

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

**Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2021**

The meeting was held online via Zoom

- 1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions.** The February 12, 2021 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (FCWD) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Mr. Terry Hart, Chair, at 9:37 a.m. A quorum was noted, with the following CAG members attending via Zoom.

Terry Hart, CAG Chair
Mary Barber – CAG Vice Chair and Web Manager
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary
Jessica Miller
Velma Campbell
Ian Hartley
Judith Rice Jones
Kevin Sparks
Jamie Valdez
David Woolley

CAG Members Not in Attendance

Samantha Bailey
Annie Berlemann – TAC Representative to the CAG
Irene Kornelly

Also in attendance:

Bill Banks, FCWD Executive Director
Allison Plute Outreach Coordinator
Christine Lowenberg

- 2. Approve Agenda of Meeting.**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the February 12, 2021 Agenda was approved.

- 3. Approve the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes and the January 8, 2021 Minutes.**

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes and the January 8, 2021 Minutes were approved.

- 4. Presentation:** There was no presentation.

5. Reports.

a. Governing Board Meeting. Bill Banks reported on the January 26 Governing Board Meeting, status of the 13th Street Project, and other Executive Director activities.

- The Board elected officers for 2021.
 - Chairperson, Richard Skorman, City of Colorado Springs
 - Vice Chair, Larry Atencio, City of Pueblo
 - Secretary, Greg Lauer, City of Fountain
- The 13th Street project in Pueblo is ahead of schedule. The conduits are out of the stream. There was a problem with a 32 inch outfall on the west side of the creek that had deposited a lot of road salt from I-25. To prep for plantings, the contractor deep tilled the soil to increase infiltration, increased the soil amendments, and is planning on the use of salt-tolerant plantings. CDOT did not have any funds available to offset our extra expense.
- Bill has asked Matrix to compile a document of lessons learned on this project. There will be an after action review and Bill would like at least one member of the CAG to participate. The intent is to memorialize what went right and what went wrong. One success was the in-stream borrow pit, which saved us having to import material.
- Pueblo is working on its utility crossing upstream of the Highway 47 bridge and downstream of our Eagle Ridge project. We're hoping Matrix can be involved to coordinate all the work.
- Bill had discussions with Revision the Creek, a philanthropic group involving Kathy Loo and other philanthropic and civic forces. They hope to institute a VIP (Visioning Implementation Plan) for the greenway and creek. We want to be a part of this planning and its related publicity. Another meeting is forthcoming.
 - There was discussion about whether this was the same group that had proposed stove-piping all projects along the creeks to increase project visibility and avoid duplication of effort among the various actors up and down the watershed. [Refer to the October 2019 CAG minutes.]
 - Christine Lowenberg spoke to explain that it was a reconstituted and evolved version of the David Lord-associated group that visited the CAG.
 - Others spoke to ask that the group return and brief the CAG on their current efforts and direction.
 - Terry agreed and also hoped to get Denver Urban Drainage and the Greenway Foundation (Jeff Shoemaker) to return and give insight into how they coordinate activities in their district. He thought their political and fundraising experience would be useful to the District.
 - Judith Rice Jones proposed a one day symposium along the lines of the Boulder Pedestrian Conference. Pueblo, Ft. Collins, and Longmont also have interesting projects. There is a lot of effort around connecting urban trails and waterways.
- With regard to Mitigation Banking, Bill has had more conversations with people involved, including Westervelt Engineering. Conclusions are that it and a related concept – Fee in Lieu of – are expensive, with upfront costs of a quarter million dollars, with no return on investment until after three or four years. He doesn't see it as a current possibility for us.
- Bill has had continuing discussions with Keith Frederick and Steve Welchert in regard to the upcoming public survey to determine watershed residents' perceptions about the value of the District's work with regard to a mill levy.
- Work on the Hansen Trail Head is proceeding. The District contributed \$750,000 to El Paso

County in support of the project. Bridges are almost in place. The contractor is using toewood from native cottonwoods, which are softer than the burned evergreen logs we have most recently used. It will be interesting to see the long-term effects.

- Alli and Bill met with Kum & Go, the convenience store with 60 locations across the watershed. Their Corporate Responsibility Program intends to make the Fountain Creek Watershed their showcase project promoting water quality. Bill is excited about the potential of the partnership.
- The next Board meeting will be the 26th of February.

b. TAC Meeting. There was no report.

c. Outreach Group. Alli Schuch gave the outreach report. The Watershed Outreach Coordinator Activity Report for February-March is appended to these minutes.

- Creek Week planning is underway! Alli has three grants identified that she will be applying for. The first kick-off meeting will be on the 17th.
- We will be participating in the Great American Cleanup, April 24th. El Paso County Environmental Services is the organizer. Alli will be the facilitator for a section of Monument Creek around Uintah Street. Colorado College and nearby businesses and groups will also be participating. CAG Members are encouraged to visit the GAC local website for locations and sign up information. <http://www.gacppp.com>
- The Brewshed Alliance has volunteered eight locations for a pilot cigarette butt recycling program. Cigarette butts are the number 1 waste item identified nationally. The program is through Terracycle, and will cost \$500 from the Creek Week budget. Alli has a 10-month Liquid Lectures series this year, happening on the third Thursday, online. Red Leg Brewery is offering a Crowler at discount pricing for your enjoyment during the programs.
- We are partnering with El Paso County Parks for their 50th year celebration. They are sponsoring four of the Liquid Lectures.
- We have been invited to participate in the Water Education Colorado Urban Bike Tour. This is the first to happen in Colorado Springs and will be June 11th and 12th. This socially distanced bike tour will use local bike paths with stops along the way to learn about stormwater, the Watershed District, and more.
- We will have another Colorado College intern this summer. We have the money for it and the student will start mid-May and finish in August. Allie commented that David Woolley has helped to interview candidates in the past, and anyone else wanting to help this March is encouraged to contact Alli.
- Mary Barber, David, and Izzie (last year's intern) are working on website refinements and updates. Before implementation they will give a presentation to show their proposed tweaks.
- Terry mentioned the windblown trash on the big hill by the northside Pueblo Walmart and other big box stores in that shopping area. He thought we should see if we can get Walmart and the other merchants to sponsor a periodic clean up of the area. Much of the trash ends up in the creek there. There is an opportunity for us to work with merchants and possibly Great American Cleanup, Keep Pueblo Beautiful, and other civic groups. Alli and Terry will work together on this effort.

d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee. Bill reported that the group worked on the 2021 CIP. The draft final version was sent to the committee for review, with sign off next month.

e. Website and Facebook Page. Mary Barber asked that website users contact her with suggestions for making the site more useful and convenient.

6. Current Business.

- **Project Reports.** Bill's report earlier in these minutes covered project reports.
- **Discussion of 2021 Plans and Goals.** Terry opened the discussion with comments received and other ideas for upcoming meetings. His suggestions are as follows:
 - A workshop with Mile High Flood District/Denver Urban Drainage, and similar groups from along the Front Range. The goal would be to share best practices, 'what works', lessons learned and the like, across a wide variety of topics from nature and engineering to financing and public outreach.
 - Another presentation on the history of Fountain and Monument Creeks. Katherine Sturdevant of Pikes Peak Community College gave the last one in February 2015.
 - In depth briefings of projects being performed by Colorado Springs and Utilities under the IGA and the Consent Decree.
 - A briefing on the watershed's geomorphology, reviewing studies, opportunities, and practices.
 - A presentation on current brown-field activity in the area.
 - Information on the upcoming survey of constituents' attitudes toward a tax levy.
 - Information on the Greenway project.
 - Project tours.
 - The consent decree.
- Judith added that she'd like to learn more about the Green Infrastructure Manual, referenced in the Consent Decree. She also wants to hear about the brown-field investigation grant related to the Envision Shooks Run study.
 - Christine Lowenberg, the Regional Community Liaison on the EPA brown-field grant for Shooks Run, offered to give a presentation on the project. Terry put it on the agenda for April.
 - Velma Campbell added that the topic of 'what lies beneath' is of great interest and importance to the down-streamers in Pueblo.
- Judith added another topic along the topic of 'what lies beneath': Utilities' plans, or lack of them, for coal gasification residues around the Drake power plant. The cleanup of Drake, with its proximity to the creek, promises to be a huge effort for the city.
- Jack Wallick asked for Annie Berlemann or someone from the City or Utilities to do a presentation on Monument Creek water quality, addressing effluent and the constituents causing odor, algae, and foam. With talk of using the creek as a recreational asset, is the water safe? What is required to make the creek a recreational amenity?
- Ian Hartley asked "What does the Board want us to do?" As a part of a larger organization, our directions should also be determined from above, so a presentation on how the Board sees us would be informative and appropriate.
 - Terry laughingly commented, from the position of having been both a CAG and Board member, that the Board would love us to position the two counties so we have a successful ballot issue. Additionally, he thought that ideally the direction goes both ways. As citizens we should direct our elected officials as much as they direct us.
 - Bill spoke to reinforce the CAG's value in outreach, especially with a ballot question approaching in the next year or two.
- David asked if Terry would send out the list of potential topics for our further consideration.

7. New Business. There was no new business.

8. Public Comment. There were no comments from the public.

9. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be held March 12, 2021, virtually via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. 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 11:47 a.m.

Appendix

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2021 WATERSHED OUTREACH COORDINATOR REPORT

- 2/12 Meeting with Joyce Salazar from EPC Health Dept. about Sand Creek cleanups and collaboration opportunities. Presentation to Cheyenne Mtn Jr. High Creek Club on watersheds and stormwater. CC PIFP applications review.
- 2/13 Finalized CSU/Creek Week agreement. Drafted new District business card. Reviewed CC applications, interview prep.
- 2/14 Creek Week catch up. CAG meeting. Supplies purchasing. CC student calls.
- 2/15 Staffed table at Larry Stebbin's Garden Class.
- 2/16 CC summer intern interviews, PR meeting, Creek Week calls with students
- 2/19 Pueblo fishing derby work, CC summer intern interviews, Facebook postings and website updates
- 2/21 Great American Cleanup call and planning
- 2/24 Creek Week catch up
- 2/25 Generation Wild Strategic Planning Session, pet waste bag project coordination with CSU, Pueblo fishing derby planning, Tree Trading Cards call, PBS Water Event tabling/outreach
- 2/26 Brewshed Alliance coordination with Ft Collins peers, Creek Week planning, UCCS E Coli project work, outreach coordination – events and supplies, meeting with Formstack about Creek Week website and training
- 2/27 Creek Week catchup
- 2/28 Attended Pikes Peak Environmental Forum lunch on PFOAs. FCWD Board meeting

- 3/2 Brewshed planning and meeting prep, PR meeting, WordPress training for website updates, Creek Week/CC calls
- 3/3 PR follow ups, set up Grasshopper phone lines, looking into grants with City Forestry/CSU for Little Mesa Creek – potential Creek Week project
- 3/15 Correspondence catch up, Creek Week planning, CC partnership discussions, Pueblo Fishing Derby prep
- 3/16 Creek Week planning, PR meeting, Brewshed work