

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

**Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2015**

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 November 13, 2015 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (FCWD) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Mr. Ross Vincent, Vice Chair, at about 9:35 a.m. A quorum was noted, with the following CAG members in attendance:

Ross Vincent – Vice Chair
Ferris Frost – Alternate CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
Nancy Keller – TAC Chair and Representative to the CAG
Richard Skorman - CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary
Ian Hartley
Lisa Godwin
Lois Illick
Dana Nordstrom
Allison Plute
Tom Ready
Amber Shanklin

CAG Members not present:

Irene Kornelly – Chair
Mary Barber – FCWD Web Manager

Also in attendance:

Larry Small, Executive Director, Fountain Creek Watershed District
Jerry Barker, OtterTail Environmental
Gary Rapp – Recycling Coalition of Colorado Springs

2. Approve Agenda of November 13, 2015 Meeting

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the November 13, 2015 Agenda was approved.

3. Approve Minutes of October 9, 2015 Meeting

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the October 9, 2015 minutes were approved.

4. Presentations:

a. Water Rights Protection Task Force, Larry Small

- The project was initiated at the request of the Arkansas Basin Roundtable following the presentation of a proposal to study flood control alternatives. The group requested that the proposed study include the effects of flood control projects on water rights holders.
 - The technical group was comprised of designees of water rights holders and USGS Division 2 staff.
 - Goals were to identify water rights potentially impacted, develop guidelines for operation of flood control facilities, and identify potentially fatal flaws in resolving issues between flood control and water rights.
 - Funding partners were, in addition to the District, Colorado Springs Utilities, City of Fountain Utilities, Pueblo Board of Water Works, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Pueblo West, and Security Water & Sanitation District. The partners provided \$26,500 in engineering funding, with another \$25,000 of in-kind services from Colorado Springs Utilities and \$4,000 of in-kind services from the District.
 - After reviewing flood characteristics as far back as 1921 and learning the operation of the call mechanisms among irrigation companies, a set of working assumptions were made. These were as follows and were agreed to by the stakeholders.
 - Implement flood control when flow is over 10,000 cfs at the Fountain Creek Pueblo gauge. Flood stage at that gauge is set at 24,000 cfs.
 - Release impounded waters as rapidly as possible when the hydrograph falls below 10,000 cfs.
 - The release rate would be 500 cfs or greater.
 - Concerns were that the operation of flood control structures would change the “ownership” of these peak flows, i.e., whose water rights are most affected by changing the flow regime? It was determined that junior water rights holders were the most affected by curtailing water flow during high water events. Impounded storm water would be made up through augmentation from Pueblo Reservoir.
 - In addition to temporarily impounded storm water, losses would be incurred during storage and transport, and those would have to be made up. It was determined that purchasing a pool of water and storing it in the Pueblo Reservoir would be the best way to deal with augmentation flow as well as storage and transport losses. It was estimated that an initial block of 525 acre feet would be sufficient. At \$13,000 per acre foot, it’s a pricey but one-time purchase. After release of the impounded stormwater, the water is put back into our pool through various exchanges.
 - Comments on the study were generally favorable.
 - The methodology was shown to work for allocating water that is temporarily stored for flood control purposes.
 - Next steps would be to maintain communications and relations with stake holders in the lower Arkansas basin and submit a proposal to study flood control alternatives for viability during the next round of funding in January 2016. The first phase would be \$80,000 and a second phase of in-depth analysis of selected options would be \$140,000. It would be about 18 months work to complete both phases. Larry stated that if these grants are not awarded that we will have to move forward using our own funds. This work must be done, he emphasized.

b. Final Results from Creek Week, Allison Plute. The following is a summary of Allison's report. The entire presentation has been uploaded to the Creek Week page on the District website.

- This was the second annual Creek Week; it was nine days long and was a watershed-wide event.
 - Participating groups included service groups, neighborhood associations, scouts, schools, churches and individuals.
 - Goals were to make our communities cleaner, safer, and more beautiful, as well as to raise awareness about the watershed, our water supply, and the District.
- Creek Week was organized and run by a steering committee of comprising 18 organizations throughout the watershed, including CH2M, the cities of Colorado Springs, Pueblo, Fountain and Manitou Springs, Colorado College, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, and Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado Springs Utilities, Pueblo City-County Health Department, Colorado State Extension Service, Ft. Carson, The Greenway Foundation, Trails and Open Space Coalition, The Sierra Club (Pueblo and Colorado Springs chapters), and Team Rubicon. The steering committee logged 1008 hours – a \$20,160 value.
- Sponsorships and contributions provided \$8,600 in cash, plus \$5785 of in-kind services. Sponsorship levels (cash or in-kind) ranged from Champion (\$5,000) and Debris Demolisher (\$1000-\$4,999), to Waste Wrangler (\$500-\$999) and Trash Taker (\$1-\$499). There were about 50 sponsors overall. Creek Week has its own account and has a significant seed money cache for 2016, as seen by the difference in expenditures (below) and contributions.
- Creek Week's total cash outlay was \$5,882. T shirts were \$2092, Water Bottles \$1370, print ads \$1345, Trash Grabbers and gloves \$741, and printing \$334.
- Promotion was done through a State Fair booth, social media – including nearly daily visits and updates during the final month, print ads in the Chieftain and Independent, posters, save the date cards, a TV commercial, and civic proclamations throughout the watershed. Several business held promotional events,
- Groups used the District website to access information sheets, sponsor letter, registration packet, a safety video, and an interactive map for locating a stretch of the creek to clean. Through personal contact and a personalized map of the area, and a post event survey, the team ensured that clean up groups had all the information necessary for a successful event. Lisa Godwin was instrumental in this effort.
- Final results include:
 - 1550 citizens participated (vs. 625 last year).
 - 944 bags of trash were collected
 - The total haul was 9.4 tons (vs.6.8 tons last year).
- We registered with the International Coastal Clean Up Program, adding our efforts to the 560,000 volunteers in 91 countries, who collected 8 million tons of trash from waterways or oceans. For being a part of the coalition we received all our trash bags free from Dow Chemical.
- Allison made special mention of the Manitou Springs Elementary School. Among their accomplishments were a \$100 donation from the Parents Association, all 500 K through 5th grade students participated, and the 5th graders developed and presented a class on watersheds to the kindergartners.
- Planning for 2016 Creek Week has started, and aspects include:
 - New steering Committee members,
 - Targeted marketing for groups and sponsorships,
 - Coupon Books for participants,

- Buffs (a multi-use head gear item) instead of t shirts to eliminate the need for a range of sizes,
 - Pre-selection of areas in need of clean up,
 - In water clean up teams,
 - 100% CAG, TAC, and Board participation.
- 2016 Creek Week is September 24 to October 4. Save the Date!
 - We are also partnering with El Paso County on a city/county-wide clean up called Tackle the Trash on April 30. Save that date too!
 - Richard Skorman expressed the CAG's appreciation for Allison's energy and hard work.

5. Reports.

a. Governing Board Meeting.

- The primary focus was on establishing a set of policies consistent with those required by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, to whom we are submitting a grant application under their Watershed Restoration Grant Fund. The grant would fund a current WARSS assessment of the Fountain Creek corridor.

b. TAC Meeting.

- The TAC's submittal checklist was approved by the Board. The checklist would be required of any project within or partially in the corridor.
- The TAC approved a Scope of Work for completion of the Drainage Criteria Manual. Larry will provide a cost estimate based on the scope, the request will then go to the Monetary Mitigation Committee to discuss funding issues, and then to the Board. There are DOLA funds available to help with this type of project.

c. Outreach Group.

- Allison Plute reported that the Outreach Group is meeting after the CAG meeting and invited CAG members to attend.
- There are two open house meetings on the upper Monument Creek restoration plan. These are November 17 and 18. The Outreach Group will have a booth for each event, and Allison asked for volunteers to help with either event.

d. Monetary Mitigation Committee.

- Larry reported on the last Monetary Mitigation Committee meeting.
- Budget reviews, future restoration work, and the upcoming Design Control Manual costs were primary topics.
- The Monetary Mitigation Committee will meet again November 19 at Pueblo County Water Works.

e. Website and Facebook Page.

Allison commented that a winter project is to add education resources and other updates to the web page.

6. Current Business.

- Ferris reported that she had attended a meeting of Mary Barber's trail collaborative.
- Craig Casper, Transportation Director at PPACG, gave a presentation on their non-motorized plan in which he said the two highest priorities are east-west corridor including the Rock Island and Midland Trails, and the north-south, which includes the Santa Fe Trail, Pikes Peak Greenway, and the Front Range Trail.
- Despite PPACG's emphasis on non recreational/commuting transportation, Craig encouraged us to submit a grant application on the Front Range Trail, given its priority with the PPACG.
- During discussion, a number of potential issues stand in the way, including a deadline of December 11, the District might not be eligible to be a lead agency, most of the gaps in the trail are due to complicated property acquisition or easement issues, etc.

- Regardless, with a number of potential partners expressing interest, it was decided that Ferris will look into it further.

7. Other Business. There was no other business.

8. Public Comment. Mr. Gary Rapp of the Recycling Coalition Colorado Springs spoke on the Wright Water Engineers review of Fountain Creek problems and mitigation approaches. His group, which advocates for better stormwater control, took the original presentation of more than 100 slides and selected eight for presentation here today. He distributed handouts to the CAG. Salient issues were as follows:

- The imported water, i.e., trans-mountain diversions which comprise much of Colorado Springs' water, have an effect on the stormwater and sediment transport problems in Fountain Creek.. For each acre foot of imported water:
 - 0.6 acre feet end up as return flow, added to the original base flow of Fountain Creek.
 - The new construction enabled by that amount of imported water adds another 0.25 acre feet of runoff due to new impervious surfaces.
 - The resulting "new" flow in Fountain Creek is at least 0.85 acre feet.
- Base flows and frequent but relatively small storm events contribute the majority of the sediment transport. Gary advocated for a more balanced approach to stormwater management, in which not only are major storm events managed through detention or diversion, but attention must be paid to controlling lower flows as well, due to their resulting sediment transport. The volume of base flow (in which he includes return/wastewater flows) is a major contributor to sediment transport.
- Solutions such as permeable hard surfaces, grade control, bank stabilization to reduce erosion, and even sediment removal through dredging are needed in addition to the detention approaches for controlling major floods.
- Gary showed data suggesting that too much attention in flood control is about rate of flow, but volume should be considered as well. He criticized the new Design Criteria Manual for making best practices in volume control, such as permeable surfaces, voluntary.
- During discussion following Gary's presentation, some points were made:
 - Retrofitting existing impervious surfaces could run afoul of water law, because a right to that runoff has already been established. Only in a new development can permeable hard surface be easily implemented, and developers are unwilling to take that extra expense.
 - Gary argued for greater reuse of imported water, as the trans mountain diversions can be used to extinction. By reusing imported water, we would help minimize base flows.

9. Next Meeting. The next scheduled CAG meeting will be Friday January 8, 2016, 9:30 a.m. at the Fountain City Hall, 116 W. Main. There will not be a December meeting of the CAG.

10. Adjourn:

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.