

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

**Meeting Minutes  
March 10, 2017**

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 March 10, 2017 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (FCWD) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Irene Kornelly, Chair, at 9:37 a.m. A quorum was noted, with the following CAG members in attendance:

Irene Kornelly – Chair  
Ian Hartley – Vice Chair  
Richard Skorman - CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary  
Mary Barber – FCWD Web Manager  
Brandy Williams – TAC Chair and CAG Representative  
Dana Nordstrom  
Ross Vincent  
David Woolley

**CAG Members not present:**

Sherie Caffey  
Tom Ready  
Allison Plute  
Amber Shanklin

**Also in attendance:**

Larry Small, Executive Director – Fountain Creek Watershed District  
Terry Hart - Pueblo County Commissioner  
Steve Rothstein – The Greenway Fund, Colorado Springs  
Chris Martin – Matrix Design Group  
Jim Fenimore - Visitor

**2. Approve Agenda of March 10, 2017 Meeting**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the March 10, 2017 agenda was approved.**

**3. Approve Minutes of the February 10, 2017 Meeting**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the amended February 10, 2017 minutes were approved.**

**4. Presentation: Fountain Creek Corridor WARSSS Study, Chris Martin, Matrix Design Group.**

Chris presented the methods and results of the WARSSS Study of Fountain Creek Corridor recently completed by Matrix and subcontractors GHK and Blue Mountain Consultants. The study was funded by a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

- The study area was the entire Fountain Creek corridor from just south of Colorado Springs city limits approximately 50 miles to the confluence with the Arkansas River in Pueblo.
  - The GIS-based analysis used data from El Paso County, Pueblo County, City of Fountain, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers data.
  - The study used desktop analysis on 100 miles of creek bank looking for erosion and instability.
  - The result was identification of the 215 most erodible banks, with 18 being labeled as highest priority for future projects.
  - For the 18 priority areas, a remediation approach and approximate cost were assigned.
- The final products of the study are a series of large scale PDFs holding a variety of information about threatened or degraded reach banks in the corridor. Numerous layers in the digital versions allow the viewer to access historical data, aerial photos, risk levels, and much more information.
- A decision matrix was built to prioritize field assessments of the identified projects.
  - The decision matrix was based on the one built for the Monument Creek Watershed Restoration Master Plan.
  - Using results from the decision matrix, as well as overall accessibility, four sites were selected for field assessments.
- WARSSS is an acronym of Watershed Assessment of River Stability and Sediment Supply, and is a method of looking at areas of instability and stability, determining what is causing the instability, and to rank risk associated with those factors. WARSSS is the accepted model for examining watersheds in their entirety, and the study adapted the process to the Fountain Creek situation.
  - The first stage in the process is Reconnaissance Level Assessment (RLA), which is an examination of the available data with respect to erosion problems. Each location is ranked with respect to the various channel processes such as erosion rate (tons per foot of bank per year), vegetation cover, and other factors. The ranking assigned in this step allowed the study to move to the Rapid Resource Inventory for Sediment and Stability Consequence (RRISSC) phase.
  - The RRISSC assessment rates risk to streambanks. The focus was on channel processes and field measurements to determine stress on the area.
  - Four high priority sites were chosen on this basis, the Urenda property, North and South Barr Ranch, and the Highway 47 site. Between the four, they are responsible for about 120,000 tons per year of sediment.
- The WARSSS study results will be a valuable tool for the District in its planning and needs assessments because of its objective, quantifiable, metrics-based approach and gives a blueprint for field site assessments.
- Chris emphasized that this is not static information, the data is constantly changing, but the process can be used with new data as conditions change.
- Richard Skorman asked whether there is a total erosion rate for all 18 high priority projects. Chris replied that there are good numbers for the four projects that were assessed in the field, but the others only have rough estimates that need field verification. It was also noted that the various tributaries' effect on sedimentation was not assessed, just the contribution from banks in the main stem of the corridor. Assessments are being conducted for Sand Creek and Cottonwood Creeks. When pressed for a number, Chris said he didn't have it at the moment, but that it's in the report which will be posted when approved by the Board. Chris and Larry Small, however, agreed that it's a "very big number".
- Mary asked what would trigger a re-prioritization of projects. The answer was major events, i.e.,

floods, completed projects, updated data layers in the GIS information, etc., but he thought that a five to ten year period would call for a re-estimate.

- A visitor, Mr. Jim Fenimore asked about the effect of the study on the EPA lawsuit against Colorado Springs. It was not felt to have any direct impact, but more likely affect projects and thus will affect the overall outcome of the lawsuit process.
- Steve Rothstein initiated a discussion about how the elements of the decision matrix were weighted, and whether the Board had input into the weighting, and whether it might be an issue at some point. The overall outcome appeared to be that it's been a defensible scientific process performed by a capable organization that was contracted to provide the expertise for which it is known. [Ed Note: The recording was often inaudible and notes provided insufficient detail to provide precise wording. CAG members are asked to provide corrections/additions to clarify the record.]

## **5. Reports.**

**a. Governing Board Meeting.** Larry Small reported that there was not a forum at the February 24 Board meeting. The next meeting will be March 24 at 2:00.

**b. TAC Meeting. Brandy Williams reported on the March 1 TAC meeting.**

- The TAC received the WARSSS presentation just given to the CAG.
- The TAC also discussed the E. coli project being planned with the Arkansas Fountain Coalition for Urban and River Evaluation (AFCURE). The plan is to move the study from under the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) umbrella to Colorado Springs Utilities and the City of Colorado Springs in some fashion. The project is intended to identify and remediate E. coli sources in Fountain Creek.
- The TAC heard a presentation on the Masciantonio farms project. The design is at the 60 percent stage. Brandy described it as impressive. The CAG will hear a presentation on the project sometime in the future.
- The TAC heard an update on the District's Drainage Criteria Manual and Flood Plain Policy. Volume I of the DCM will be out in April. Volume II is still being worked to change language contrary to existing MS-4 permits.
  - The subcommittee working on Flood Plain Policy met and worked on this evolving policy. El Paso County and Pueblo County both have flood plain administrators, so the TAC does not want to cause duplication of efforts.
  - In response to a question, Brandy clarified that the Flood Plain Policy will be a third document, alongside the two volumes of the DCM. Its actual title will not likely contain the word 'policy'.
  - Larry added that the District's legislative charter limits its powers with regard to land use policies.

**c. Outreach Group. Irene reported for the Outreach Group.**

- Several upcoming events were noted, including April Stools Day at Bear Creek Dog Park on April 1.
- Allison has been interviewing for an intern to help with Creek Week and other events.
- CAG members were reminded of the calendar of outreach events and asked to help support the Outreach Committee.

**d. Monetary Mitigation Committee.** Irene reported that the committee did not meet in February but will meet March 21st. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, 10:00 a.m., at Public Works in Pueblo.

**e. Website and Facebook Page.** Mary had nothing to report.

**6. Other Business.** Larry announced that the District is sponsoring The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum to be held on April 25, 26, and 27, 2017 at the Hotel Elegante in Colorado Springs. As sponsors, we have a

booth in the exhibition area on the 26th and 27th, and Outreach will need people to staff it.

**7. Public Comment.** There were no public comments.

**8. Next Meeting.** The next scheduled CAG meeting will be Friday April 14, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fountain City Hall, 116 S. Main in Fountain, CO.

**9. Adjourn:**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.**