no business at the Enterprise meeting.

b. **TAC Meeting.** Annie reported on the TAC meeting.

- The TAC heard a presentation on the use of Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) to test for blue green algae toxins in water bodies. The area had several lakes closed by toxic algal blooms last summer. They occur in warm water with excess nutrients.
- The TAC also heard a presentation on PFAS.

c. **Outreach Group.** Alli reported on Outreach issues.

- Creek Week 2020 kicked off last month. Next Creek Week meeting is the coming Tuesday at Parks and Recreation. They'll give a brief presentation on some of their initiatives, including a possible return of the Bark Rangers, which fits in well with our Scoop the Poop programs.
- We're down to five CC students; one had to drop out. Alli says they're dynamite kids.
- David reported on a recent Liquid Lecture on Bighorn Sheep presented by DPW at Cheyenne Mountain Brewery as a part of Brewshed activities.
- David asked for suggestions for future Liquid Lectures speakers and topics. Judith Rice-Jones suggested native hops, varieties that grow locally, etc. as a relevant topic.
- Alli received a \$23K check from Phantom Canyon Restaurant & Brewery as a result of their Brewshed promotion activity.
- We'll be participating in the Colorado Springs activities associated with PBS Water Week.
- There is a Pueblo Fishing Derby in the works. DPW and Boys and Girls Club are interested.
- Alli passed around a calendar of upcoming events and asked for volunteers to sign up – Please!
- Alli is working on an agreement with Colorado Springs Utilities for their support of Creek Week, which will bring marketing and communications support, to include printing and other valuable in-kind help.

d. **Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee.** Irene reported there will not be a February meeting. The January meeting featured a discussion of how the Floodplain Management Opportunities Study influences our projects. Meetings are now held on the third Wednesday at 10:00.

e. Website. Mary asked how long the website should carry minutes of the Board, TAC, and CAG. Irene suggested to just carry the two most recent years. They will remain in the FCWD Dropbox. Velma Campbell commented that it's important to maintain these records, including the recordings, for anyone researching a particular topic. Larry replied that all recordings are archived, and he keeps both digital and paper copies.

6. Current Business. Larry reported on current projects.

- The Overton Road kick-off was held. They will be taking out 400 feet of the old roadbed and re-using the rock and dirt.
- The 13th Street Channel project is still waiting on the Corps of Engineers.
- Barr Farms, Phase II is progressing. They're still looking for the high pressure gas line reportedly buried in the project zone.
- Larry does not anticipate any new projects starting before late this year.

7. New Business.

Judith brought up an issue of vegetation in the floodplain and channel of Monument Creek, and how trees are regularly removed in the interest of flood control. She'd like to know what trees are permitted, and where, so that the upcoming city tree planting efforts are not thwarted. Alli replied that a woman who restores creek habitat in the Purgatoire is coming to discuss the same thing with Creek Week volunteers interested in going beyond just picking up trash.

Irene brought up the topic of the proposed joint meeting between the CAG and the TAC. She asked what individual members felt was the goal of such a meeting and to keep thinking of what such a meeting might feature and what we want the meeting to accomplish. Nothing compelling was offered, but there was agreement that there benefits could accrue if the two groups were better acquainted with each other's roles and make-up. Merely finding a common time to meet will present serious logistical issues.

8. Public Comment. There was no public comment.

9. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. March 13, 2020, at Fountain City Hall, 116 S. Main Street, Fountain, CO.

10. Adjourn:

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.