



FOUNTAIN CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

**Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control, and Greenway District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

May 17, 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 to order and establish a quorum

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

Name

Tamara Estes
Jessica Mills
Terry Hart
Daneya Esgar
Jay Kita
David Leinweber
Longinos Gonzalez

Representing

Chair, City of Fountain
Lower Arkansas Valley Water Cons District
CAG Representative
Pueblo County
Small Municipalities, alternate
City of Colorado Springs
El Paso County, alternate

Alli Schuch
Stephane Atencio

Executive Director
Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

2. Introduction of Guests

Marci Day, Pueblo County
Annie Berlemann, Colorado Springs Utilities
John Kuosman, Merrick & Company
Chris Jorgensen, BiggsKofford, P.C.
Max Neuman, BiggsKofford, P.C.
Gary Rapp, citizen

3. Approval of May Board Agenda

ED Schuch requested an amendment to the May Board Agenda an addition to item 10. A. Website Accessibility Policy, which is Resolution 2024-3 needs to be voted on. Director Barr made a motion to approve the May Board Agenda with amendment. Director Mills seconded and the May Board Agenda was unanimously approved.

4. Board Member Comments

None.

5. Consent Calendar

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

6. Presentations

- A. Loop Water Authority - John Kuosman, Water/Wastewater Division Leader, Merrick & Company
 - i. Cooperative effort between four municipal water providers located in northern El Paso County (Cherokee, Donala, Town of Monument, and Woodmoor). Loop Water Authority (LWA) is the governance. Loop Water System (LWS) is the infrastructure design.
 - ii. Received ARPA grant to begin the formation process. No construction is underway; the LWA is completing due diligence evaluations to define the business model and operations strategies. Potential cost to build LWS = \$150-250 million.
 - iii. Designed to use renewable effluent discharges and surface water rather than Denver Aquifer by creating a loop that accesses some existing and some new pipeline, treatment, and pumping from Town of Monument south via Fountain Creek to Calhan Reservoir and then north to Cherokee Metropolitan District, Donala Water & Sanitation District, and on to Woodmoor Water & Sanitation District No. 1.
 - iv. Request to present again after summer's end.
- B. 2023 District Audit - Chris Jorgensen, Audit Principal, BiggsKofford, P.C.
 - i. Began audit in early April 2024 and have a nearly complete audit draft.
 - ii. Unqualified Opinion: healthy, positive report. One item from the previous audit (2022) was accounted for twice and needed to be removed to begin the General Fund balance for 2023.
 - iii. No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies to report in the 2023 audit. A singular "Other matter" is a recommendation for oversight and stewardship of investment funds.
 - iv. ED Schuch is planning a June 2024 Finance Committee meeting in order to review the recommendation from BiggsKofford, P.C. and return to the FCWD Board with a recommendation for adoption.

7. Executive Director Report

- A. Funding
 - i. CWCB Technical Assistance Grant - found a Bureau of Reclamation grant for Frost and is looking for others.
 - ii. CAFSM Disaster Relief grant (\$5K) - applied for support of willow and cottonwood cuttings for landowners on Fountain Creek.
 - iii. CPW Partners in the Outdoors grant (\$10K) - applied for Creek Week Cleanup.
 - iv. Met with MRCS and USACE for potential cost sharing and 100% grant options.
 - v. CSU CFF (\$2.5K) - received for Creek Week.
 - vi. Invited to apply for Pikes Peak Connect of Pikes Peak Community Foundation (\$11K) for pro bono fundraising support and design work.
- B. Meetings
 - i. Met with Pueblo County Parks & Recreation Director - interested in Greenway Trail. GOCO is also interested in supporting such a plan.
 - ii. Trust for Public Land - Conservation Financing and other support for the District. Presenting at August FCWD Board meeting.
 - iii. CAG formed a State of the Watershed event planning subcommittee. Possible schedule for Summer 2025.
- C. Outreach
 - i. April article in Pikes Peak Bulletin
 - ii. Fox 21 story for Earth Day
 - iii. Rebranding launch at Red Leg Brewery
 - iv. Rain Garden planting day: May 18, 2024. Mayor Yemi and Governor Polis scheduled to

attend; located in Stratton Meadows neighborhood in Colorado Springs. Received \$5K from CAFSM for the rain garden.

- v. Discussion around requesting full-time staff to attend FCWD Board meetings so they are informed of all decisions and information shared at Board meetings, as well as able to be a second in case ED Schuch is unavailable.

8. Committee Updates

- A. **HR/Contracts:** None.
- B. **Finance:** June meeting, midyear review.
- C. **Governance:** None.

9. Old Business

None.

10. New Business

- A. Website Accessibility Policy - Resolution 2024-3
 - i. Director Hart made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-3 adopting a website accessibility policy which additionally names ED Schuch as Accessibility Officer. Director Mills seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.
- B. Remote Work Policy
 - i. Director Hart made a few recommendations to modify language of Remote Work Policy.
 - ii. Director Hart made a motion to approve the Remote Work Policy as amended. Director Leinweber seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.
- C. Letter of Support - Pikes Peak Waterways WaterSMART Grant
 - i. FCWD was requested to share a letter of support for Pikes Peak Waterways' grant application. The letter was provided in the Board packet and approved by the Board at the time of the meeting. ED Schuch will send it on.

11. Executive Session

None.

12. Public Comment

None.

13. Confirm Next Meetings - ALL MEETINGS NOW HYBRID!

Via Zoom or in person at Fountain City Hall (116 S. Main St. Fountain, CO 80817)

- A. Fri Aug 16, 9am
- B. Fri Sept 20, 9am
- C. Fri Oct 18, 9am - District Tour
- D. Fri Nov 15, 9am - Budget Hearing
- E. December - no meeting

14. Adjourn Board Meeting

Chair Estes adjourned the Board Meeting.