

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

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

June 7, 2013

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

**1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions**

The June 7, 2013 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Ms. Irene Kornelly, Chairperson, at approximately 9:30 a.m. A quorum was noted, with the following members of the CAG in attendance:

Irene Kornelly – Chairperson  
Richard Skorman – CAG Representative to the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (“FCWD”) Governing Board  
Ferris Frost – Alternate CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary  
Mary Barber  
Nancy Stone Bernard  
Ross Vincent  
Tom Ready  
Jordan Vana, Colorado Conservation Trust (replacing Dieter Erdmann; to be ratified by the Board at its next official meeting)

CAG Members not present:

Perry Cabot – Vice Chairperson  
Carol Baker  
John Chavez – TAC Chair and Representative to the CAG  
Dan Henrichs  
Jerry Cordova

Also in attendance:

Larry Small, Executive Director Fountain Creek Watershed District  
Allison Mosser, Colorado Springs Utilities

**2. Approve Agenda of June 7, 2013 Meeting**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the updated June 7, 2013 Agenda was approved.**

**3. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the May 10, 2013 minutes were approved.**

#### 4. Reports

**a. Governing Board Meeting.** The Governing Board did not hold a meeting since the last CAG Meeting. The Board will hold a retreat June 13 to consider election and funding issues. The next Governing Board meeting will be June 28.

**b. TAC Meeting.** Irene Kornelly reported on the June 5 TAC meeting.

- Allison Mosser presented an SDS project status update.
- Representatives from the USGS gave a status report on the study they are conducting for the Watershed. A draft is expected in July.
- TAC Chairperson John Chavez will take input from TAC members during the week to prepare a set of recommendations for the Board in its retreat.
- Larry Small expounded on the USGS report status, stating that progress is good.
  - All the scenarios the District had asked for were addressed, including side detention facilities on Monument Creek, Sand Creek, Jimmy Camp Creek, the main stem of Fountain Creek, and on upper Fountain Creek.
  - Their modeling work shows the beneficial effects of the side detention ponds (separately and incrementally) on the gauge at the confluence of the Arkansas River and Fountain Creek. Flooding is essentially precluded by the full suite.
  - Another scenario was diversion of water from Fountain Creek to the Chico Basin. This scenario likewise resulted in non-flood levels at the Fountain Creek – Arkansas confluence, as the Chico Basin empties further down on the river. The study did not examine the effects of diversion on Chico Basin itself.
  - The study modeled drop structures and found that they provide no significant impact on flooding, but they lessen the transport of sediment. This can result in a maintenance problem with sediment behind the drop structures.
  - They have not completed modeling impact of a dam about 10 miles north of Pueblo near Piñon. No preliminary results were available.
  - The modeling will provide an estimate of the size of side detention ponds needed, based on a pond depth of less than 10 feet; 10 feet being the depth at which the state requires a permit.
  - The study is based on existing development. Any unmitigated future development in the watershed would likely exacerbate the modeled results.
  - Larry will arrange for a presentation by the USGS summarizing the draft report for the CAG, either in July or August.

**c. Outreach Group.** The Outreach Group did not meet.

- Mary Barber announced that she has arranged with Jeff Besse to assume responsibility for the District's website. The transition will take place when we get a standalone computer, preferably with an external drive, to be dedicated to the task. Larry is working on it.
- Irene expects the group to meet before the July meeting.

**e. Pikes Peak Regional Stormwater Taskforce.** Richard Skorman reported on the most recent meeting.

- Governance was a major discussion topic, with a unified regional solution being the preferred structure. Whether the city will decide to join or go it alone is unclear, with a more fractured approach a distinct possibility.
- The Emergency Committee discussed whether it would be wise to also address forest health along with storm water in the eventual funding election. The two go hand in hand, with forest health impacting storm water.
- The city is receiving more money for forest health than ever, and has treated some 2400 acres. Unfortunately, at a cost of \$2000 per acre, and with 28,000 acres to treat (including 36,000 residences) there is a lot of risk. That's in the range of a \$50 to \$60 Million dollar price tag.

- Larry commented that the desired density is around 75 trees per acre. Currently there are around 360 trees per acre. Evacuation from areas like the zoo would be difficult in a fast-moving wildfire situation.
- The Black Forest area was singled out as a risk area as well, with post-fire runoff problems affecting the Fountain Creek Drainage.
- The future expense of mitigation appears to be huge, and the problem has yet to be dealt with in any comprehensive fashion.
- Jack Wallick asked if special districts would be an answer to funding fire or flood mitigation in an overall tax-averse city/county. Larry and Richard both agreed that special districts could be put in place for high-risk areas, but that the city already has more than 250 special districts already, and the effects of fires like Waldo Canyon are really regional in scope.
- Returning to the governance issue, Larry reported that the taskforce is exploring setting up a storm water authority based on the Southeast Metro Stormwater Authority, an El Paso Regional Stormwater Authority. Distribution of funding would be among capital, maintenance, and possibly an ‘Emergency Fund’ to deal with such events as the Waldo Canyon runoff problem, and possible forest health issues.
- Taxing and funding allocation alternatives will be narrowed down and resolved at the Monday 24 June meeting

## 5. Current Business

- Prepare Report to the District Board for their June 13th Board Retreat
  - The slide dealing with the Outreach Committee was deleted. Proposals concerning the Outreach Committee will be presented to the board at another time, following further discussion by the Committee.
  - The overall message to be presented by Richard to the Board is to stay out of the political turmoil in El Paso County and focus on the creek corridor, creating a recreational amenity on Fountain Creek, committing to the agricultural, recreational, and environmental issues along the creek, using our money from Colorado Springs Utilities to fund projects along the corridor, establishing ourselves as good stewards of our funds, and positioning the district as a managing agent for other funds and projects.
  - Create a 3-D model of the corridor to show how the District envisions it in the future (the Master Plan). Nancy commented that the Fountain Creek Nature Center would probably have room to house the model. It’s important that the model be transportable so it can be taken on the road to inform the public about the District.

## 6. New Business: Update on SDS Project – Allison Mosser of Colorado Springs Utilities

- Before beginning her presentation, Allison reported that she has just been notified by the state parks and wildlife people that mud snails have been found in Fountain Creek, El Paso County. This is significant, because they are highly invasive and cause considerable environmental damage. There are specific and exacting procedures for disinfecting equipment (construction and/or recreation) to limit the spread of mud snails, and that information will be sent to CAG members.
- Allison reported on current project status, highlights include:
  - 38 of the 50 miles of pipeline are in the ground,
  - The water treatment plant is under construction,
  - Contracts have been awarded for the three pump stations, with construction beginning this summer,
  - Infrastructure at Pueblo Reservoir is progressing,
  - Jurisdictional wetlands mitigation is progressing,

- Design is at 90% for the Fountain Creek re-alignment project, with contract to be awarded at that level to get additional insight from the contractor,
  - Tunneling will be employed to cross the corridor at segment 4A,
  - Contact Allison Mosser for specific details or documents as needed.
- The status presentation generated comments about El Paso County's new 1041 process, establishing greater authority over certain development activities in the county.

**7. Public Comment:** There were no Public Comments.

**8. Executive Session:** None Required

**9. Announcements and Next Meeting:** The next scheduled CAG meeting will be July 12, 2013 at 9:30a.m., Fountain City Hall.

**10. Adjourn:**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:14 a.m.**