

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

**Meeting Minutes
July 10, 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 July 10, 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 9:32 a.m. A quorum was noted, with the following CAG members in attendance:

Irene Kornelly – Chair
Richard Skorman - CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
Ferris Frost – Alternate CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
Nancy Keller – TAC Chair and Representative to the CAG
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary
Lisa Godwin
Lois Illick
Allison Plute
Tom Ready
Amber Shanklin

CAG Members not present:

Mary Barber – FCWD Web Manager
Dana Nordstrom
Ross Vincent – Vice Chair

Also in attendance:

Ian Hartley, Resident of Pueblo West
Larry Small, Executive Director Fountain Creek Watershed District
Allison Mosser, Colorado Springs Utilities

2. Approve Agenda of July 10, 2015 Meeting

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the July 10, 2015 Agenda was approved.

3. Approve Minutes of June 12, 2015 Meeting

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the corrected June 12, 2015 minutes were approved.

4. Presentations:

a. SDS and Clear Springs Ranch Updates, Allison Mosser – Colorado Springs Utilities.

Allison distributed handouts accompanying her slide presentation on SDS status and flood damage to the Clear Springs Ranch Fountain Creek Improvement Project. The presentation was emailed to CAG members and is posted on the website as well.

- Key points in the SDS status were:
 - The dam connection at Pueblo Reservoir is complete and that portion is being transferred to the Bureau of Reclamation.
 - The pipeline boring project under I-25, Fountain Creek, and the railroad is complete.
 - All 50 miles of pipeline have been installed, and revegetation is progressing well, especially with the wet spring and summer.
 - Facilities construction (the treatment plant and three pump stations) is more than 80 percent complete.
 - The overall project is on schedule to be in service in early 2016.
- Utilities has been released from its jurisdictional wetlands project at Clear Springs Ranch by the Corps of Engineers. All conditions have been met and three years of monitoring have been performed, plant diversity is good, and numerous wildlife species are using the area.
- Allison reported on post storm damage to the Fountain Creek Improvement Project at Clear Springs Ranch.
 - The project included realignment and hardening of the channel, bank stabilization, creation of wetlands, and riffle structures to slow the water, reduce its energy, and thus decrease erosion.
 - As of June, all elements were working as designed. Nine bankfull events (>3,000 CFS) in May had demonstrated that the design worked, and damage was minimal. Plant growth was getting established.
 - Siltation and deposited debris were far greater than expected (large trees, man-made debris, and about four feet of sediment), but the rip rap and riffle structures were holding well, although it was apparent that repairs work was needed.
 - June brought three more bankfull events prior to a final storm June 16 which produced a 10,000 CFS flow through the area. After the waters had receded, much of the wetlands and bank restoration work were essentially destroyed, and the creek realigned itself again. The rip rap, the riffle structures and the keyways between basins held, and Utilities has had surveys by consultants to determine the way forward. Of the original six acres of wetland, one still remains.
 - Looking back, Allison commented that had the plantings been better established the damage would have been less. Areas where plant life had been better established showed significantly less damage.
- Allison said that they would start filling the pipeline from the dam to the Juniper Pump Station in the next week or so, using just gravity flow. From there subsequent sections will be filled and tested until the entire length is filled and qualified.
- There was discussion regarding the conflict between water law and effective flood control, augmentation using purchased water rights, the oft-proposed dam on the Fountain somewhere between Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Mayor Suthers' approach to flood control funding, and other topics.

b. Questions for Nancy Keller regarding AFCURE and Water Quality.

- Nancy received a question regarding whether there have been any reports of cyanotoxins from blue-green algae blooms in the reservoirs. This is becoming a problem on some rivers in the northwest US, with some human fatalities and a number of pet deaths. Nancy replied that cyanotoxins have not been detected in any of the Arkansas reservoirs, but that some mountain reservoirs had shown very low, nontoxic levels.

- Nancy added that AFCURE is starting work on a nutrient model extending all the way to John Martin Reservoir. About \$80,000 will be spent in 2016 collecting data and starting the model. It will be a multi-year project.

5. Reports.

a. Governing Board Meeting. [0.57.0] Larry Small gave a report on the June 22nd Board meeting.

- The Board approved the DOLA grant for developing a Monument Creek master plan. An RFP will be released for a contractor, and Larry expects work to begin in September.
- The Cheyenne Blvd drainage project has been awarded, but it may be several months before environmental assessments are completed.
- Larry reported that the District has been awarded \$1M in grant funding this year, and expects to end the year with \$1.2M.
- There is an opportunity for a project grant coming in January 2016 for up to \$1M. The work would come out of the Cheyenne Creek/Upper Fountain Creek Master Plan.
- Larry presented the final version of the Cheyenne Creek/Upper Fountain Creek Master Plan – a hefty tome.
- The next Board meeting will be July 24.

b. TAC Meeting. Nancy Keller reported on the TAC meeting.

- The TAC received the same SDS/Clear Springs Ranch presentation from Allison.
- The committee is looking at a checklist to help with determining review standards gave a presentation on how a checklist would be used by a developer to make a narrative on how they will comply with the District. The checklist would also be useful to the TAC, because it would provide all the needed information for reviewing projects in our jurisdiction.
- The TAC will need to work with the relevant jurisdictions to get the questionnaire established as a part of the permitting process. There was discussion on how this would be done and how it would eventually include the Design Criteria Manual.
- The committee looking at the Design Criteria Manual is having to decide between a quick and easy edit of the existing manual (replace City of Colorado Springs with Fountain Creek Watershed District) or a genuine review and tailoring specific to the District's needs. Some of the jurisdictions that were onboard to fund a detailed edit have already moved on and are preparing their own, leaving funding in question.
- The next meeting will be August 5.

c. Outreach Group. Allison Plute reported on the Outreach Group's activities.

- The Outreach Group has gotten a stack of newsletters about Fountain Creek from 1996, and the team will be mining them for relevant information to be used for an emailed District newsletter, probably in late August, in advance of Creek Week. We will use a Mail Chimp account. With respect to the 11 page list of target audiences, it was suggested that it be emailed to CAG members in hopes of getting additional contacts.
- The District has been invited to participate in the Legacy Loop activities, so we'll have a table set up at the pop cycle bridge (Van Buren bridge on the Greenway).
- Stratton Open Space will have a Scoop the Poop event on September 12 from 9:00 to noon Saturday. The District will participate and have a table.
- September 19 we will be at the Fountain Creek Regional Park. Allison needs at least one volunteer for the event, which will only be a two-hour commitment.
- The El Paso County Fair is coming up soon, and Allison asked for volunteers to work our booth on the 22nd. It's dollar day.
- More Creek Week: Matrix donated \$500. Fox 12 Television will be doing three different stories (Colorado Springs, Fountain, and Pueblo) on Monday of Creek Week. Gold Camp Brewery is sponsoring us with an after clean-up party. Colorado College is working on GIS mapping stuff for the

website. The University Village Shopping Center (right on the creek) is onboard.

- The Outreach Group has assembled a media kit to send with the newsletter to the top 20 media outlets in the area.
- Allison exhorted CAG members from Pueblo to help at the State Fair.
- Allison gave some numbers: 318 contacts for the Mail Chimp newsletter account, 11 pages of target audiences, and 119 media contacts statewide. We will be there in conjunction with City/County Health Department of Pueblo. We will each have a table in the Ag Building (not the Ag Palace).
- The next meeting is Wednesday August 12 at 2:00 downstairs in the Fountain City Hall. The Group needs members to come and help with events or preparation.

d. Website and Facebook Page. Lisa Godwin reported on the website

- Lisa Godwin reported that she has come up with a solution to the problem of interactive maps on the website following our new security update and changes in Google Earth. She will try to implement it, and if all goes well, it will be up by the following week.

6. Current Business. There was a brief discussion of the Fountain Creek gauge readings this morning following a heavy rain last night. The creek was running 2000 to 3000 CFS at the railroad – high but not bad.

7. Other Business.

- Ian Hartley of Pueblo West is joining the CAG. Jack Wallick will update the CAG Membership List to reflect the change, and Larry Small will officially nominate him before the Board. Ian is a retired electronics engineer, formerly with KTSC TV, the local PBS affiliate.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the CAG approved Ian Hartley's membership in the CAG.

- Nancy commented that the new water extension agent will be joining the TAC and providing an alternate. His background includes water flow and his expertise will be useful.
- There have been interviews for an El Paso County Regional Watershed Coordinator. On August 5th and 6th there will be statewide training for all the new coordinators, to be held in Manitou Springs.

8. Public Comment. There were no public comments.

9. Next Meeting. The next scheduled CAG meeting will be Friday August 14, 2015, 9:30 a.m. at the Fountain City Hall, 116 W. Main.

10. Adjourn:

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.