

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

**Meeting Minutes  
May 9, 2014**

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 May 9, 2014 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (“FCWD”) 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 FCWD Governing Board  
Ferris Frost – Alternate CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary  
Mary Barber – FCWD Web Manager  
Jerry Cordova  
Lois Illick  
Elaine Kleckner  
Ross Vincent

CAG Members not present:  
John Chavez – TAC Chair and Representative to the CAG  
Dan Henrichs  
Allison Plute  
Tom Ready  
Jordan Vana

Also in attendance:  
Jeff Bailey, Senior Planner, City of Pueblo  
Terry Hart, Pueblo County Commissioner  
Beritt Odom, Senior Planner, City of Pueblo  
Larry Small, Executive Director Fountain Creek Watershed District  
Graham Thompson, Matrix Design Group

**2. Approve Agenda of May 9, 2014 Meeting**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the May 9, 2014 Agenda was approved.**

**3. Approve Minutes of April 11, 2014 Meeting**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the amended April 11, 2014 Minutes were approved.**

#### **4. Presentation: Historic East Side Park and Streamside System. Beritt Odom and Jeff Bailey, City of Pueblo.**

The Fountain Creek Park is part of the greater River Corridor Initiative upon which the City of Pueblo, City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County partnered for a GOCO grant. The Nature Center was El Paso County's portion, which has already been completed. The City of Pueblo is in the construction document phase, the project is about 35% complete. The city expects to go to bid in late summer and begin construction in the fall.

- The design has a number of features, including,
  - A 27,000 square foot wheel park, essentially a skateboard facility, although BMX bikes and roller blades will be allowed.
  - A festival plaza,
  - A curved walk and amphitheater,
  - Realignment of the trail along Fountain Creek,
  - Lighting and other improvements to the underpasses at 8th street and 4th Street to discourage loitering and other unfavorable behaviors,
  - A beach area along the creek for volleyball and other activities.
  - A series of slides and a video flyover gave highlights and computerized renderings of the park. A PDF version of the slides will be available on the FCWB website.
  - The park is adjacent to the city's only indoor recreation center, which is incorporated in the design.
  - The design includes a vendor area for food trucks, farmers markets, and similar activities.
  - An entire block of Erie Avenue is being vacated, with traffic being rerouted around the park.
  - Existing amenities such as restrooms and parking areas will be kept.
- Funding is a total of \$2.6 million, with \$1.3 million from GOCO, a \$1.0 million match from Pueblo County and \$300,000 from The Conservation Trust Fund.
- Fill material for the wheel park and other areas will be provided by using excess sediment in Fountain Creek, either from the bedload collection unit, or by directly dredging from the creek bed. The project requires 6,200 cubic yards.
  - The sediment meets all requirements for the project.
  - The collection unit is currently off line and would require repairs and upgrades to be put back into operation.
  - A permit is in process to access the creek and collector, which is buried under 3 feet of sediment and out of sight.
  - Matrix Design Group is onboard to evaluate the hydraulics.
  - Reviving the collector is the preferred method, but areas have been identified in case dredging is required.
  - The City has requested \$53,000 from the County to fund sediment operations, whether using the collector or dredging.

There was considerable discussion centered on the collector, the sediment in the creek, and the Corps of Engineers' permit system. Larry Small reminded everyone that the District was the sponsor on the GOCO grant.

#### **5. Reports.**

##### **a. Governing Board Meeting. Larry Small reported that the Board met April 25, with the following actions.**

- The Board received a presentation on opinion polling about the upcoming stormwater ballot

question from Dave Munger, Kevin Walker, and Sarah Jack of the Stormwater Citizens Committee. The results were very positive. The CAG received this information in the April 11 meeting. Poll results are given below.

- Voters approve limiting administrative costs to less than 1 percent.
- Voters also wanted a sunset, so that on the capital aspect, the bonding issues should be limited to 20 years, while the O&M would go on indefinitely, similar to the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).
- The voters also preferred a regional solution.
- They did not want stormwater to be part of a larger capital improvement program.
- They want a master plan and specific projects outlined, like the RTA.
- They definitely want to see emergency needs taken care of.
- Larry added that the November poll had shown 56 percent opposed to 44 percent in favor of the initiative. This poll showed 56 percent support for a 'Base Program', then there were add-ons, like the 1 percent administrative costs, capital sunset provision, and the like raised support to 65 percent.
- Larry also mentioned that with respect to the fee, voters showed strong support for up to \$10 per month, but it dropped off sharply above that.
- There would be categories of expenditure: Capital, which would sunset in 20 years, O&M which would continue indefinitely, and emergency, which would likewise go on indefinitely.
- Of significance, every demographic category, whether gender, education, income, etc., showed support. No demographic was opposed.
- The Board approved the use of alternate members for the TAC and CAG. Alternates would be nominated by the advisory groups and approved by the board. Alternates do not have a vote unless the primary member is absent. This change will help eliminate meetings in which a quorum is not present.
- Larry gave a presentation on the next steps for the USGS study. In Phase I (evaluation of alternatives), two of the study options and the reservoir will be studied to determine issues with them. This proposal was contained in the document Larry emailed to CAG members April 11.
  - Phase I will cost \$60,000 and take up to one year. Phase II, Feasibility, will be \$140,000. Larry has written a grant proposal for the Water Supply statewide grant fund He will take it to the Board for approval, then to the Arkansas Basin Roundtable, to the state for water supply reserve account for funding. It would be a \$200,000 for both phases, with an 18 month period of performance, starting in Jan 2015.
  - A variety of entities are providing the necessary match, Colorado Springs Utilities will provide \$25,000 plus \$15,000 in-kind, the District will put in \$25,000, Larry will request \$30,000 from the Arkansas Basin group, and \$100,000 from the statewide fund.
  - Part of the grant proposal is to use the stormwater management facilities also as water storage, giving us another revenue stream. The study would evaluate this aspect as well.
- The next meeting of the Board is May 23.
- A lengthy discussion of sedimentation, stream flow rates, and flow management

ensued.

**b. TAC Meeting. Irene Kornelly reported on the May TAC meeting.**

- The TAC had a short meeting; they heard and discussed Larry's presentation on the next phases of study.
- The TAC also talked about the assignment of alternate members.
- They heard a report on what was happening along Rainbow Falls, the Camp Creek project near the Garden of the Gods.
- There will not be a TAC meeting in June, and on July 2nd they want to have the meeting at the Nature Center.

**c. Outreach Group. Jerry Cordova reported on the May Outreach Group meeting.**

- The group has been busy with a number of watershed-related outreach efforts.
- Ferris reported that the CDPHE educational grant proposal was submitted (and confirmed as received) more than two weeks ago. We have not heard anything more, but it's essentially a done deal.
- May 17 is the Fountain Creek Nature Center Re-Opening. The District will be represented, and all are welcome.
- Jerry made a request for assistance from CAG and TAC members for help with outreach efforts. There have been missed opportunities due to limited personnel resources.
- Jerry showed a mockup of the updated watershed brochure which now includes a QR code for smart phone users to get more information. All future publications, posters, etc. will also have the QR code. Such flexibility is an advantage of our small-lot printing practices.
- Irene added a few of the events the Outreach Group has attended, promoting the District and its work. Ferris represented the District at the Arkansas Basin Roundtable Water Forum in La Junta; Ferris, Larry and Mary were at the Family Fun Day at the Nature Center, where they gave our presentation to 45 young people of various ages; and Larry, Lois, Irene, and Jerry were at the CSU Pueblo Water Day, where 107 young people heard our presentation. Irene commented that 4th graders really "Get it".
- Jerry commented that on the website, a Public Outreach/Education section is located on the top menu bar, and shows Outreach Group membership, meeting times/locations, and upcoming events.
- Irene commented that the amount of time given to us in these events is as short as 20 minutes, and it was generally agreed that we should customize presentations for shorter time frames, different age groups, etc.
- Terry Hart asked if efforts Perry Cabot had started, i.e., to reach out to universities in the area with respect to watershed issues, had been followed up on. Terry also asked about the Adopt a Creek program, which he considers a valuable avenue for getting people up close and personal with their local waterway.
  - Jerry reported that earlier in the year UCCS had contacted the District, and it was directed to Allison Plute as the Colorado Springs Utilities representative because of the location of the university being close to Pikeview Reservoir. The Utilities-sponsored clean up event was enhanced with the university's cooperation. Not much other activity has occurred on that front, however.
  - With respect to the Adopt a Creek program, the webpage will have updated information on the program.
  - Someone commented that Perry's old position with CSU Extension might soon be filled. If so, that will re-open many of those channels.
- Jerry and Mary gave an overview of the website to show new features and content.
- May 19 is the next Outreach Group meeting, downstairs meeting room at Fountain City Hall.

**d. Citizens Stormwater Initiative.** This topic was covered under Reports, Board of Directors.

**6. Old Business.** There was no old business.

**7. New Business**

- As reported by Larry, CAG members may now have alternates. Irene gave the guidelines as follows:
  - The alternate must represent the same group, e.g., if you represent land owners along the creek, the alternate must also be part of the same group – land owners along the creek.
  - The member submits the alternate’s name to the CAG, and if approved they are then forwarded to Larry for approval by the Board.
  - The alternates serve the same period of time as the primary member.
  - Only one vote may be cast among the primary and the alternate in the same meeting.
  - There is not a requirement for members to have an alternate.
- Larry reported that the Frost Ranch restoration project is complete. He praised the construction contractor, Aztec Construction, for their excellent work and willingness to work with the District’s budget.
- Mary requested information on low-impact development for inclusion in a sustainability calendar. Several examples were given by members of projects completed locally using low-impact methods.
- Elaine reported that Rainbow Falls is again open to the public for a few months until more flood mitigation work begins.

**8. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**9. Next Meeting.** The next scheduled CAG meeting will be Friday June 13, 2014 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 11:25 a.m.**