

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

**Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2020**

The meeting was held online via Zoom

- 1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions** The July 10, 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 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
Velma Campbell
Jamie Valdez
David Woolley

CAG Members Not Present:

Nancy Bernard
Tom Ready
Judith Rice-Jones

Also in Attendance:

Bill Banks, FCWD Executive Director
Kavan Brown, Scout
Longinos Gonzalez, FCWD Board Member and El Paso County Commissioner
Greg Lauer, FCWD Board Member and Fountain City Council Member
Alli Schuch, FCWD Outreach Coordinator
Gordon Rick, Chair, Fountain Planning Commission
Aaron Sutherlin, Matrix Design
Izzy Tils, FCWD Outreach Intern
Brandy Williams, City of Fountain

- 2. Approve Agenda of Meeting.**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the July 10, 2020 Agenda was approved.

3. Approve May 8, 2020 Minutes.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the June 12, 2020 Minutes were approved.

4. Presentations: Preliminary Assessment of Southmoor Drive Alternatives, Aaron Sutherlin, Matrix Design Group.

A forty to fifty foot high cut bank on Fountain Creek is encroaching on Southmoor Drive in the City of Fountain. The roadway was closed to traffic after Jersey barriers protecting the shoulder dropped into the creek in April or May. This is a rapidly developing situation and the District has funded Matrix to study the problem.

- The WARSSS assessment estimated that 55,088 tons of sediment are washed into the creek each year from this area (Southmoor Drive, South Bank).
- Project benefits include the MMF tier 1 elements of sediment reduction, flood attenuation, and water quality improvement, along with habitat restoration, aesthetics, improved public safety, and protection of infrastructure.
- The proposed project also aligns with the Pueblo County 1041 permit goals of water quality improvement and flood attenuation. Aaron commented that because EPA standards for treatment plants have risen over the past 30 years, and because Fountain Creek is primarily wastewater effluent, water quality in the creek has improved over the decades.
- Using the relative elevation model, Aaron showed how the channel in the project area is confined, so that any rain event causes water to rise rapidly and impact the cut bank.
- The repair concept uses alluvial material from the west bank to build out the left bank with a stable slope. This will also make for a wider channel cross-section, capable of moving more water at a lower velocity. The Fountain Creek Regional Trail along the west side of the creek will be lowered, closer to the water, as a result. Two options for bank slope stability are geogrid facings with vegetation or crib wall terracing, also vegetated.
- Aaron showed a number of alternatives for bank hardening, toe protection, and slope stability (e.g., drop structures) with their advantages and disadvantages.
- Cost estimates range from \$2 million to \$5 million, with the range reflecting the range of techniques available for use and the early nature of the project. The number to be used for planning purposes is \$3.4 Million
- Aaron showed a number of ranking or prioritization schemes, from sediment contribution to simple WARSSS ratings, and others to show that the project ranks high, regardless of the method.
- Questions had to do with impacts to private property, calculation of annualized sediment load, and the maximum cost estimates. Greg Lauer commented that the treatment ponds in the area are not currently in day to day operation, and following some planned system upgrades they will be removed and turned into open space.
- If given the go-ahead, Aaron thought that there would be a six month design phase, followed by about six months of construction. Construction would likely take place during winter while water levels are low.

5. Reports.

a. Governing Board Meeting. Bill Banks reported on the June 26 Governing Board meeting.

- No items were called off the consent calendar.

- Logan and Associates audited the 2019 books. The District came through with flying colors.
- There was no other business.

b. TAC Meeting. Annie Berlemann reported on the July TAC meeting.

- The TAC heard the same presentation on Southmoor Drive, and recommended that the Board approve the project.
- There was an update to the Stormwater Criteria Manual, applicable to the city and the MS-4 permit.

c. Outreach Group. Alli Schuch reported on Outreach activities. Her July - August Outreach Report is appended to these minutes.

- Creek Week meetings are an ongoing thing, by Zoom of course.
- Allie is meeting with the Parks Department with regard to a watershed restoration event for Mesa Creek, which runs through Sonderman Park, during Creek Week. Volunteers will remove invasive species such as Siberian elms and honeysuckle.
- Creek Week is developing a COVID 19 training video to help team leaders comply with regulations.
- A new sponsor this year at the \$2,000 level is the Catamount Center. They are a non-profit environmental education group in Teller County on Pikes Peak. We also received a \$500 donation from Westervelt Environmental.
- Allie will be part of the Water Education Network, a statewide group holding a virtual conference August 20th. Allie will be speaking on using events to gain community interest in taking action on water.
- A new activity this year is “Run Up to Creek Week”, a virtual run fundraiser. Anytime up to 10 days prior to Creek Week, people can register, pick up their race packet, and do a 5K run or 1 mile walk, or whatever, at their own pace, in their own neighborhood or wherever. Cost to participate is \$30 and the runner gets a bib, race medal, a headband/buff, and more.
- Izzy Tils, our 2020 Creek Week intern, said that the District photo contest has gotten great entries and is open to entries until July 15. She asked CAG members to vote for their faves by the 17th. She’ll send CAG members an email with a link to the Google Folder with the photos.

d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee. Irene announced the next meeting of the MMF will be Wednesday the 15th, via Zoom. The committee will see the presentation on Southmoor Drive.

e. Website and Facebook Page. Mary Barber reported that she’ll be updating our calendar software. It will give us the ability to include agendas, photos, and such to each entry, as well as just greater overall flexibility. The upgrade costs \$80. There were no objections to the expense, so Mary will move ahead with it and submit a requisition for reimbursement.

6. Current Business

- **Project Reports** Bill reported on the progress of active projects.
 - All projects are complete.
 - The Corps of Engineers has signed off on the 13th Street project, so he is hoping to begin work this fall, September or October.

- The Fountain Creek projects tour will be September 18, with a backup date in October.

7. New Business.

Recommendation to District Board concerning Southmoor Drive Alternatives

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the CAG recommended that the District Board approve the South project at Southmoor Drive at an estimate of \$3.4 million. The CAG recognizes the urgency of the project but has concerns about the allocation of funds for the project.

8. Public Comment.

- Scout Kavan Brown attended the virtual meeting, commenting that he was working on a communications merit badge by attending a public meeting and seeing how the process works.
- Annie Berlemann commented that an administrative action meeting on PFAS, Policy 20-1, will be Monday and Tuesday, July 13th and 14th. A zoom link has been posted on the Water Quality Control Commission's website, and the meeting is open to the public. Various groups and individuals will be giving testimony.
- Annie Berlemann also reported that the next TAC meeting will feature Crystal Brown of the USGS with a presentation on their network of precipitation sensors. The meeting will be on Zoom and everyone is invited to attend. The link is on the District website calendar.

9. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held August 14 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 11:00 a.m.

Appendix

JULY - AUGUST 2020 WATERSHED OUTREACH COORDINATOR REPORT

6/15 Creek Week steering committee calls, Liquid Lecture marketing, CW fun run planning, PR meeting

6/16 Sponsorship calls, Steering Committee meeting prep, meeting with Dana from El Paso County Parks, tour of maintenance shop with Izzy, video series planning

6/17 District MMF meeting, CW agenda development

6/18 Creek Week Steering Committee Meeting and follow ups

6/22 Liquid Lecture marketing, sponsorship follow ups, social media planning

6/23 Liquid Lecture planning meeting, COVID waiver research

6/24 Website support, updating Brewshed membership and poster, Virtual Liquid Lecture: Fountain Creek Water Sentinels, plastic webinar

JULY-AUGUST 2020 WATERSHED OUTREACH COORDINATOR REPORT (cont'd)

6/25 Sonderman Park restoration site walk-through – confirmed will do a project there during Creek Week with City Forestry Dept., Izzy support/planning

6/26 Creek Week budget and planning, timeline update, FCWD Board Meeting

6/29 Creek Week supplies research, Save the Date card edits, fun run planning, grant writing

6/30 Pueblo meeting planning, PR work

7/1 FCWD TAC meeting, Creek Week Crew Leader training meeting with Kristin

7/2 CW planning, Izzy support/planning, social media work

7/6 COVID messaging meeting with Steve and Bill, PR meeting and work, Creek Week planning and training video updates

7/17 Finalized Brewshed membership, updating Brewshed poster, CW supply order research, 5K planning

7/20 Email correspondence catch up, District PR meeting, Izzy work coordination

7/22 Call with Ed Duffey about CW supply ordering, CW meeting notes distributed, materials cost research

7/24 Call with Nancy Nelson from El Paso County about filming new videos for CW, CW paperwork updates – COVID language, Brewshed coordination

7/27 Save the Date card finalization and printing, PO box pickup, CSU/CW marketing coordination

7/28 PR work – article development, CW website updates

7/29 Pollinator Project meeting with Manitou, CW sponsorship solicitations, working lunch with Izzy

7/30 Water Education Network presentation prep, organized CW supplies, field trip with Gary Rapp to see riparian project on Shook's Run, Brewshed updates, met with Jeff Zeafoss from Carter Payne about using District photo winners on beer labels

8/3 Filmed Water Education Network presentation, District PR meeting, met with Drew Johnson about 5K medal, put together pet waste bag kits

8/4 CW marketing updates and steering committee follow ups

8/5 Met with Steve Woods and Andrew at Concrete Couch – tour, opportunities to partner?? District TAC meeting, meet with with Alex from Catamount Institute about schools and CW, Brewshed follow ups

8/6 Call with Theresa about Virtual Wild and Scenic Film Festival, lunch meeting with Bill and Izzy, follow up on photo contest winners/beer labels, CW marketing and ordering

8/10 CW Crew Leader email out, PR work -articles, Crew Leader training updates, Pollinator Project call

8/11 Wild and Scenic film fest research/planning, Izzy to-do list wrap up, call with Beth from Catamount Institute about school coordination, CW budget/materials planning

8/12 CC student coordination for fall, met with Irene about CW budget, met with Christine Thomas about CW committee work, Crew Leader form updates, 5K registration updates

8/13 Brewshed coordination, CW website updates

8/14 District CAG meeting, meeting with Dee from Keep CS Beautiful, CW steering committee meeting prep and follow ups