



**FOUNTAIN CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

For the thriving life of the watershed and all it touches.

**Fountain Creek Watershed District  
Citizens Advisory Group Meeting Minutes  
Friday October 11, 2024  
9:30-11:30am**

**Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99749871376>  
(Meetings are open to the public)**

**1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions**

Angie Schirtzinger - FCWD  
Alli Schuch - FCWD  
Susan Finzel - FCWD  
Terry Hart - CAG Chair  
Jessica Mills - CAG Ag. Representative  
Mary Barber - CAG Vice Chair  
Jeanette Lara - NDR/CPW  
Taylor Murphy - City of Fountain  
Derek Lowstuter - CSU Extension  
Allen Beauchamp - TOSC  
Jessica Miller - FCNC  
Heidi Abed - citizen  
Ian Hartley - citizen  
Kathy Harris - citizen  
Shelbi Rowland - citizen

**2. Approve October Meeting Agenda**

Approved by Consensus

**3. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting**


Approved by Consensus

**4. Committee Member Comments**

None

**5. Presentations**

- a. Fountain Reservoir & Water Treatment Plant Project Overview - Taylor Murphy,  
Water Resources & Engineering Manager / City of Fountain Utilities Department
  - i. Aerial map for preliminary reservoir plans to support more treated drinking water
  - ii. Near Exit 128 west of interstate - legal rights for reuse to maximize water supply
  - iii. Concrete Dam concept as holding pond - considerations of impacts to fish

- iv. Next steps to present with TAC for further discussion
- b. Biochar for Water Quality in Colorado - Derek Lowstuter, CSU Extension
  - i. Derek created Colorado Biochar Use Resource Network
  - ii. Biochar - specialty “charcoal” produced from plant matter decomposed at high temps in a low oxygen environment
    - Soil amendment - increases porosity, improves nutrient and water retention
    - Proven method to remove CO2 from atmosphere - reducing greenhouse gas
  - iii. Use for carbon credits
  - iv. Use in stormwater management - filter or tree boxes, green roofs, water retention ponds, treating PFAS stormwater
    - Contaminant removal, plant growth, retain growth,
- c. Rock Ledge Ranch Creek Stabilization - Derek Lowstuter, CSU Extension
  - i. On Board of Directors for Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site
  - ii. Camp Creek erosion concerns
    - Mary mentioned new rules around beaver dams and will send info to Derek
    - Alli mentioned areas of support outside of funding such as partnering with member gov’ts, submitting grants, approaching TAC for suggestions
- d. Creek Week 2024 - Angie/Susan
  - i. Highlights & Data
    -  Creek Week 2024 Data (1).pdf
    - Exceeded weight of trash collection in prior years since 2018
    - 7th Annual Litter Letter - RENEW
    - Manitou Elementary 10th Year

## 6. Reports

- a. Governing Board – Alli
  - Board and Water Activity met on Sept 20th
  - Update on 2025 Capital Improvements list with MMF
  - Approved Reimbursement Policy
  - Approved contract with Jackson Creek (Upper Monument Creek) - IMAG
    - Waiting for results on Water Smart Grant for \$300,000 for restoration project
  - In Lieu Fe Presentation - Lucy Harrington
    - Submitted to Army Corps of Engineers
  - Approved Letter of Support for bridge with CDOT, that goes over I-25 to improve transportation routes/connecting communities
  - Executive session on Green View Trust (property on Fountain Creek)
  - Hosted Annual Project Tour at end of September
- b. Projects - Alli
  - Southmoor Drive
    - Waiting on one landowner agreement
  - Eagle Ridge
    - All landowner contracts in place
    - Getting city/county out in advance to address encampments and related trash
  - Rain Garden installed in Stratton neighborhood
  - Parks and Wildlife installing fish passage near Chilcotte Ditch, Fountain Creek Regional Park
    - Presentation in 2025
    - Supporting native fish
- c. MMFAC - Alli
  - 2025 Capital Improvement Projects

- technical assistance grant for Frost Ranch
- Woody debris removal - large logs
  - Clear Springs Ranch pilot project to remove debris
- Southmoor and Eagleridge carrying over into 2025

d. TAC – Mark/Annie

- Southern Delivery Report - overview

e. Website - Mary

f. WOC- Susan/Angie

- Moving parts of Creek Week: Material Pick Ups and Safety Training, Proclamations, news coverage, Creek Week Surveys/Data Eval, etc.
- Liquid Lecture
- Red Leg Fundraiser
- SRAM presentation
- TOSC Celebration
- Project Tours
- Colorado Springs Utilities Treatment Tour
- Grants - Susan
  - Final reports of Xcel Energy Grant
  - Application for grant renewal
  - Mini Grant Colorado Dept. of Public Health

g. AFCURE – Andra/Annie

- No reports

**6. New Business**

a. New business - 2025 CAG Chair position, and CAG rep to Board

- Jessica recommended Mary as Chair (will think about it), Jessica - Vice Chair
- South of El Paso County Rep.

b. 2025 Meeting Dates discussion – hybrid quarterly, virtual monthly

Keep with 2nd Fridays, 9:30-11:30 **keep**

1.10 – Annual Meeting

2.14

3.14

4.11

5.9

June/July – no meetings. TAC/CAG Field Tour

8.8

9.12

10.10

11.14

Dec - No meeting

**7. Ongoing Business**

a. State of the Watershed Planning - Alli

**8. Old Business**

**9. Public Comment:**

## **10. Next Meetings**

- 11/8 (Hybrid via zoom or in person – Fountain City Hall), 9:30 am followed by a field trip to Fountain Creek Nature Center
- Dec - No CAG meeting

## **11. Upcoming Events**

Tues. October 15th, 6-7pm Liquid Lecture Pueblo - Whooo Lives in the Watershed, Shamrock Brewery

Thurs. October 17th, 6-7pm Liquid Lecture - COS - Bats and Brews - Bat House Workshop, Atrevida

Sun. October 20th, 10am-1pm, Fountain Creek Restoration Project, Angler's Covey

Sat. October 26th, 9am-11am Ghouls & Stools at Bear Creek Dog Park with El Paso County

## **11. Adjourn**

## Notes - Future Meeting Presentation Ideas

- Next: PFAS
- El Paso County Planning Department (Oct or Nov TBD)
- Water Quality topics
  - PFASs - CDPHE
  - AF CURE updates
  - CSU/City of CS Joint Funding Agreement for water quality testing
- Water Equity topics
- Amara - growth issues
- CO Stormwater Center
- Strategic planning updates
- Dredge and fill permitting
- Recreation in FC
- Wildlife
- Lessons learned from projects under MMF
- City of Fountain new reservoir