

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

**Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2020**

The meeting was held online via Zoom

- 1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions** The May 8, 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, Chairperson, at about 9:30 a.m. A quorum was noted, with the following CAG members attending via Zoom.

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
Annie Berlemann – TAC Representative to the CAG
Jack Wallick – Secretary
Nancy Bernard
Velma Campbell
Judith Rice-Jones
Jamie Valdez
David Woolley

CAG Members Not Present:

Tom Ready

Also in Attendance:

Bill Banks, FCWD Executive Director
Larry Small, FCWD Executive Director, Emeritus
Terry Hart, FCWD Board Member and Pueblo County Commissioner
Longinos Gonzales, FCWD Board Member and El Paso County Commissioner
Greg Lauer, FCWD Board Member and Fountain City Council Member
Alli Schuch, FCWD Outreach Coordinator
John Trylch, City of Fountain
Brandy Williams, City of Fountain
Todd Evans, City of Fountain
Jason Meyer, El Paso County Parks

- 2. Approve Agenda of Meeting.**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the amended May 8, 2020 Agenda was approved.

3. Approve February 14, 2020 Minutes and March 13, 2020 Notes.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the February 14, 2020 Minutes and March 13, 2020 Notes were approved.

4. Presentations:

a. City of Fountain – Southmoor Drive Road Erosion, Greg Lauer and Brandy Williams.

This is a rapidly developing problem in the City of Fountain. The fifty foot high cut bank along Southmoor Drive in Fountain is eroding away and has left the roadway in danger of collapsing into the creek.

- The problem seems to be caused by low soil moisture, which results in a loss of cohesion, making the existing cutbank even more unstable.
 - The situation was brought to the city’s attention when a resident reported the jersey barriers along the road were falling into the creek.
 - The road is closed to traffic, severely impacting access to nearby businesses and low income housing.
 - The site consists of two previously-identified WARSSS projects (Southmoor Drive North and Southmoor Drive South). They were rated number two and three in priority until the rating system was changed to eliminate threats to public infrastructure.
 - The threatened roadway is part of Southmoor Drive South, but elements of Southmoor Drive North must be addressed as part of an overall solution.
 - The Security Wastewater Treatment Plant is also at risk. The impact of a breach would be severe.
 - The two projects were estimated at close to \$6 million in total.
- Funds to repair the creek bank and re-route the channel are not available. A recent city ballot initiative failed. The city is looking at re-allocating funds.
- Efforts are being made through PPACG to re-allocate funds for the Front Range Trail in that area to benefit the District, but cannot directly be put to use on this project.
- Annual sediment loads from the two WARSSS projects total over 80,000 tons.
- The city brought the situation to the attention of the FCWD Executive Board, which directed the city to present the issue to the TAC and CAG, with the aim of getting a recommendation that the Board address the problem with a repair/remediation project.
- The public is very interested, with thousands expressing concern.
- Urban renewal and CDOT were mentioned as possible sources of funding to help with the project.
- There was considerable discussion about the vulnerability of the Security Wastewater Treatment Plant, which lies in the Southmoor Drive North project.
- The TAC recommended the Board task Matrix to create a project addressing the problem.
- Irene asked for a motion to recommend that the Board consider the Southmoor Drive situation and coordinate with the City of Fountain on this problem.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the CAG recommended the Board consider the Southmoor Drive problem.

b. Willow Springs Pond Stabilization, Jason Meyer – El Paso County Parks.

Jason reported on a recently-completed project by El Paso County. The contractor was Olgoonik Corporation, engineering was by Veronica Cid PE, construction management was by El Paso county, and the customer was El Paso County Parks. The overall budget was \$950,000 and stemmed from a 2015 federal disaster declaration. The bulk of funds were from FEMA. Construction ran from December of 2019 through March 2020.

- The project location was between Willow Creek Pond and Fountain Creek, just south of Mesa Ridge Parkway, as is part of Fountain Creek Regional Park.
- Access to the site was challenging.
- The project consisted of a site with 675 linear feet of creek bank, 45 feet wide, and spanned 15 feet of elevation.
 - The pond itself was not breached in the 2015 flood, but had been seeping.
 - The county had performed temporary, emergency repairs on the toe of the bank, pushing nominal creek flows into the main channel.
- The work consisted of stabilizing the damaged creek bank, using 48 inch boulder wall, grouted riprap and soil riprap. Material for the embankment and topsoil was imported. The site was revegetated.
 - Bioengineering was incorporated into the project, as a 600 foot long concrete solution was not the goal of the team. The effort mimicked the healthy bank on the west, which has a 5 foot wide bench and then another higher up. This bankfull configuration is successful in many locations up and down the creek.
 - The toe of the bank is a double course of 48 inch boulders, laid along the former bank's location. A 15 foot wide soil riprap bench backed by another row of 48 inch boulders, and then a fifteen foot high bank of soil riprap, at a 2:1 slope. The bench and bank are covered with topsoil and revegetated. The bench has 1000 willow stakes and 12 cottonwoods.
 - Fountain Creek Regional Trail at the top of the bank was also restored, using timbers and crushed limestone.

c. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Update, Annie Berlemann Colorado Springs Utilities. Annie gave an update on topics related to the presence and regulation of PFAS in local aquifers.

- PFAS are family of over 5,000 human-made chemicals that are highly resistant to heat and chemical attack. They are ubiquitous in our material culture and are implicated in a wide range of medical conditons. They do not break down under normal environmental conditions and are termed “Forever Compounds.”
- The Water Quality Control Division of the CDPHE is establishing Policy 20-1 to move quickly to break the chain of PFAS contamination in our waterways.
 - The policy is a narrative standard, as opposed to a numerical standard, and did not go through the usual rule-making process. It is more like a recommendation.
 - Because they can't issue definitive levels of PFAS, they are using what are known as translation values, which look at permits for construction dewatering and other potential sources. The policy may extend to wastewater. The policy also outlines the framework for laboratory methods and groundwater cleanup.

- The Division is countering opposition to the policy with authority from Regulations 31 and 41, ultimately relying on their guidance that “Waters shall be free from toxins and toxic amounts”.
- Challenges are being made to the laboratory methods, of which only one is approved by the Safe Drinking Water Act.
 - There is no approved method under the Clean Water Act, under which ground waters will fall.
 - Methods are being put forward for approval, but unfortunately all current methods are challenging and easily subject to false positives due either to sampling or laboratory problems. The levels being tested are so low, and the materials are so common and widespread it’s a technically difficult task.
- Another problem is the inconsistent approach across the states and a lack of a federal standard.
- Annie showed a timeline of regulatory activity since 2016 when PFAS were detected in the Widefield Aquifer. The policy is reaching final draft phase, with an administrative action hearing in mid July.
- Regulation 42 is also important in PFAS regulation, as it sets a standard within our area for total PFOS and PFAS at 0.070 micrograms (70 nanograms) per liter. This is the level at which it is thought to affect developmental toxicity. Other serious medical conditions thought to stem from PFAS are currently thought to result from higher concentrations.
 - Within the designated boundaries testing is mandatory, and remediation methods are specified.
 - Sampling and testing can run from \$250 to \$500 per sample, with a two to three week turnaround time.
 - Onsite remediation can cost upwards of \$2.00 per gallon, and offsite disposal and eventual incineration can be similar.
 - Additional PFAS and requirements are being added under Policy 20-1.
- House Bill 20-1119 was introduced in January and would give the State authority to regulate PFAS. It appears stalled and may be re-introduced as two separate bills.
- Discussion continued on the moving target nature of regulations, health effects studies, and detection limits. The actions of industry to protect their proprietary information contribute to the problems as well.

5. Reports.

a. Governing Board Meeting.

The Board met via Zoom April 24.

- The Board heard the presentation on Southmoor Drive and asked the TAC and the CAG for their recommendations.
- There was no business for the Enterprise Board meeting.
- The next Board meeting will be May 22, via Zoom or in person as situations dictate.

b. TAC Meeting.

The TAC heard the same presentation on Southmoor Drive in their meeting. The TAC also had some tentative dates for the Fountain Creek Tour. September 18 and October 16 were offered as viable dates. No immediate decision was needed.

c. Outreach Group.

Alli Schuch reported on Outreach activities. The April-May Outreach Report is appended to these minutes.

- We’ve just wrapped up April Stools Month in partnership with UCCS. We had an increase in participation over previous years.

- We had the first virtual liquid lecture, and Alli would like to have another in May. Several CAG members spoke up to help.
- There was a Creek Week meeting. They are contemplating various scenarios, just in case.
- Allie has applied for grants from various companies to help fund Creek Week, and she will be getting sponsorship letters out in June.
- Our summer intern, Izzy Tils, will be starting in June. She'll be working on a photo contest, a video series - possibly with TOSC, and website content development.

d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee. Irene reported that the committee will meet this month on the 20th, via zoom. The Southmoor Drive erosion will be discussed. Larry also mentioned the Greenville Trust property, but was not sure if there would be time for both.

e. Website and Facebook Page. Mary Barber asked that she be notified of any issues.

6. Project Reports Bill reported the progress on active projects.

- Planting was delayed on the Overton Road project.
- The Barr Farm project was delayed a day or two because Kinder Morgan was slow getting people out to the site to deal with the high pressure gas line. That's been resolved.
- The Army Corps of Engineers is still working on the permit for the 13th Street project. Construction will likely begin in the September-October time period. If ACE issues the permit, we could start as early as July, although summer storms and high water are a risk.

7. New Business.

Irene reminded the CAG of the tentative tour dates of September 18 or October 16.

8. Public Comment. There were no public comments.

9. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held June 12 virtually via Zoom, or at the City of Fountain, City Hall, 116 S. Main, Fountain, CO. Members will be notified prior to the next meeting.

10. Adjourn:

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Appendix

APRIL-MAY 2020 WATERSHED OUTREACH COORDINATOR REPORT

4/17 Set up District Board meeting on Zoom and sent invites.

4/20 Distributed Creek Week meeting notes, PR meeting, Liquid Lecture planning, social media

4/21 April Stools coordination with UCCS students, Liquid Lecture planning, PR work

4/22 Pueblo meeting prep, Zoom primer writeup, Pueblo planning call

4/23 Children's Water Fest video sourcing, Creek Week planning/student correspondence, student meeting

4/24 Liquid Lecture promo, material pickup from El Paso County Parks, printing pickup from City, brewshed material drop-offs, District Board meeting

4/27 Fishing Derby planning, Creek Week grant writing, citizen science planning, call with David Lord
4/28 Creek Week planning, student updates, trading card research – zebra mussels
4/30 Liquid Lecture promo and prep, water webinar, Liquid Lecture event – 47 attendees
5/1 Liquid Lecture follow ups, set MMF and TAC Zoom meetings up, call with Andrew from Concrete Couch, PR work
5/4 PR meeting and follow ups
5/5 Pueblo meeting follow up, Creek Week planning
5/6 PR work, District TAC meeting
5/7 Creek Week student follow ups, CAG prep, Creek Week meeting with students
5/8 CAG, call with Corrie Elkin, brewshed follow ups
5/11 Call with Julie Knutsen about riparian restoration, material pickup
5/13 Call with Janet Dorr about Dorchester Park planning, Creek Week budget work, Generation Wild planning call
5/14 Call with Jamie Valdez about restoration and Creek Week, Liquid Lecture planning, CC intern planning
5/15 Creek Week grant review, intern planning, Creek Week agenda development, social media updates