

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

**Meeting Minutes  
February 13, 2015**

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 February 13, 2015 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 9:30 a.m. A quorum was noted, with the following CAG members in attendance:

Irene Kornelly – Chair  
Ferris Frost – Alternate CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Nancy Keller – TAC Chair and Representative to the CAG  
Mary Barber – FCWD Web Manager  
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary  
Dan Henrichs  
Dana Nordstrom  
Allison Plute  
Amber Shanklin

**CAG Members not present:**

Lois Illick  
Richard Skorman - CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Ross Vincent – Vice Chair  
Tom Ready

**Also in attendance:**

Larry Small, Executive Director Fountain Creek Watershed District  
Kathy Sturdevant, Pikes Peak Community College  
Nancy Stone Bernard, El Paso County Parks

**2. Approve Agenda of February 13, 2015 Meeting**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the February 13, 2015 Agenda was approved.**

**3. Approve Minutes of January 16, 2015 Meeting**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the January 16, 2015 minutes were approved.**

**4. Presentations: History of Fountain and Monument Creeks.** Katherine Sturdevant of Pikes Peak Community College gave a presentation on Fountain and Monument Creeks.

- French trappers named the creek *Fontaine qui Bouille*, meaning Fountain That Boils, referring to the effervescent springs.
- De Anza, whose soldiers attacked the feared Comanche chief Greenhorn (Cuerno Verde) at the confluence of the Fountain and Monument Creeks in 1779, named it Rio de Sacramento. The Spanish

and their Ute and Apache allies pursued the Comanches all the way down the Fountain, with a battle culminating in the death of Greenhorn south of Pueblo. De Anza's victory was crucial to the ongoing Spanish settlement of southern Colorado and northern New Mexico.

- When trappers, traders and settlers were following the Arkansas River on the Santa Fe Trail, the confluence of the Fountain and Arkansas was an important spot. If heading to the northern Rockies, Fountain Creek was the route of choice, leading to Monument Creek – another easy corridor on the way north. After discovery of gold west of what is now Denver, the creek's importance grew even greater. After discoveries in the South Park area and later even further west, Fountain Creek and Ute Pass also grew in importance for commerce and other traffic.
- Even though there were no significant discoveries of gold in the Fountain Creek watershed, the Fountain was subject of a lot of prospecting. All that activity ensured that the watershed was well known.
- By following a creek like the Fountain in the arid west, travelers were also assured of water, and probably game or fish.
- When General Palmer established Colorado Springs in 1870, his choice of the location indicated the importance of this spot where the Fountain and Monument Creeks have their confluence.
- As settlements, towns, and cities are established along waterways, the importance of a creek or river continues to grow, providing both drinking water and, eventually, municipal sewage disposal.
- As with all other waterways, Fountain Creek experiences the cyclical problems of either too much or too little water. Katherine read an account from the 1820 Major Steven Long expedition which described how the Fountain quickly increased 10-fold from a sudden thunderstorm. Accompanying the flooding was a dramatic increase in sediment and foul-smelling buffalo dung. Katherine commented that there must have been an incredible number of buffalo upstream to produce such a dramatic effect. Although the buffalo are now gone, they've been replaced by an incredible number of people producing their own effluent.
- In 1843, Fremont wrote of the Fountain as having a swift current, then of finding the boiling springs, which owed their bubbling to effervescence and not to the temperature of the water.
- Ruxton, who also camped along Fountain Creek, described the wolves as being a nuisance around the camp.
- Katherine gave numerous other historical accounts of the watershed, and its importance to travelers and residents through the centuries.
- Recurrent themes in personal and newspaper accounts are the importance of the corridor to travel and transportation, the importance of drinking and irrigation water, floods and drownings.
- Plans and attempts to control the creek through channeling or whatever go back to early days of the communities. The flood of 1935 brought in an influx of New Deal-related federal aid for flood control. Then following the flood of 1965, more attempts were made using another influx of aid. The recent floods fit into the same cyclical pattern as before.
- In the 1970s, concerns shifted to environmental issues, caring for the habitat and pollution control began to be a factor in how people looked at the creek. Eventually by the 2000s, sewage spills and lawsuits become a part of the story. This is a new element in the historical cycles, of which recent floods are just another chapter.
- Ferris asked whether there might be a book soon on Fountain Creek history. Katherine replied that she is collaborating with the Fountain Creek Nature center on the subject, and there should be some sort of paper produced eventually. [0.31.30]
- Irene commented that it would be interesting and informative to have brief historical accounts of floods or other observations included in the District's hand-outs and "canned presentations" for our speaker's bureau. She observed that most people in the region are unaware of the devastation caused in the 1965 floods, let alone the ones in 1935 and earlier. Dan Henrichs added that while some people may say it's never been so bad, it's hard to disprove them because there were no good records from those days. It

was agreed that it was good to let people know that there were flooding and pollution problems even in the earliest records.

## 5. Reports.

### a. Governing Board Meeting. Larry Small reported on the January 16 meeting of the Governing Board.

[Microphone interference made transcription difficult.]

- The Board approved by-laws and the Monetary Mitigation Committee consisting of representatives from Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs Utilities, City of Pueblo, Pueblo County, CSU Pueblo, and others. The group will develop plans to use the \$50 million over a 10-year period.
- Val Snider is the 2015 Board Chairperson, with Terry Hart being the Vice Chairperson.
- The Board also voted to establish the Fountain Creek Watershed Water Activity Enterprise, which will be the business arm of the Watershed. There was a TABOR element to establishing the Enterprise, and Colorado Springs Utilities and Pueblo County may be asked to re-write their SDS 1041 agreement to reflect that issue.
- **b. TAC Meeting.** Irene introduced Nancy Keller of Pueblo, who is the new TAC Chairperson. Before she began her report, she promised to find and pass on a short history of Fountain Creek that had been compiled in the mid to late 90's.
- Mark Shea is the Vice-Chair of the TAC. Pat Coffee is the secretary.
- Sunshine Law affirmation and elections took most of the last meeting.
- There was discussion of upcoming presentations.
- March will feature AF CURE, the Arkansas – Fountain Coalition for Urban River Evaluation, a watershed group primarily consisting of dischargers, but they're hoping to bring more stormwater into the group. AF CURE is performing a significant amount of water quality monitoring in Fountain and Monument Creeks. Rich Muzzy will explain the group's aims. AF CURE is posting monitoring results on the Colorado Data Sharing Network (CDSN) ([http://www.coloradowaterdata.org/cdsnawqms\\_cdsn.html](http://www.coloradowaterdata.org/cdsnawqms_cdsn.html)).
- Another presentation that might be given in March is the Pueblo Springs Ranch development planned for the Beacon Hill area and north. It will be a 25,000 acre development, and it is not clear what they will be doing for water and wastewater services. [Discussion of the effects of such a large development followed, but microphone interference made transcription difficult.] [0.42.0]
- Nancy also announced the Drainage Criteria Manual presentation February 26, 9:00 a.m. at HBA.
- c. Outreach Group. [1.01.20] Allison Plute reported on the Outreach Group.
- There is a lot of activity and Group has hired an intern from Colorado College to help with outreach projects. We will get 45 hours of work from her. The grant is paying her salary. The intern has also been working with Rich Muzzy of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments, (PPACG).
- Matrix Group is working on some posters for outreach projects.
- Creek Week is going swimmingly – we have a beer sponsor! Fieldhouse Brewery is stepping up and will support us by donating a portion of sales during special events. They may brew a special beer, and we need names, such as Litter-Free Lager or Stormwater Stout. (Irene requested that CAG members come up with a good IPA-related name, as that is Allison's favorite)
- The Outreach Group will be applying for some other grants, and there is new leadership on the Creek Week Steering Committee.
- The Greenway Fund is having an economic summit on March 18, 4 to 6 p.m.
- Allison will be speaking on behalf of the District at the Pikes Peak Economic Forum Friday the 27th of March from 12:00 to 2:00 at the Margarita at Pine Creek.
- Creek Week meetings will be monthly now. Meetings will be on the 4th Friday of the month from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in Fountain City Hall.
- Outreach Group meetings are from 2:00 to 4:00 on the 2nd Wednesday, in Fountain City Hall.

**d. Website and Facebook Page.** Mary Barber reported that the website software has finally been updated and Mary can now use the calendar.

- Mary was sitting near the defective mic, therefore her report is incomplete.
- Allison offered to take on the Creek Week page.

**6. Current Business.**

**a. Create list of groups to talk to and interview concerning Fountain Creek**

- There was discussion of a list of stakeholders, largely unintelligible on the recording, but Mary and Ferris Frost were working on this.

**b. Formulate Questions for interviews.**

- Although unintelligible on the recording, there was discussion on customizing different PowerPoint slide shows for different audiences.

**7. Other Business.**

Dan Henrichs inquired if anyone knew the details of a possible bill in the state legislature on stormwater detention. Larry answered that he did not know who is carrying the bill, but there is currently a 72 hr limit on stormwater detention. The draft bill would address regional vs. local augmentation. Much of the recording of Larry's explanation of details and statements by the state engineer was unintelligible. The crux of the issue appears to revolve around the type of detention facility and whether there is an augmentation plan for facilities that are designed to fill with sediment over the span of a few years. Those facilities hold water for longer than 72 hrs until they eventually fill with sediment and can no longer hold water. The District is working with the Arkansas Basin Roundtable to develop rules that will allow detention facilities to only divert flood waters when flows are over 10,000 CFS, and then buy water from Pueblo Reservoir for augmentation. Junior water rights holders are the ones hurt by stormwater detention and the problem is figuring out how to hold stormwater to prevent damage and still get it to the junior rights holders after the event. Dan stated that the water rights holders are in good faith negotiations concerning these issues, but are now being blind-sided by this potential legislation.

**8. Public Comment.** There were no public comments.

**9. Next Meeting.** The next scheduled CAG meeting will be Friday March 13, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fountain City Hall, 116 W. Main, second floor meeting room.

**10. Adjourn:**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:20 a.m.**