

Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District
Citizens Advisory Group
Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2010

The meeting was held at:
City of Fountain, City Hall
116 S. Main Street, 2nd Floor
Fountain, CO 80817

1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions

The October 8, 2010, meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed Citizens Advisory Group (“CAG”) was called to order by Chairperson, Ms Ferris Frost, at approximately 9:40am. In attendance were the following designated members of the CAG:

Ferris Frost – Chairperson
Dan Henrichs
Mary Barber
Ross Vincent

Terry Hart
Carol Baker
Jack Johnston

Members not present:

Tom Evans – Vice Chairperson
Richard Skorman
Eva Montoya
Irene Kornelly
David Kinnischtzke

Chris Yuan-Farrell
Jay Winner
Tom Ready
Dennis Maroney

Mr Gary Barber, Interim Executive Director, Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (“FCWD”), was also present.

A quorum was not present as noted at approximately 0940.

2. Approve Agenda of October 8, 2010 Meeting

Formal action on the agenda was not taken.

3. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting(s)

Approval of minutes was deferred to a future meeting.

4. Report by Gary Barber, Interim Executive Director, FCWD.

-The FCWD Board approved the by-laws.

-The suggestions made by the CAG on the by-laws were not incorporated into the final by-laws.

-The recommendation to give one-week notice rather than 24 hr notice for meetings was not approved by the Board, but the District intends to publish notices one week ahead.

-The recommendation to allow the Citizen Director to be an officer was also not approved failing on a 5-4 vote after lengthy discussion by the Board members.

- The Board held a retreat in August. Discussions included the purpose of each member's personal involvement in the FCWD, financial needs of the District (interim and permanent), completion of a watershed master plan, partnering opportunities (Department of Transportation, Venetucci, etc), and outreach especially in support of a ballot initiative in 2012 for funding the District. Mr Barber views outreach regarding projects as the responsibility of the Executive Director with community outreach being a CAG responsibility.
- If a ballot initiative is postponed, the FCWD may need to be mothballed until 2015/2016 when Southern Delivery System ("SDS") money becomes available.
- The City of Colorado Springs 'strong mayor' and other questions on the ballot may affect the future of the FCWD.
- We (FCWD) are positioning ourselves for the future, reaching out to find as many partners as we can and engaging with the community (CAG), but we haven't made a decision on going to the ballot in 2012. We are preparing to make the circuit with the Intergovernmental Agreement ("IGA") partners and get their thoughts on 2012.
- On the one hand, we are making informed decisions; on the other hand, some of the choices are not very attractive given the reality of our local economy and political dynamic.
- Mr Hart would hate losing the momentum. He hears what is being said about mothballing, but we will lose our current elected officials who have buy-in and this will mean starting over.
- Mr Barber would like to see a situation where people are clamoring to be on the Board.
- Potential strong mayor affects on FCWD were briefly discussed. The City of Colorado Springs City Council serves as the Utility Board. As currently understood this would not change with a strong mayor. The mayor's platform may be an indicator of affects on SDS, the Colorado Springs Utilities and the District.
- The Denver area has been successful with an incremental sales tax increase in accomplishing projects. Mr Hart considers such a tax would be more successful than a property tax, both in El Paso and Pueblo Counties at least to start. It might then be supplemented down the road with a small property tax.
- Mr Barber shared his experience at a recent conference. \$100.0 million in investments on the South Platte has yielded \$10.0 billion in economic benefit to the City of Denver. It took 36 years to get to this point, and they are not done yet. Gary has said to the Board they are at a fork in the road where the District needs to go to the ballot or mothball. The CAG has a mission!

5. Stakeholder Interview: Tim Wolken, El Paso County: Director of Community Services, and Chair of Rainbow Falls Task Force.

Members introduced themselves for the benefit of Mr Wolken.

Mr Wolken introduced himself and the role of the Community Services. He reviewed the mission and goals of the county relative to the FCWD. (Handout on file)

- The Nature Center Expansion has been on the books for some time. Funding through Great Outdoors Colorado ("GOCO") and other partners will be needed.
- Partnerships in the corridor include the Colorado Open Lands, Frost Livestock Company, and City of Fountain.
- Mr Wolken reviewed the El Paso County Park & Trail Location Map and the association of the parks with the FCWD initiatives.
- The County is looking for third party funding support for the Rainbow Falls Restoration Project. They have been in discussions with Colorado Department of Transportation on erosion issues. A master plan is in process.
- Proposed trails include the Fountain Creek Trail extension to the county line as part of the Front Range Trail. Also in the master plan the Jimmy Camp Creek to the Corral Bluffs area and the Ute Pass Trail. Most of these trail projects are in some stage of planning.

-County staff members participate in FCWD efforts on the Technical Advisory Committee and other initiatives.

-The county has also been heavily involved in water quality efforts if not on Fountain Creek itself then in the watershed.

-Ms Baker would like a copy of the map in his presentation for the District's information and use.

-El Paso County has combined efforts with Colorado Springs to discuss a regional park approach because of budget cuts. This coalition will likely be expanded to include other communities. They, too, have been discussing a ballot initiative. He would be very much interested in collaborating if it makes sense. The County has some pretty recent polling information they would be willing to share; citizens generally support sales tax over property tax. Combining initiatives may or may not be the best strategy but worth discussing. Mr Wolken will coordinate with Mr Barber on this and other linkages.

Ms Barber passed around a map titled "Jimmy Camp Creek – Fountain Creek Connector Trailhead," THK Associates, which shows the Wells Property Trailhead.

Ms Baker passed around pictures of a Woodland Park erosion issue and potential, future high priority project which Gary Barber mentioned earlier in the meeting.

6. REPORTS:

a. Governing Board meeting (See Item 4 above)

b. Technical Advisory Committee ("TAC") Meeting: Ms Baker provided the report.

-In regard to the Federal Emergency Management Agency ("FEMA") hydrology maps, URS went back to look for the data used for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("ACOE") study, but couldn't find it. URS tried to regenerate the information but came up with different numbers. The biggest discrepancy between the old and new models pertains to increases on the south end of Fountain Creek. The original model showed the biggest change was on the north end of the system. URS will send a summary of their findings to the TAC for review. The FEMA is waiting on the data based on the District's desire to include it. How long they will wait is unknown.

-Ms Baker showed the outreach presentation to the TAC. (See also Item 6.c.)

-The TAC will make a recommendation to the Board on a proposed flood control study. The TAC had not yet read the proposal, and they wish to see the material, get a presentation from USGS, and review the study proposal before making a recommendation. Sediment, modeling and recommendations to reduce sediment will be the primary aspects of the study. The total cost for the study is \$670,000. The District has \$300,000 from SDS; USGS has an additional \$300,000; \$70,000 is needed. Preliminary information would be available in about a year and will help inform the master plan. The final report will be available sometime later. Discussions regarding impacts to water rights are also occurring. Mr Headley wants to ensure that every plan fits within the 1041 language and checks that box.

-THK asked for input for other things to put on the map, which basically shows the existing 44 miles of the Corridor Master Plan. The TAC was asked what else should be included on the map but there were differing opinions. Next month the TAC will get a presentation from THK as to where they are, what they've been working on and what is desired for the map. The intent of the map is to provide a global view of everything that is happening in the District that we know about.

c. Outreach Group: Ms Baker showed the outreach strategies presentation given to the Board. The Outreach Group wished to have a better idea of the vision and purpose for the District and direction from the Board as to the proposed plan. Roles for the various committees and Board were reviewed. The Board gave the go ahead to proceed with the plan as presented. They want to be kept informed of progress. (Presentation on file) Ms Baker also provided copies of a FCWD pamphlet used for outreach purposes. (Handout on file)

7. CURRENT BUSINESS:

-Ms Frost asked about the status of the letter regarding the President's Great Outdoors Initiative. Status is unknown by the members in attendance. Ms Frost will check with Ms Kornelly.

-Ms Frost asked about the posting of agendas on the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments ("PPACG") Fountain Creek website. Dates and times of meetings are posted but agendas are not. Do we want agendas on there? Mr Vincent thought that it would be a good idea; he will check on it.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

-Mr Hart suggested we may wish to do something as a group for Member Skorman whose mother recently passed away. Ms Frost will check with Ms Annie Oatman-Gardner for a recommendation.

-Ms Barber mentioned a regional sustainability effort under the auspices of the PPACG to develop 2030 goals for the region (El Paso and Teller Counties). The draft goals will be available to the public for comment at the annual Southern Colorado Sustainability Conference, November 18-19, Antlers Hilton, Colorado Springs. Ms Barber will send the draft goals to the CAG. Members are encouraged to participate in the conference and comment on the draft goals. Additional information available about the conference may be found on the Catamount Institute web site at <http://catamountinstitute.net>. Action planning will begin after the first of the year once the goals have been decided upon.

-Ms Frost mentioned a project being reviewed by the City of Fountain that has been brought to her attention. The project is along the west side of highway 87 more or less north of the car wash, Salvation Army and near the Methodist Church adjacent to and within the floodplain of Fountain Creek. A map was passed around. The project will be referred to the District, but perhaps not before trees begin to be cleared. The members would like more information about the timing of the project and what impact the tree removal may have if the project does not move forward. Ms Frost wanted to alert the group to the project which was brought to her by a concerned citizen. She will pursue more information with the City.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

10. Executive Session: None Required

11. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location

The next regularly scheduled CAG meeting will be November 12, 2010, 9:30am, Fountain City Hall. The following meeting will be December 10, 2010, and may be with the Board.

12. Adjourn