

**Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District  
Citizens Advisory Group  
Meeting Minutes  
March 9, 2012**

The meeting was held at:  
Monument City Hall  
645 Beacon Lite Road  
Monument, CO

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

The March 9, 2012 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed Citizens Advisory Group (“CAG”) was called to order by Chairperson, Mr Terry Hart, at approximately 9:45am. In attendance were the following designated members of the CAG:

Terry Hart – Chairperson	Vice Chairperson – Irene Kornelly
Mary Barber	Vance Clifton
Ross Vincent	Elaine Kleckner
Carol Baker	Jack Wallick
Ferris Frost – Alternate CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board	

Members not present:

Dieter Erdmann	Tom Ready
Dan Henrichs	Yvette Valdez-Trujillo
Richard Skorman – CAG Representative to the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (“FCWD”) Governing Board	

Mr Larry Small, Executive Director and several interested citizens also attended.

A quorum was noted.

**2. Approve Agenda of March 9, 2012 Meeting**

*Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the March 9, 2012 agenda was approved.*

**3. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting(s)**

*Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the February 10, 2012 minutes were approved.*

**4. Current Business**

**a. Oil and Gas Drilling, Regulations, and Preemption:** Two knowledgeable speakers were invited to present information about the geology and process of oil and gas drilling in the Niobrara geologic formation along the Front Range and within the Fountain Creek watershed. The CAG desires to raise its level of awareness and knowledge about the potential impacts of oil and gas drilling within the watershed and to be informed about current and proposed regulations.

-Dr. Bob Reynolds, Geologist, Research Associate at Denver Museum of Nature and Science, presented a geological framework of the Denver Basin and the Front Range including:

- Availability of several reports and publications
- Extent of the Denver Basin and Front Range geology
- Geologic and natural history of oil and gas formation in the basin
- General condition of ground and surface water in the basin
- Extent and location of the Niobrara Formation in the Front Range
- Water demand in response to population growth, climate, efficiency of use and new technology
- Projected increase in the search for natural gas and use of hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” to get it because of increasing pressure to move away from coal

-Mr. George Monsson, Geologist and El Paso County Senior Assistant Attorney, presented how energy development may impact water supplies, oil and gas drilling processes and the regulatory situation in Colorado including:

- Anticipated dependence on hydrocarbons for the next 50 years
- Economics of ‘cheap’ coal
- Fracking process, including water requirements associated with it
- Recent release of a study in Texas on fracking impacts to the environment
- Greatest impacts from fracking occur from surface spills, leaking casings and poor cement quality
- Activity in El Paso County, which is mainly exploration for oil (which may or may not produce)
- Legal framework for State regulation of the industry (Colorado Oil and Gas Commission or “COGCC”) and limited control by local jurisdictions
- Potential for jurisdictional conflict among State agencies as well as between the COGCC and counties/municipalities
- COGCC members and on-going discussions concerning technical aspects of drilling and local land use concerns
- Task forces in place (Colorado Springs and El Paso County) to try to address potential impacts that may be within the regulatory jurisdiction of local government

-Comments and suggestions by speakers to address concerns about transparency, disclosure and data collection:

- Colorado has one of the most rigid requirements for disclosure of fracking fluid composition (with some industry protections)
- Spend time and effort trying to influence near surface casing and cementing requirements; cement log recordation and reading; surface spill response teams and equipment; and items within local control
- Gather data in order to understand current conditions so future impacts can be quantified, e.g. baseline ground water quality of well(s) before drilling occurs and retest periodically at one, three and six years

**b. Air Force Academy Drainage Issues: Fred L. Williams, P.E.** Mr Williams presentation was postponed to a future meeting.

**c. Sediment Removal Project Status:** Mr John McArthur could not be present, but he will be invited to present the project status at the next meeting.

**d. Ballot Question for 2013:** Discussion postponed until after Summit Economics presents their recommendations.

## 5. Reports

- a. Governing Board Meeting.** Mr Small gave the following report:
- The Board approved the CAG membership recommendations.
  - The members postponed discussion of the 2013 ballot question until after Summit Economics report recommendations are presented. Summit will present their findings at the April Technical Advisory Committee (“TAC”), CAG and District Board meetings.
  - The Board Chair requested that CAG members who attend [oil and gas drilling] meetings make clear that opinions expressed are not reflective of the position of the District. Members should feel free to participate and express their own personal opinions.
- b. TAC Meeting.** Ms Elaine Kleckner gave the following report.
- The TAC delayed further discussion on the 2013 ballot issue until after hearing from Summit Economics.
  - Some remaining TAC concerns with the model for sediment and land use are being worked with the U.S. Geological Survey (“USGS”).
  - The TAC will be studying and making a recommendation to the Board on a fee structure for land use matters of the District.
  - The public process for presenting the Colorado Springs Storm Water Drainage Criteria Manual to other entities in the watershed for adoption will occur sometime in May (date/time to be determined).
- c. Outreach Group.** Ms Baker reported the Outreach Group is working on a waterway cleanup project which will be kicked off at Clear Springs Ranch on April 21st. The event may include a canoeing opportunity. The Group is also working on an Adopt-a-Creek Program with Colorado State University – Pueblo.
- d. Oil and Gas Exploration Subcommittee.** Ms Kleckner will provide a report in April or May on the El Paso County-appointed Ground Water Quality Study Committee recommendations.
- e. Website Working Group.** The website will be continuing under the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (“PPACG”) because of unanticipated technical problems. A new hosting company may be considered in the future. Mr Jeff Besse is looking for the District source documents in order to post them. He will continue to update the site.

## 6. Other Business:

- a. Great Outdoors Colorado (“GOCO”) Grant.** Ms Baker reported that the grant application will be submitted in a week. She described the projects included in the application. There will be two projects in Colorado Springs, a Fountain Creek Nature Center expansion, two sections of Front Range Trail and four projects in Pueblo. The District will host a tour for the GOCO Board on March 29 starting at 10:00am in Pueblo. A presentation to the GOCO Board will be April 9, 2012. A decision is anticipated in June.
- b. Summit Office Park.** Ms Barber gave an update on a rezoning request by the developer of the subject project, which is in Fountain near the Creek just north of the District land use authority area. The rezoning, if approved by the City Council, will change an area (that includes a portion of the floodplain) from high intensity development (Village Commercial) to lower intensity (Residential Agricultural). Floodplain delineation and development comments referred

by the District to Fountain land use staff were reiterated at the March Planning Commission meeting (by Ms Barber) based on TAC and CAG review of the preliminary proposal about a year ago.

**7. Public Comment:** None

**8. Executive Session:** None Required

**9. Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled CAG meeting will be April 13, 2012, 9:30am, Colorado Springs (location to be determined).

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00pm.