



**Fountain Creek Watershed District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**October 18, 2024 9am**  
**In Person at Fountain City Hall, 116 S. Main Street, Fountain, CO 80817, or**  
**Via Zoom: Zoom Meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89493089235>**  
**Meetings are open to the public**

**1. Call meeting to order 9:00-9:10**

- a. Roll call, and establish a quorum

Chair Estes called the Fountain Creek Watershed District WAE Meeting to order. In attendance were the following duly designated members of the District Board of Directors:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Tamara Estes	Chair, City of Fountain
Terry Hart	CAG Chair
James Romanello	Small Municipalities
David Leinweber	City of Colorado Springs
Stan VanderWerf	El Paso County
Dr. Bob Barr	Pueblo Landowner
Mark Aliff	City of Pueblo
Alli Schuch	Executive Director
Stephane Atencio	Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

- b. Introduction: Mark Aliff, City of Pueblo Council President, new District Board member
- c. Introduction of Guests
- Angie Schirtzinger, FCWD
  - Mark Shea, Colorado Springs Utilities
  - Ryan Bouton, US Air Force
- d. Approval of October District Meeting Agenda
- Director Romanello made a motion to approve the October Board Agenda. Director VanderWerf seconded and the October Board Agenda was unanimously approved.

**2. Recess to Water Activity Enterprise Meeting 9:10-9:45**

Director Barr made a motion to recess into the Water Activity Enterprise Meeting. Director Romanello seconded and the Board recess into Water Activity Enterprise Meeting was unanimously approved.

- a. **Consent Calendar**

Director Romanello made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Barr seconded and the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

**b. Old Business - None**

**c. New Business**

**i. 2025 Capital Improvement Plan - ED Schuch**

- 1.** 2023 Amended CIP: \$100,000 for woody debris removal at Clear Springs Ranch in El Paso County; 2024 Amendment to 2023 CIP approved and recommended by MMF.
  - a.** Director Romanello made a motion to approve the 2024 Amendment of the 2023 CIP. Director VanderWerf seconded and the 2024 Amendment of the 2023 CIP was unanimously approved.
- 2.** 2024 MMF Projects: Southmoor Dr & Eagleridge bids came in under budget of \$11.7 Mil.
- 3.** MMF Recommendation for 2025 CIP - 2 Projects totaling \$192,000
  - a.** Frost Focus Area Design: WaterSMART Grant covering \$194,022 and District to cover 60% design cost of \$97,011.
  - b.** Wood Debris Removal in Pueblo County \$100,000.
  - c.** Director Romanello made a motion to approve the 2025 CIP Recommendation. Director Barr seconded and the 2025 CIP was unanimously approved.

**d. Confirm Next Meeting Via Zoom or in person at Fountain City Hall (116 S. Main St. Fountain, CO 80817)**

- i.** Fri Nov 15, 9am - Budget Hearing - need supermajority, *confirm attendance*
- ii.** December 20 - no meeting (tentative)

**e. Adjourn WAE Meeting**

Director Romanello made a motion to adjourn the Water Activity Enterprise Meeting and return to the Board of Directors Meeting. Director VanderWerf seconded and adjournment of the Water Activity Enterprise Meeting and return to the Board of Directors Meeting was unanimously approved.

**3. Reconvene District Board Meeting 9:45-10:00**

**a. Board Member Comments**

**b. Consent Calendar**

Director Romanello made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Barr seconded and the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

**4. Executive Director Report 10:00-10:10**

- a.** Outreach Coordinator Angie Schirtzinger decreasing capacity beginning Nov 1, 2024. New WOC Hiring will begin to replace her as the role is full-time.
- b.** Susan Finzel extending contract through December 6, 2024.
- c.** In Lieu Fee Prospectus submitted to USACE last week. Under review; will expect a response prior to the end of the year.
- d.** USACE meeting regarding other potential financial support programs.
- e.** Presented at Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District meeting and requested financial support of the maintenance program (\$50K).
- f.** Letters of Support:
  - i.** CWCB Engagement & Innovation Grant: grant match 50% (25 % in kind, 25% cash), proposing \$150K/year in 2025 and 2026
  - ii.** El Paso County: Fox Run Nature Center
    - 1.** Director Barr made a motion to approve the Letter of Support for the Fox Run Nature Center. Director Leinweber seconded and the Letter of Support for the

Fox Run Nature Center was unanimously approved.

- g. 2025 Planning**
  - i.** Outreach and Strategic Plan Implementation in direct support of member government needs and programming. Recommendation from Director Leinweber to increase relationship with Pikes Peak Waterways as the plan develops.
  - ii.** Speakers for Board meetings
    - 1.** El Paso County seeking increased authority and funding from USACE (\$20Mil) for water funding projects. Recommendation from Director VanderWerf for a presentation from the County on that project.

## **5. Committee Updates 10:10-10:15**

### **a. HR/Contracts**

- i.** Susan Finzel Contract Extension through December 6, 2024.
  - 1.** Director Hart made a motion to approve the Contract Extension with Susan Finzel. Director Romanello seconded and the Contract Extension with Susan Finzel was unanimously approved.
- ii.** **Finance** - None
- iii.** **Governance** - None

## **6. Presentations 10:15-11:00**

- a. 6035 Strategies 2024 Accomplishments - Anthony Carlson & Sarah Brittain Jack**
  - i.** Attain an average of one article a month; 10 media hits this year in El Paso County and more in Pueblo County. Acquired monthly column in Pikes Peak Bulletin. Media is proactively reaching out to FCWD team.
  - ii.** Volunteer participation programming: use volunteer energy from Great American Cleanup and Creek Week Cleanup to support project maintenance.
  - iii.** Community Engagement: Four meetings with USACE. Funding opportunities including potential being included on a bill and Section 14 for emergency projects.
    - 1.** Much of federal funding has a 65/35 match requirement. 98% of FCWD funds cannot be used to match USACE federal funding as doubling up on mitigation funding is not acceptable.
  - iv.** State of the Watershed: one-day forum to promote professional watershed education and activities. El Pomar Foundation has been requested to be the primary sponsor.
  - v.** Developing a modified Sponsorship plan from event-specific to year-round.
  - vi.** Year-long marketing plan for 2025.
  - vii.** Discussion and comments on the successes of 2024 from Director Hart and Director VanderWerf.
- b. 2025 Draft Budget - ED Schuch**
  - i.** 20% Member Government Contribution Increase Request to cover:
    - 1.** New Line Item - District Maintenance Program \$100K
    - 2.** In Lieu Fee Program
    - 3.** Grant writer/administrator
    - 4.** Year-round Colorado College Fellow
    - 5.** Staff raises
    - 6.** Strategic planning, communications contractor
    - 7.** Technical review of MMF projects to identify best use of remaining funds
    - 8.** State of the Watershed event
- c. 2024 Creek Week Review - Angie Schirtzinger**
  - i.** Highlights & Data

1. This Year: 68 crews, 1749 volunteers, almost 20 tons of trash, over 3000 trash bags filled, 21 sponsors
2. Over 11 Years: 23,249 volunteers, 171.5 tons
3. Litter Letter Project as Creek Week Kickoff: 74 volunteers, 5 tons of trash collected in 2 hours
4. Manitou Elementary celebrated 10th year of Creek Week participation: 325 elementary students and staff collected 120 lbs of trash in 5 hours.
5. Recommendation from Director VanderWerf to collect more data to determine if amount of collected waste is reduced due to less waste being present - proof that Creek Week has been sustainably impactful year to year. Recommendation from Director Leinweber to confer with member governments in the summer/early fall, prior to Creek Week, to determine what areas of need are in the communities.

**7. Old Business - None**

**8. New Business 11:00-11:10**

- a. CWCB Water Plan Grant Letter of Support
  - i. Director Romanello made a motion to approve the Letter of Support for the CWCB Water Plan Grant Application. Director Hart seconded and the Letter of Support for the CWCB Water Plan Grant Application was unanimously approved.
- b. TAC Member Recommendation/Introduction - Ryan Bouton
  - i. Director Hart made a motion to accept the recommendation of Ryan Bouton as a new TAC Member. Director Romanello seconded and the motion to accept the recommendation of Ryan Bouton as a new TAC Member was unanimously approved.
- c. Director Romanello made a comment acknowledging ED Schuch's desire for more direction and clear communication from the Board of Directors. He recommends quarterly intentional conversation added to the Board meetings to ensure she is receiving the support she needs guiding the District.

**9. Executive Session - None**

- a. Greenview Trust: Nothing to report in Executive Session awaiting action from the Division Engineer.

**10. Public Comment 11:10-11:15 - None**

**11. Confirm Next Meeting Via Zoom or in person at Fountain City Hall (116 S. Main St. Fountain, CO 80817)**

- a. Fri Nov 15, 9am - Budget Hearing - need supermajority, *confirm attendance*
- b. December 20 - no meeting (tentative)

**12. Adjourn Board Meeting 11:30**

Chair Estes adjourned the Board Meeting.