

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

**Meeting Minutes  
October 10, 2020**

The meeting was held online via Zoom

**1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions.** The October 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 9:32 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

Alli Schuch, FCWD Outreach Coordinator

**2. Approve Agenda of Meeting.**

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

**3. Approve August 14, 2020 Minutes.**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the September 11, 2020 Minutes were approved.**

#### 4. Presentation: There was no presentation.

#### 5. Reports.

##### a. Governing Board Meeting.

Bill Banks reported on the September 25 Governing Board meeting.

- Bill presented the proposed budget for 2021. The Board does not vote on the budget until December.
- There was a discussion of the project tour to be held October 16. He expressed his gratitude to Annie Berlemann and Allie Schuch for their work on the tour.
- Bill expects to talk about grant opportunities for hazard mitigation next month.

##### b. TAC Meeting.

Annie Berlemann reported on the October 7 Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

- Bill discussed the Capital Improvement Plan for 2021.
- Annie gave a virtual walkthrough of the beta version of the Arkansas River Basin Water Quality Dashboard that will be published by the Arkansas Basin Roundtable or another of Utilities' non-profit partners. It sorts data in a more user friendly fashion than the USGS program. It brings in State data sources as well.

##### c. Outreach Group.

Alli Schuch reported on Creek Week and other Outreach activities.

- Alli was still working on final data from Creek Week, but gave some quick numbers on this year's events. She'll present the full report next month.
  - There were 47 runners in the first Creek Week Virtual 5 K, and the event raised \$350.
  - The District facilitated a fishing derby at Anticline Pond near Pueblo Reservoir. There were \$2,000 in prizes, give-aways, and food for the 27 kids and 19 adults from Pueblo Boys and Girls Club.
  - There were three public work days comprising 41 volunteers at Sonderman Park for the forest health management project. The volunteers contributed 164 hours of work over the 40 acre site removing 930 elms and over 400 ash trees to prepare for healthier vegetation. This is an on-going project.
  - The Allie Alliteration Litter Letter is up in America the Beautiful Park.
  - The students at Manitou Elementary all did a storm drain chalk art project.
  - In all, there were a total of 85 events, public and private, supported by \$22,000 of in-kind contributions and \$16,000 in cash.
- Alli also noted other Outreach activities, including a pollinator virtual Liquid Lecture and the December 3 Wild and Scenic virtual film festival. We're partnering with TOSC and possibly Palmer Land Trust on that. CAGsters who expressed interest in helping will be notified of opportunities soon.
- Bill commented that a Creek Week interview on KRDO resulted in a possible corporate tie-in with Kum & Go convenience stores. He thinks it could be big for Creek Week and the District.
- Alli's October-November Watershed Outreach Coordinator Reports are appended to these Minutes.

##### d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee.

Irene reported that the MMF met in September and has begun working on the 2021 CIP. As a part of that process they are examining their goals and the methods to be used achieving them.

- Irene pointed out that water quality can be improved not just by rebuilding stream banks to limit sediment ingress, but also by establishing wetlands to filter sediment and other unwanted material from the creek. No decisions have been made at this point.
- She added that with our dwindling capital, we are seeking to get the most out of our investments in remediation.
- Bill's briefing later in **Section 7, New Business** will introduce this year's process and potential projects for 2021.

##### e. Website and Facebook Page.

Mary Barber spoke on recent website activity.

- She reminded everyone of her recent email informing website users that our files have been moved from Dropbox to Google Drive. The change should be transparent to users, but she asked to be notified of any problems with file retrieval.
- She reported that they will be doing an upgrade of the website soon, with a resultant security improvement.

- She also hopes to enhance Creek Week’s visibility on the District website, and invites suggestions and comments from the CAG.

## 6. Current Business.

- **Project Reports.** Bill reported that the 13th Street Project in Pueblo will have shovels in the dirt October 12th. The homeless community camping there was moved October 8 with the help of Jeff Hawkins, Pueblo Stormwater. Heavy equipment disposed of the remaining debris to prepare the area for project start.
    - Velma Campbell asked what access is being used to move equipment and material to and from the site. Bill replied that it was on the east side accessing the flood plain by the trail between 8th Street and 13th.
    - Velma also inquired whether notification was given to the adjacent East Side community in advance of the project, *i.e.*, to look out for heavy equipment along the trail, etc.
    - She also asked about the process of notification and removal of the unhoused population living in the creek floodplain.
      - Bill acknowledged that it was a difficult process, and that he had had extended conversations with Jeff Hawkins about it. Apparently there is a team of police officers who post notice in advance, and then perform the eviction. There seems to be ambiguity about the final eviction process.
      - Velma expressed concern for people subjected to the process, and especially that we in the District are a part of it. Although it’s too late now to affect the process in this case, she asked for a breakdown of how many arrests were made, whether people objected to being moved, where they went, and so forth.
      - Bill admitted to it having been a difficult process and that he is personally sensitive to the homeless/unhoused plight. He will reach out to the city to explore better approaches and to be better educated about the process Pueblo uses.
  - David Wooley suggested that we have a future presentation by the Pueblo and Colorado Springs homeless outreach teams to gain a better understanding of how the District should deal with this issue in the future.
- Fountain Creek Tour of Projects.** Annie asked tour participants to meet at the Loaf and Jug parking lot off Jerry Murphy at the Highway 47 bridge, where tour books will be distributed for the windshield tour.

## 7. New Business.

**Potential 2021 CIP Projects.** Bill presented the 2021 CIP process and three candidate focus areas, as he refers to them. He emphasized that no project would necessarily have to be done *in toto*. The District may choose to put its efforts into just one or more of the project elements, whether reconnecting the flood plain, establishing wetlands, re-channelization, or whatever is decided as the best bang for our buck. Matrix will provide alternatives for each in a future meeting, Bill gave an overview of each focus area.

- **Sandoval.** This area has opportunities for wetlands, water quality issues from horse stables, re-channelization, and more.
- **Pueblo Levee.** This is just above the confluence with the Arkansas River. It presents a good opportunity to re-connect the floodplain. Abandoned railroad structures upstream make a pinch point in the channel and should be removed. Pueblo is planning work upstream, and there are opportunities for synergy.
- **Eagle Ridge.** This area is immediately upstream from the completed Highway 47 project. Infrastructure protecting water pipelines has been damaged by 2013 and 2016 storms and most recently by CDOT straightening the channel to temporarily protect their bridge abutments at Highway 47.
  - The District is proposing to Pueblo that we could work with them to on value-added work, while they protect their infrastructure.
  - There are already three feet of sediment behind the grade drop and pilings, so the adjacent

terraces could be turned back into floodplain, and then potentially turn existing floodplain into wetlands. Bill emphasized the value of wetlands for water quality.

- Wetland creation can also be used as a mitigation credit, providing we can set up a mitigation bank in the watershed. Bill is trying to work with Colorado Springs Stormwater toward that end.

It's a win-win situation and Bill hopes that Pueblo will be willing to partner on this concept.

Irene summarized by saying that these three areas are being looked at for next year's projects, and the MMF encourages input on these or any other possibilities. She also acknowledged Velma's comments and concerns about the homeless and how to work with the human element in the creek ecosystem. It's always been an issue with projects in Pueblo, she said, and we'll have to figure out a way to work with it. Velma suggested that our contractors develop a homeless plan, including cooperating with the appropriate agencies. Such planning should be as much a part of project planning as any other element of the work.

**8. Public Comment.** Velma said the Fountain Creek Water Sentinels steering committee met recently and had questions about road closures related to an ion exchange water treatment facility and also Southmoor Drive. Bill said the Southmoor Drive project is tabled until action by City of Fountain. He had no knowledge of the other road closure.

**9. Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held November 13, 2020, virtually via Zoom. Members will be notified prior to the next meeting, or may use the link, faithfully updated by Mary, on the web site calendar.

## **10. Adjourn.**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.**

### **Appendix: OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2020 WATERSHED OUTREACH COORDINATOR REPORT**

10/12 Colorado College student coordination, CW debrief meeting prep, Fishing Derby thank you cards, CW wrap up, data work

10/13 Wild and Scenic meeting and coordination

10/14 CW thank you card development, Liquid Lecture promotion, Wild and Scenic planning meeting

10/15 Concrete Couch site visit with Bill and Andrew, meeting with Irene, thank you card work, CW wrap up meeting, District tour prep

10/16 FCWD Tour, CW thank you cards out

10/19 CW summary report development, shared CW emails with PR team, Wild and Scenic planning, PR meeting and follow ups, Virtual Liquid Lecture

10/19 Wild and Scenic planning, social media, Brownfield grant meeting

10/21 Litter Letter follow ups, Wild and Scenic planning meeting, MMF meeting

10/22 CW summary report development

10/23 District Board meeting – delivered CW summary report

10/26 Email to all CW crew leaders, steering committee members, Brewshed work

10/27 Wild and Scenic meeting

11/2 PR meeting and follow ups, social media

11/3 Meeting with Bill, Liquid Lecture follow ups

11/4 TAC meeting, CW summary report delivered, Wild and Scenic sponsorship, marketing work

11/5 Wild and Scenic

11/8 Wild and Scenic programming, marketing, sponsorship

11/9 Wild and Scenic planning, PR work

11/10 PR work, Wild and Scenic, Brewshed work, CW thank you wrapped up

11/11 PR work, Wild and Scenic prep