

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

**Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2017**

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 January 13, 2017 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (FCWD) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Irene Kornelly, Chair, at 9:35 a.m. A quorum was noted, with the following CAG members in attendance:

Irene Kornelly – Chair
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary
Mary Barber – FCWD Web Manager
Sherie Caffey
Lisa Godwin
Ian Hartley
Allison Plute
Tom Ready
Brandy Williams

CAG Members not present:

Dana Nordstrom
Amber Shanklin
Richard Skorman - CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
Ross Vincent – Vice Chair

Also in attendance:

Larry Small, Executive Director – Fountain Creek Watershed District
Terry Hart, Pueblo County Commissioner and FCWD Board Member
Steve Rothstein, Greenway Fund

2. Approve Agenda of January 13, 2017 Meeting

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the January 13, 2017 agenda was approved.

3. Approve Minutes of November 18, 2016 Meeting

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the November 18, 2016 minutes were approved.

Presentation: Monument Creek Restoration Master Plan, Larry Small.

Larry showed the physical copy of the final report of the \$650,000 effort – a hefty tome, richly illustrated with photos, maps, and tables. The following is a summation of his report.

- There were 23 stakeholders contributing to the process and report, among them were the District, as the lead, City of Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs Utilities, the Air Force Academy, State of Colorado Department of Local affairs through HUD disaster recovery funding, PPACG, CDOT, El Paso County, Town of Palmer Lake, and the Greenway Fund.
- Among the goals and guiding principles, foremost was resilience. A key requirement of the Master Plan and by DOLA ground rules is that any future work should be designed to be resilient and be able to withstand the sort of event that caused the need for restoration, not just a restoration of what was there before. Also foremost were health and safety and welfare of the public, a healthy ecosystem, sustainable and self-maintaining projects that do not require maintenance or re-building over time, and cost-effective designs.
 - Core values were safety, resilience, constructability, protection of the environment, adhere to community values, and reasonable schedules.
 - The objectives were to identify the concerns within the watershed; to update the technical foundation, i.e., previous technical studies by the Army Corps of Engineers, CDOT plans for the transportation corridor, environmental assessments, etc. The Master Plan was to be comprehensive and holistic, it even includes soil types, hydrology, and predicted precipitation patterns.
 - The projects are actionable, not conceptual.
- Up to date flow and release rates were included in the Plan, because many local planning documents are not up to date, and the Plan recommends that documents be updated to the latest figures.
- Criteria mandated by the Intergovernmental Agreement between Colorado Springs and Pueblo County were also incorporated into the process. These criteria are crucial to management of the watershed and to preserve the IGA.
- The Plan's Recommendations and Principles emphasized that regional solutions work best - stormwater that originates with a jurisdiction does not stay there, it affects other jurisdictions downstream.
 - The Plan also acknowledges that development alters runoff. While the principle is not new, it must be emphasized.
 - Space is limited, and it must be used in intelligent ways.
 - Multi-objective projects are highly recommended. These are projects that are not only aimed at stream restoration, but that have an added recreational, wildlife habitat, or wetlands aspect as well.
 - Natural systems are valuable – they cannot be replaced and they are vulnerable to many aspects of development and human activity.
 - Maintenance matters! If you build something, plan to maintain it and maintain it. If maintenance is deferred, the system will deteriorate and have to be replaced at greater cost than maintenance, and in the meantime it will not function as intended and the ecosystem and other infrastructure is endangered.
 - Be aware that floodplains are hazardous, especially in this region. Promote stream safety because a docile stream can become a raging torrent in minutes.
 - Altering storm water runoff has legal implications. Design requires close adherence to Colorado water law is very strict about what happens to runoff and who may use it.

- The Master Plan identifies over 250 actionable projects, prioritized and categorized. These are new projects, not those in any other plan out there.
 - On the actionable list, forty two are categorized High and Immediate
 - Each project has a conceptual design and an estimated cost.
 - Each project is located in the overall watershed map and on a detailed local map, with description and cost estimates of construction and construction management. These are in 2016 dollars, and do not include design/engineering beyond either conceptual or 30 percent design or other costs.
 - The categories into which projects fall are:
 - Immediate Action. Only 3 projects require immediate action. These are associated with I-25 structures. One is already underway, having been identified in the Plan process and developed to 30 percent design, then turned over to City, Utilities, and the Air Force Academy for implementation.
 - Stream Reach Restoration,
 - Detention and Water Quality Facilities,
 - Flood Risk Reduction,
 - Aquatic and Terrestrial Habitat,
 - Local Erosion,
 - Riparian Buffer Restoration,
 - Trails and Open Space,
 - Programmed Capital Improvements Projects. The costing is not included in the project cost list, nor are there conceptual designs, as those are being developed by City Stormwater under the IGA with Pueblo County. They are included for completeness of the Plan.
- General stewardship recommendations were made, with the first being to continue post fire mitigation efforts. Both Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires affected this watershed. Other key recommendations were:
 - Protection of wild lands – important to both the ecosystem and to the community values of the watershed.
 - Manage the forests for mitigation of future wildfires.
 - Conserve riparian buffer zones from future development.
 - Maintain and prevent development or other encroachment on the 100 year floodplain.
 - Value the watershed as a resource and an asset.
 - Limit runoff through low impact development.
 - Use the Drainage Control Manual in future planning and design for consistency throughout the watershed and region.
- The Plan includes the criteria used to categorize or prioritize the alternative treatments. Documentation is also included to show the decision processes.
- Stakeholder collaboration was important in development of the Plan, as well as four public meetings from which public input was incorporated. To keep this stakeholder collaborative active, the District has agreed to lead a quarterly technical meeting of stakeholders to monitor implementation and related matters affecting stakeholders. The first meeting will be in March.

5. Reports.

a. Governing Board Meeting. Larry Small reported on the December 9 Board meeting.

- The Board approved the 2017 consolidated budget, approved a one year extension to the Matrix Design Group technical services contract, and approved an amendment to the Monetary Mitigation Fund Committee bylaws pertaining to reporting. The MMF Committee now reports to the Water Activities Enterprise Board and no longer to the District Board.

- The Board approved the Colorado Springs Utilities land use application for the Frost Ranch diversion structure, previously approved by the CAG and TAC.
- The Board heard Allison Plute's report on Creek Week.
- The Water Activity Enterprise Board met and ratified the Water Activities service agreement with Colorado Springs Utilities regarding the Drainage Criteria Manual funding. That work started December 12, three days after approval.
- Water Activities also ratified the 2017 budget and the contract for the Pueblo dredging project.
- The next Board meeting will be January 27.

b. Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. Brandy Williams reported on the TAC meeting.

- The TAC is working on a regional E. coli plan and is trying to get a handle on what the deliverables should be.
- The TAC hopes to have a meeting with the Planning Directors of El Paso and Pueblo Counties with respect to the Drainage Criteria Manual.
- The TAC elected offices for 2017. They are: Brandy Williams - Chair, Mark Shea – Vice Chair, and Pat Coffee – Secretary.

c. Outreach Group. Allison Plute reported for the Outreach Group.

- Allison turned in the application for the Pueblo Childrens' Waterfest, which will be Tuesday May 9 at CSU Pueblo. This is a well-attended event, the kids have a blast, and it's a great outreach activity. Volunteers are needed!
- We are also signed up to have a table at the UCCS Sustainnovate Symposium the evening of Tuesday March 7th. There are also sessions on Wednesday. This year's theme is Water in the West, so this is another excellent opportunity for outreach. Volunteers are needed.
 - A report prepared by the Outreach Subcommittee was distributed to the CAG. In it, the Outreach Subcommittee listed the six subcommittee members as well as other highlighting CAG, TAC, and Board members that also participated in outreach events. The report also detailed the year's accomplishments, of which just a few were:
 - Creek Week – the biggest event of the year, which has grown and taken on a life of its own.
 - Ordered pet waste bag dispensers in partnership with community groups, as part of their Pet Waste Initiative.
 - Participated in 31 events in all eight watershed communities and connected with nearly 9,000 individuals (up from less than 6,000 last year).
 - Secured a 10-week full time fellow, in collaboration with the Greenway Fund, starting in May 2017.
- The subcommittee also proposed a partnership or other form of collaboration with the Greenway Fund Events and Communications Subcommittee. In light of our dwindling Outreach Subcommittee, Outreach needs assistance in its expanding number of public contacts and other outreach efforts. Allison formally asked the CAG whether the Outreach Subcommittee can proceed with establishing a formal relationship with the Greenway Fund Events and Communications Subcommittee.
 - Larry commented that the Outreach Subcommittee can establish a relationship with another organization, and formally codify that agreement. However, it cannot be a legally-binding agreement. Any agreement will have to be ratified by the Board.
 - Allison also passed out the 2017 Collaborative Outreach event calendar, produced with the Greenway Fund. The Outreach Committee has lost a couple members, so everyone in the CAG, TAC, and Board are asked to step up and participate in these upcoming events. The list was prepared in collaboration with the Greenway Fund, which intends to begin taking a more active role working with the District in watershed outreach and education.
 - Steve Rothstein of the Greenway Fund spoke to concur that a legally binding agreement is not possible, but a working relationship or collaboration certainly is.

- Irene said she would entertain a formal motion that the CAG approve collaboration with the Greenway Fund on projects of mutual interest.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the CAG approved collaboration with the Greenway Fund Events and Communications Subcommittee on projects of mutual interest.

- The First Annual Pikes Peak Community College Children’s Water Festival requested a \$100 donation. Larry said that we would have to have it approved by the Board.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the CAG voted to request permission of the Board to make a \$100 donation to the First Annual Pikes Peak Community College Children’s Water Festival.

- The Colorado Springs Sustainability Committee is working with Outreach to set up a Fountain Creek Brewery Collaboration for water awareness and sustainability. Allison has been in touch with the Washington Brewshed Alliance for insight into other areas’ approaches. The brewshed concept is one we hope to appropriate and tie in with Creek Week.

d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Committee. There was no December meeting of the MMFC.

e. Website. Mary Barber had nothing to report.

6. Current Business.

Recommendation of the 2017 CAG Membership to the Board.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the CAG recommended the 2017 CAG Membership List to the Board.

7. Other Business. Allison brought out a stuffed/plush puppet of a blue heron pronouncing it our new mascot and asking for potential names. Blue Boy and Aaron were heard. She also unveiled another stuffed thing – which was revealed as an E. coli, an endearing fecal brown and sporting red cilia, to be used as an educational prop during outreach events.

8. Public Comment. There were no public comments.

9. Next Meeting. The next scheduled CAG meeting will be Friday February 10, at 9:30 a.m. at the Fountain City Hall, 116 S. Main, 2nd Floor, Fountain, CO.

10. Adjourn:

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:07 a.m.

[Editor’s note: Following adjournment the CAG reconvened for the Annual Meeting, minutes of which are presented in a separate document: 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes.]