

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

**Meeting Minutes  
June 13, 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 June 13, 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  
Ferris Frost – Alternate CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary  
Mary Barber – FCWD Web Manager  
Jerry Cordova  
Dan Henrichs  
Lois Illick  
Elaine Kleckner  
Allison Plute  
Tom Ready  
Ross Vincent

CAG Members not present:

John Chavez – TAC Chair and Representative to the CAG  
Richard Skorman - CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Jordan Vana

Also in attendance:

Terry Hart, Pueblo County Commissioner  
Larry Small, Executive Director Fountain Creek Watershed District

**2. Approve Agenda of June 13, 2014 Meeting**

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

**3. Approve Minutes of May 9, 2014 Meeting**

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

**4. Presentation: El Paso County Fire and Flood Recovery Efforts.**

This agenda item was postponed until John Chavez of El Paso County is available.

**5. Reports.**

**a. Governing Board Meeting. Larry Small reported that the Board met May 23, with the following actions.**

- The Board approved the submittal to the Watershed Reserve Account grant application to the Arkansas

Basin Round Table. If approved by the Round Table it would go to the Colorado Water Conservation Board which would fund Phases I and II of an eventual seven phase process previously reported on by Larry.

- Phase I is Evaluation, followed by Phase II - Feasibility Studies. The studies would be completed over an 18 month period of performance.
  - The total grant would fund 18 months of study, with the resulting reports.
  - Total funding would be \$205,000, with matching from the District (\$25,000), Colorado Springs Utilities and partners (\$30,000 + \$15,000 in-kind Engineering and Mapping support), the Round Table (\$25,000), and the State (\$100,000).
  - The study is scheduled to begin January 2015, pending award.
  - Larry presented the proposed study and timeline in the May 9 CAG meeting – refer to those minutes for details. Larry also emailed a PowerPoint presentation to CAG members (Flood Control Study – Future Actions) sent April 11, 2014, which outlines Larry’s long-term plan in this regard.
  - Larry is optimistic about the grant (he wrote it). To paraphrase him, He looked on His work and He found it good.
- Larry reported that despite some pretty heavy rains recently, the Frost Ranch Bank Restoration work held up well. There was a 3000 CFS flow and the work was designed for 3300 CFS, which was estimated to be bank-full. Upon inspection, the ‘mud marks’ were about 6 inches below the top of the bank, indicating a good design. Overall, the effects of the project are visible, not just at the site, but downstream as well.

**b. TAC Meeting. Irene Kornelly reported that the TAC did not have a June meeting.**

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

- The Group met May 12 and Rich Muzzy of PPACG offered ideas and suggestions to help the Outreach Group meet its goal of raising awareness of the District. Topics included branding, messaging, newsletter, and funding opportunities.
- Next meeting is Monday June 16.
- Focus over the next quarter includes organizing a watershed clean-up event – possibly in September. Details will emerge as the event draws nearer. [ed. note: refer to Allison Plute’s comments below]
- The District was represented at Fountain Creek Nature Center’s grand re-opening.
  - The interactive map of the entire watershed is now set up.
  - Among other features, one can view historical and current pictures of parts of the watershed, showing changes over time.
- Ferris Frost reported on the CDPHE educational grant submitted last month.
  - The submission rules changed in the interim, and we missed the new due date. It may be August before we get it.
  - Discussion followed centered around the re-structuring of the grant process, which apparently happened while we were submittals.
  - We have to put the CDPHE logo on any printed material produced under the grant.
  - Bottom line: The CDPHE grant is still “In the soup.”
- Irene reported that while briefing the Board at the last meeting (May 23), she was asked if we were going to the State Fair. Of the Board members present, two said they’d put in an hour each at the booth. With such underwhelming support from our leadership, combined with the unfavorable demographics and interests of the typical State Fair attendee, it does not seem to be a worthwhile investment of District time and funds. Everyone in the CAG agreed.
- Allison reported that we are going to be at the El Paso County Fair. We have a free booth for one day, Wednesday July 16, dollar day [ed note: we are now scheduled for July 23]. The booth will be indoors, and Allison will be setting up a schedule for volunteers to staff the booth.
- Allison also reported that she will be inviting numerous community groups to join in the planning and

execution of the watershed-wide litter clean-up announced by Jerry earlier.

- She hopes to make it a week-long event in early October; thus having two weekend clean-ups. This will be a large effort (dozens of potential partners/sponsors), so suggestions for additional participating organizations are solicited.
- In response to members who pointed to Allison's use of the word "LITER" on her watershed-wide clean-up program document, Larry gallantly offered the acronym "Local Initiative To Eradicate Refuse".
- Terry Hart thought the word "Liter" would attract more volunteers than "Litter", presumably referring to the capacity of certain common beverage containers.[0.43.0]

**d. Citizens Stormwater Initiative.** Larry announced that the next stormwater meeting is June 26 at Regional Building Department at 9:00 a.m. In related news:

- Larry attended the Mayor's State of the City address. Mayor Bach announced his counter-proposal to the regional stormwater authority already proposed. The mayor proposes a \$175 million bonding initiative.
  - It would be a comprehensive approach to capital improvements, including stormwater, but also addressing roads, bridges, etc. The largest item in the list of improvements is \$162 million for stormwater. Unfortunately that figure will only cover the most critical projects, leaving the most of the \$500 million stormwater needs unaddressed.
  - CAG members remarked on how the mayor's stormwater proposal failed to consider any long term funding of stormwater infrastructure.
- Larry quoted Councilman Val Snider, who responded to the mayor's Chief of Staff Steve Cox's presentation to Council Monday "We have a plan; all you have is an idea."
- [0.48.30] Mary reported that Kevin Walker and Dave Munger of the Citizens Stormwater Initiative presented their stormwater funding and management plan to the military recently.
  - The upshot was that the military negotiates an agreement with the local authority covering both the level of fee it will pay, as well as where/how those fees are used. The rationale being that military installations already operate under MS-4 stormwater permits and are already required to maintain strict control of their runoff/hydrology under military guidelines.
  - There has apparently been a similar process at Buckley Air Force Base in Denver. The bottom line is that the military will be a willing participant in whatever stormwater management structure emerges.
  - Any negotiations would be handled by the military's environmental law firm in this area, as they were involved with the Buckley talks as well some environmental issues in Pueblo.
- [0.52.25] Larry reported that Woodland Park is the only government entity which has come out against joining a regional stormwater authority. However, he added that Dave Munger has been asked by the WP mayor to make a presentation to the council, giving some hope that they may reconsider.
- Larry also reported that he had been asked by CHM2 Hill (the consulting firm that was tasked to scrub/validate the list of stormwater projects and costs) for a list of the District's funding needs related to stormwater projects in El Paso County. Larry gave them the information, which was that there were 13 projects totaling close to \$150 million.
  - Our contribution bumped El Paso County's total to over a billion dollars.
  - Our projects included side detention ponds and bank stabilization/restoration projects.

**e. [0.54.35] Website and Facebook Page.**

- Allison is going to be putting watershed protection tips on the Facebook page, such as when mowing, don't leave the clippings on the street, put them back onto the lawn, wildlife information, etc., to get more interest in the page.
- Jerry reported that he is working with a web designer on some security and administrative concerns. He also commented that some Frost Ranch bank restoration project pictures will be posted on the web page.

**6. Old Business.**

- Lois inquired about the effectiveness of the Pueblo side detention pond. Larry commented that last

September when the creek was at 15,000 CFS, it should have filled the pond, but apparently debris was blocking the intake. Debris is always a problem with diversions of this sort. It has worked in the past, and Larry said Jeff Bailey with City of Pueblo would be the person to whom one would direct questions.

## 7. New Business [0.58.50]

- Elaine Kleckner reported on El Paso County Parks flood recovery efforts. Her presentation was to have complemented John Chavez' scheduled presentation on overall El Paso County flood recovery progress.
  - El Paso county Parks has identified around \$1.5 million of needed repairs, of which FEMA will cover 70 percent. Additional funding is coming from GOCO, and other entities. All needed funding is now secured and the commissioners will make the appropriation in the coming week. An RFP for engineering work to complete the design and assist in the construction process is almost complete.
  - Starting at the south, the Hanson Trail Head project is worth \$936,000, involving debris removal, reestablishing the trail corridor, bank stabilization and other work. She hopes to eventually see innovative techniques such as created wetlands versus 'armoring'. Although the current budget may not allow it, she hopes to work with the Corps of Engineers, or others, to come up with better solutions. Over an acre of land was lost in the area, completely removing land on which the trail was located. Funds must be spent by the end of January 2015, so there is not a lot of time before the design must be finalized and work begins.
  - The Willow Springs Ponds, just north of the Nature Center, suffered wash-outs of trails and parking areas, which now need resurfacing.
  - The Carson Trail (\$38,000) needs to be moved and banks in the area require stabilization.
  - The Highway 85/87 Trailhead (\$317,000) requires erosion control and bank stabilization. The Corps of Engineers is evaluating the site for a Section 14 project, up to \$1.5 million, but that process takes time. A section of trail is completely gone and has to be re-routed.
  - At Rainbow Falls, FEMA provided \$40,000 that will be added to other funds received for the area. An RFP has been issued, with proposal to be received by June 23.
  - The Ute Pass Trail, in Cascade, also received FEMA money for repairs, which will be starting soon.
  - Larry commented that the District can contract for engineering, design, and construction management services far less expensively than by going to bid.
- Allison reported that Utilities is working on a 50-year water resources plan, with upcoming presentations to the Board, CAG and TAC.
- Mary reported that she and Larry attended an Arkansas Basin Roundtable public forum recently. The state is working on a state-wide water plan, with each Round Table contributing plans for its basin. The process involves local meetings, with one in Pueblo –June 23. This is in relation to the 2050 plan, which will address all phases of water use in Colorado.
- Dan Henrichs added that many of the meetings on the lower Arkansas were poorly attended, leading to a discussion of why, and a wider discussion of the growing population-related threats to agricultural water users.
  - The current appropriation system works well, provided there is water to appropriate.
  - As population grows, pressure will increase to transfer water from agricultural to urban/industrial use.
  - Water transfers look great on paper, but exchanges need water in the river, if there is a river available, a pipeline; or some means to get it to its destination.
  - Every river is over appropriated, even in a good year.
  - Agricultural water users have a lot to lose if they do not act. Even with action, the outlook seems dim as population continues to grow and the value of water rises.
  - Dan concluded the discussion saying it comes down to what's important. In the end, it's food and

water, primarily water.

**8. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**9. Next Meeting.** The next scheduled CAG meeting will be Friday July 11, 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 10:55 a.m.**

DRAFT