

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

**Meeting Minutes
February 14, 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 February 14, 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
Richard Skorman - CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
Ferris Frost – Alternate CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
John Chavez – TAC Chair and Representative to the CAG
Mary Barber – FCWD Web Manager
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary
Jerry Cordova
Dan Henrichs
Lois Illick
Elaine Kleckner
Jordan Vana
Ross Vincent
Allison Plute
Tom Ready

CAG Members not present:
None

Also in attendance:
Terry Hart, Pueblo County Commissioner
Larry Small, Executive Director Fountain Creek Watershed District

Ms. Kornelly announced that all those who had requested membership in the CAG have been approved by the Board, with Richard Skorman continuing as liaison with the Board, and Ferris Frost continuing as alternate.

2. Approve Agenda of February 14, 2014 Meeting

Ms. Kornelly requested a revision to the Agenda in which Public Comment would become Item 4, following Item 3 – Approve Minutes of Prior Meetings

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the revised February 14, 2014 Agenda was approved.

3. Approve Minutes of January 10, 2014 Meeting

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the January 10, 2013 Minutes were approved.

4. Public Comment: Judy Harrington, Fire Mitigation Consultant to Palmer Lake. Ms. Harrington announced that the Town of Palmer Lake is submitting a proposal for a \$100,000 fire mitigation grant from the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant (WRRG) Program. Palmer Lake has already hired a Fire Marsha, with whom Judy is working to complete the application before the March 13 deadline.

- In consideration of the town's strategic location at the head of the watershed, Palmer Lake has requested the District's cooperation in the grant process and fire mitigation activities.
- Among the areas targeted for mitigation are the areas leading to and around the reservoir and the area known as the Glen. In all, the town owns 400 acres in need of mitigation. The remainder of the land designated for mitigation is private.
- Specifically, Judy asked that the District contribute to the 25 percent (\$25,000) matching cash requirement of the grant. Currently the town has secured \$10,000 in cash commitments; its goal is \$25,000. No specific amount was requested, but she pointed out that a \$250 cash investment would leverage an acre's worth of mitigation at \$1000 per acre.
- Larry Small suggested that Judy attend the February 28 meeting of the Governing Board to make her formal request, to which Judy replied that she intended to, and that today's CAG presentation, and one earlier in the week to the TAC were intended to garner the necessary support to present to the Board.
- Larry also read the text of a draft letter of support from the District for inclusion into the grant application, upon final approval of the Board.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the CAG voted to recommend approval to discuss a financial support to the Palmer Lake WRRG Grant Application to the Fountain Creek Watershed District Board of Directors.

5. Presentation

Frost Ranch Demonstration Project. Graham Thompson of Matrix Design Group presented the preliminary design for the Frost Ranch Demonstration Project.

- The funding comes from the District, in-kind and matching, and the bulk from the Arkansas Basin Roundtable and the Colorado Water Conservation Board.
- The project includes 400 feet of eroded bank. The project area is de-vegetated, and the bank is rapidly eroding. Among the criteria used to select the project location were easy access, the effort was at a reasonable scale, and could be accomplished with the limited funding under the grant, compared to more degraded areas with high banks, etc. Being a demonstration project, a prime consideration was accessibility for easy viewing by landowners, other professionals, and the public. Grant showed aerial photos of the general region, showing the project area as one of the only de-vegetated areas along an otherwise stable and vegetated reach of the creek. Woody vegetation right down to the water's edge is what they wish to accomplish.
- This is a demonstration project to examine techniques, with the overall goals of bank geometry restoration in a habitat sensitive way, vegetation re-establishment, flood reduction, flood storage, sediment reduction, and the like. The project will use natural channel techniques to kick start the process of re-establishing a healthy channel and bank structure. The intent is to use as much native vegetation and materials rather than more traditional techniques such as rip rap or concrete.
- The general approach is to maintain the bank geometry and the flood plain elevation and re-vegetate. Root balls are critical to bank stability.
- Dan Henrichs commented that a fallen tree can slow the water enough to drop out sediment, forming a gravel bar, which then re-directs the stream against the bank, resulting in erosion. Graham's photos showed this configuration in the project area.
- Grant presented three options developed for the project. Larry and Graham will meet with the landowner next week [wk of Feb. 17] for discussion, and the plans have been given a prospective contractor.
 - Traditional rip rap, either buried or exposed,
 - Brush layering or geo-grid, which is soil wrapped lifts in a fibrous vegetative material such as coir and/or jute mats,

- A mixture of the geo-grid and toe wood (dead trees buried at a right angle to the bank, root wad facing the water, with a footer tree supporting them underneath) while it re-vegetates. While the project may require more trees than readily available, the burial process would generate the soil fill needed for the brush layering part of the project – soil/fill that would otherwise be required to be trucked in at considerable expense.
- The plans presented constitute a 30 percent planset, with design to be completed by the chosen contractor in a design-build effort. Project duration is expected to be about four weeks, with completion by June 1.

6. Reports

a. Governing Board Meeting. Larry Small reported on the January meeting of the FCWD Governing Board.

- The Board approved the CenturyLink land use application.
- The Board approved its annual statutory requirements.
- Larry reported that the land use application by SDS (as presented by Allison Mosser) has grown considerably due to bank erosion from the September floods. About 21 acres were lost, an estimated 100,000 cubic yards. Utilities estimates an additional \$3M in project costs from the floods. The CAG will receive information in a future meeting.
- The next Board meeting is February 28 at 1:00.

b. TAC Meeting. John Chavez reported on the February TAC meeting.

- John was pleased to report that the TAC again had a quorum and elected officers.
 - John Chavez was re-elected Chair.
 - Nancy Keller was elected Vice Chair.
 - Tasha Bracken was elected Secretary.
- The TAC has three new members
 - Jeff Bailey, City of Pueblo
 - Steve Gardner, City of Colorado Springs
 - Tasha Bracken, El Paso County Parks
- The TAC is considering the use of alternates as a means of ensuring a quorum, and John will be bringing that proposal to the Board.

c. Outreach Group. Irene Kornelly announced that the next meeting of the Outreach Group will be February 18 in the downstairs conference room of Fountain City Hall.

- The group will consider a new brochure for the District
- Representatives of a 4-H STEM program will be attending.
- Larry brought draft copies of the new brochure for the CAG to review.
- Larry also spoke on single issue fact sheets covering topics such as sedimentation, erosion, flood causation, etc.
- CAG members are asked to give comments on the brochure to Larry.
- Larry also displayed banner examples for booths and other displays for attending meetings and conferences.

d. Pikes Peak Runoff and Flood Control Task Force (AKA Pikes Peak Regional Stormwater Taskforce).

- Larry reported that the Taskforce is transitioning into what Larry calls the “Sales Pitch Phase”, in which its attention will focus on selling the ballot question, whatever that is to be.
- Governance models were discussed, again, with the creation of a new district not being permitted, as the charter of the District includes stormwater.

- Richard Skorman commented the county commissioners and city council support putting a proposal for a long term funding structure onto the November ballot, something the mayor is unlikely to support.
- UCCS is performing an impact analysis of stormwater solutions on a region's economy.
- John observed that no where in the discussions of capital costs and maintenance costs is there mention of the likely changes needed in the stormwater approval process administered by the many governmental entities throughout the watershed. The additional time and effort to update and coordinate tougher standards, as well as the cost to developers to implement them, constitute an extensive unfunded mandate.
- Larry responded by saying that only a consolidation of the MS-4 permits was considered in the various governance models. Consolidating land use issues would take away powers from local authorities; not a popular idea when seeking regional cooperation.
- Terry Hart asked if the taskforce understood the urgency of settling these governance questions in order to put a solid plan in front of voters as soon as possible. Richard answered that what is referred to as the Core Team, which includes a couple council members and a couple commissioners, is working to resolve these key issues with that thought firmly in mind. Richard added that he is also on the Core Team and will keep the CAG well-informed on progress toward answering those structural issues.

e. **Website.** The 2013 TAC minutes are now posted.

7. New Business

There was no new business.

8. Other Business.

Allison Plute announced that Colorado Springs Utilities and its volunteers will be doing a cleanup of Monument Creek and Pikeview Reservoir, Saturday April 19. Larry asked if the District could put up a banner, and Allison invited the District to set up an information table or any other information resource.

9. Next Meeting. The next scheduled CAG meeting will be Friday March 14, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., possibly at the Fountain Creek Nature Center. Irene assured the CAG that she would confirm this in a later emailing, along with directions and a map. [Ed. Note: The actual location of the March 14 meeting will be Fountain City Hall, 116 S. Main Street, 2ndFloor, Fountain, CO.]

10. Adjourn:

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.