

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

**Meeting Minutes**

May 10, 2013

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 May 10, 2013 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed 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 Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (“FCWD”) Governing Board  
Ferris Frost – Alternate CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary  
Mary Barber  
Nancy Stone Bernard  
Jerry Cordova  
Ross Vincent  
Dan Henrichs

CAG Members not present:  
Perry Cabot – Vice Chairperson  
Carol Baker  
Tom Ready  
John Chavez – TAC Chair and Representative to the CAG

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

**2. Approve Agenda of May 10, 2013 Meeting**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the updated May 10, 2013 Agenda was approved.**

**3. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting**

Following a question as to the denotation of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus, the minutes were amended to spell out the two words.

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the amended April 12, 2013 minutes were approved.**

#### 4. Reports

**a. Governing Board Meeting.** Larry Small reported on the April 26th Board meeting as follows.

- The Board received a presentation from Carol Ekarius of CUSP summarizing the WARSSS assessment of the Waldo Canyon burn area.
- The Board's retreat to discuss election and funding issues will be Thursday June 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Penrose House Board Room. There will be CAG and TAC representatives, to include Ferris Frost.
- Larry spoke on a topic he'll report on in the June Board meeting. He received a letter from the Army Corps of Engineers on grant applications he sent in on two projects. The Pueblo Flood Control Project was referred forward for funding, but the Frost Farm Erosion and Sedimentation Project was not eligible for those monies under the program's guidelines. However, the ACOE wants to look at the property and find other sources of funds. They believe it is a worthwhile project. Funding for the Pueblo project could be available as early as July of this year, but certainly by early 2014.
- Larry spoke briefly on the Pueblo Flood Control Project, which is described in the District's Master Plan.
- The next Governing Board meeting will be June 28.

**b. TAC Meeting.** Irene Kornelly reported on the most recent TAC meeting.

- There was a discussion of Waldo Canyon flood control efforts.
- The Drainage Manual review by City Council was delayed for review by CDPHE. It is hoped that the manual will be in front the Council sometime in June.
- There have been changes in the leadership positions of the TAC. Richard Mulledy, who had been with the City of Pueblo, accepted a position with Matrix Design and felt it was a conflict to be in a leadership position while serving with a firm that contracts with the District. The new chair is John Chavez.
- There was some discussion of the mill levy, but the next TAC meeting will have to focus on a recommendation to the board for Larry Small to present at the Board's retreat.

**c. Outreach Group.** The Outreach Group did not meet.

**d. Oil and Gas Exploration Subcommittee.**

- Chairperson Kornelly stated that this item will be removed from future agendas until such time that the topic is again relevant.

**e. Pikes Peak Regional Stormwater Taskforce** Larry Small reported on the subcommittees.

- The Governance Subcommittee will be looking at two alternatives. The first would be modeled after the Englewood's South East Metro Storm Water Authority (SEMSWA) and be established in El Paso County. The other is creation of a 5th utility to fill those needs. The District is not considered a prime solution for a number of reasons, but primarily that the District cannot subdivide its authority within the district, i.e., in El Paso County and not Pueblo County.
- The Emergency Subcommittee reported on the results on the WARSSS assessment and the difficulties of responding to it.
- The Engineering Subcommittee has looked at creating a program management plan looking at storm water as a single system. They hope to integrate their plan with the District's Master Plan.
- Irene Kornelly added that CH2M Hill has been awarded the contract to scrub and prioritize the list of projects. Completion will be in the September/October timeframe.
- Richard Skorman commented that the Forest Service will be coming up with more than originally thought. About \$4 million will be available for reseeding and other work.
- While on the topic of the Regional Stormwater Taskforce, discussions began wandering, though still remaining on the topic of stormwater.

- The recent storm dropped about 1/2 inch of water over the burn area, much of it snow above 8,000 feet. Thus there was not a rapid runoff. Stream flows were not out of normal range for the type of storm, and the water color was normal.
- For information on stream flow rates Dan Henrichs suggested the Division of Water Resources website, [www.dwr.state.co.us](http://www.dwr.state.co.us), for a list of all Arkansas River Basin gaging stations.
- Jerry Cordova reported the USGS is reducing the number of real-time gaging stations being monitored within the watershed. Opportunities exist for partnering with other groups to keep the data flowing.
- Larry reported having received an email from the 11th grade class at Hanover School. They found our website and requested a teleconference with Larry to discuss our watershed. The class is studying the subject, and Larry spoke with them for about a half an hour. They asked about water quality, water management, and related subjects.
- The website became a topic of discussion. A great deal of information could be added, Board and TAC meeting minutes have not been posted for quite some time, and an opportunity exists to use the site to perform the necessary public outreach needed at this time. Mary Barber volunteered to work with Jeff Besse to take over the website. Jack Wallick volunteered to assist. Irene said she would add the website as a topic in the next meeting's agenda.

## 5. Current Business

- **Continue Discussion of Trust for Public Lands Report**
  - Chairperson Kornelly reminded the group that Larry has asked the CAG (and the TAC) to prepare some sort of report for the Board's retreat on June 13. Referring to the discussion topics mailed to the CAG earlier in the week, Irene suggested moving the CAG's next meeting one week earlier to the 7th of June, at which time we will finalize the group's report.
  - Rather than a lengthy written report, the format will be a PowerPoint presentation, for clarity and brevity.
  - Irene will have the presentation ready for the June meeting and the members' approval.
  - Discussion of the topics ensued, with little resolution because of the continuing state of flux between Colorado Springs mayor's desire to avoid a regional solution, the city Council's apparent support for the regional solution, and the rest of the county on either one side or the other.
  - Larry Small's recommendation for the District is to stay clear of the politics and the division, and to build the District's reputation as a competent organization, focus on what we can do well, and eventually be able to ask a ballot question when voters know we are the proper organization to manage stormwater control and other projects.
  - Irene summed up about half an hour's discussion comments to confirm that 1) The CAG supports a regional approach, 2) The earliest a ballot question could reasonably be asked is November 2014, 3) A property tax is the only feasible funding option for the District because we cannot levy a district-wide sales tax.
  - Larry proposed that the District concentrate on water quality, restoration of wetlands, quality of environment, and the projects that improve the creek as an amenity. Those are the actions that will gain us the trust and interest of the public. Let the counties and municipalities deal with run-off issues and if we make the creek healthy, it will absorb the surges, selenium, and nutrients.
  - Dan Henrichs agreed and made what may have been the day's most cogent remark, "Flood Control is an oxymoron."
  - Discussion continued, with the CAG essentially agreeing that our role is to stand apart from the current squabbles and continue supporting the amenities like environmental quality and trails/greenways. When the power players settle their differences, we will be

here to serve as their agent if desired. If not, we have the ability to continue improving the watershed by ourselves. Our vision should be to make an environmental gem.

- The scale model that Pueblo used in promoting the Riverwalk was used an example of a good marketing device. Larry thought 3-D model of our master plan overlaid on the watershed would be a valuable tool in gaining support and recording completed projects.
- **Continue Discussion on the Role of the Outreach Committee**
  - Irene asked if we should question the role of the Outreach Committee in our report to the Board. Larry suggested that it be in the context of our discussion today. The thought was that by limiting our scope of actions to a manageable level, the Outreach Committee can be a valuable part of the effort. Saddling the committee with running an election is overreaching and expecting too much.
  - Irene commented that if the Outreach Committee is to continue operating, it will need some limited budget monies. Larry responded by saying that he will present any funding request to the board for deliberation.
  - Irene summarized by saying that she will summarize the results of today's discussion in a PowerPoint presentation for review at the CAG's June 7 meeting for the group's approval.

**6. New Business:** There was no New Business.

**7. Public Comment:** There were no Public Comments.

**8. Executive Session:** None Required

**9. Announcements and Next Meeting:** The next scheduled CAG meeting will be June 7, 2013 at 9:30a.m., Fountain City Hall.

**10. Adjourn:**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:28 a.m.**