

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

**Meeting Minutes  
August 11, 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 August 11, 2017 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (FCWD) Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) was called to order by Ms. Irene Kornelly, Chair, at 9:37 a.m. Preliminary activities commenced until a full quorum was reached. The following CAG members were in attendance:

Irene Kornelly – Chair and CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Mary Barber – Alternate Representative to the FCWD Governing Board and Web Manager  
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary  
Sherie Caffey  
Dana Nordstrom  
Allison Plute  
Amber Shanklin  
Ross Vincent  
Brandy Williams

**CAG Members not present:**

Ian Hartley – Vice Chair  
Tom Ready  
David Woolley

**Also in attendance:**

Larry Small, Executive Director, FCWD  
Terry Hart - Pueblo County Commissioner and FCWD Board Member  
Allison Mosser, Colorado Springs Utilities  
Joseph Rasmussen, Colorado Springs Utilities  
Kurt Condie, MWH

**2. Approve Agenda of Meeting August 11, 2017**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the August 11, 2017  
Agenda was approved.**

**3. Approve Minutes of July 14, 2017 Meeting**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the corrected July 14, 2017  
Minutes were approved.**

**4. Presentation. Fountain Creek Diversion Project, Joseph Rasmussen, Colorado Springs Utilities.** Joseph gave a presentation, accompanied by handouts, on the now-completed Fountain Creek Diversion Structure.

- The project location is downstream of Clear Springs Ranch and just east of the Old Pueblo Road Bridge. The purpose was to mitigate potential damage to the Frost Ranch diversion structure from future Williams Creek Reservoir return flows. The permanent drop structure and diversion eliminates the frequent maintenance required of the old sand/gravel structure which was subject to damage by seasonal flooding. It also eliminates the added sediment load from the old diversion.
- The project incorporated a drop structure and fish passage into the diversion structure.
  - The drop structure helps stabilize the upstream reach, which includes the Clear Springs Ranch Bank Mitigation Project, the railroad bridge, and the highway bridge.
  - The fish passage assists the Arkansas Darter and the Flathead Chub, as well as other, non-threatened, species continue their way upstream. Joseph showed a short video of a couple fish actually swimming up the fish passage.
  - The Coanda Screen incorporated into the diversion keeps debris and sediment greater than one millimeter from entering the diversion. Silt that passes through the screen is actually desired by irrigators, as it helps seal their ditches and provide less resistance to flow.
- The contractor, Tezak, faced numerous challenges during the project, and presented good solutions to unforeseen problems. Among other issues, safety concerns required an upstream lookout for rapidly rising water whenever workmen were near or in the water.
- Larry Small said he inspected the project and that it was built to the drawings; they did what they said they would do.

## **5. Reports**

**a. Governing Board Meeting.** Larry Small gave a report on the July 28 Board meeting.

- The DCM has been posted on the Manitou Springs website with a request for review and comments, to be heard at the August 25th meeting.
- The Board will hear the just-completed presentation on the Frost Ranch Diversion Project.
- The 2016 audit went well, with no issues noted. The Board accepted the results.
- With meetings now being shortened, Larry has implemented a Consent Calendar to help save time by dispensing with multiple items at once.
- The construction contract for the Masciantonio Project and the Highway 47 contract with CDOT will both be presented for approval next meeting.
- The next Board meeting will be held in the Pueblo County Courthouse, August 25.

**b. Technical Advisory Committee Meeting. [1.21.50]** Brandy Williams reported on the August 2nd TAC meeting.

- Brandy announced that someone else from the TAC will likely begin serving as the TAC representative to the CAG.
- The TAC heard the Fountain Creek Diversion Structure presentation from Colorado Springs Utilities.
- The TAC discussed the ongoing AFCURE E. coli project, the recent tour of hot spots in the watershed.

- At the next TAC meeting they will hear a presentation from Colorado Springs on their streamside overlay. Manitou Springs is in the process of developing their own streamside overlay, so between the two of them, we should have a good head start on developing our own.
  - The TAC discussed what should be included in a 30 percent design when someone presents a design plan to the District for approval. The TAC will hear from Colorado Springs on what they require for various levels of design.
  - The October TAC meeting will actually be the meeting with Planning Directors from all jurisdictions in the Watershed. There will be a presentation introducing the Design Criteria Manual, as well as to greater acquaint the jurisdictions with the Fountain Creek Watershed District and its mission and capabilities.
  - The next TAC meeting will be September 6.
- c. Outreach Group.** Irene reported that about 75 people stopped by our booth at the Fountain Creek Nature Center's 25th anniversary. Allison Plute encouraged CAG members to get more involved with these outreach opportunities, and then reported on other Outreach Group activities.
- Creek Week registration is starting soon, and so far there are about 30 locations set up. Allison passed out 'Save the Date' cards and stickers for CAG members to post at coffee shops, bars, restaurants, or wherever they go in the community.
    - About \$12,000 has been raised so far.
    - They are writing a proposal for a \$2,000 grant to support Creek Week in Pueblo.
    - Plastic recycling is being offered at some of the larger locations. TerraCycle will deliver and pick up large bins for all grades of plastic.
  - The Brewshed Alliance had a tour of the Water Lab at the Mesa Plant. Good relationships were established between the brewers, who each have differing water characteristics and requirements, and members of the lab. The Alliance will be hosting five different fund and awareness raisers for Creek Week.
  - The committee has been working with The Switchbacks, our local soccer club to donate one dollar per ticket to Creek Week at their final game this season, Oct 7. Nothing is definite yet.
  - Allison submitted three of our programs – Creek Week, Who's Downstream, and Scoop the Poop for additional funding through a GOCO Inspire Grant to Colorado Springs. The Grant is aimed at K through college educational outreach. They will be giving presentations on each program to GOCO around the end of the month.
  - The Watershed Outreach Collaborative met earlier in the week. They are now looking at 2018 events, which to continue, which to change or drop, etc. Allison asked for input along those lines. Meetings are held the Tuesday before the CAG, at the Ivywild School. Allison asked for help with the Collaborative's programs.
  - The Legacy Loop Plaza's ribbon cutting and unveiling did not take place due to the unusually wet weather recently. The event will be rescheduled.
  - There was a celebratory send off for Cat Braza, our intern. Cat presented us with a stunning sketch of the many parasites dogs can contribute to a watershed.
- d. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee.** Irene reported that the committee met July 18 and again discussed evaluation criteria for the capital projects list, but has yet to make final decisions on which projects should be funded first. The group meets again August 15.
- e. Website and Facebook Page.** Mary Barber reported that the site is a work in progress, with

progress being made on several fronts. Larry and others commented on the need for a new platform; the current one being outgrown and unable to fully accommodate our needs. All agreed that Mary has done well to tie together separate platforms to make things continue to work.

#### **6. Old Business.** Larry Small spoke on current projects.

- Larry gave an update on the Masciantonio Farm Project.
  - Larry is hoping to start work in September, after the rains have subsided.
  - The contractor, TEZAK, submitted a value engineering proposal to construct a debris trap upstream from the project. 24 to 30 piles will be driven into the creek bed to arrest logs and other heavy debris, protecting the weirs from damage. The piles will extend three feet above the bed, the same height as the weirs. When water rises higher than the piles, it will also be high enough for debris to float over the weirs.
  - Another change to the design was to change the slope of the banks to 2 to 1 from 1/2 to 1. The original was too steep to vegetate. CDPHE required 70 percent vegetation to issue the permit.
  - The berm, which serves to protect the project area from ground water and Young Hollow when it overflows, was widened to ten feet from the original eight feet. The extra width will allow a trail atop the berm.
  - The new cost will probably be little under \$2 million, up from the \$1.7 million bid. This is still substantially below our 'probable cost' and below Larry's budgeted estimate. Completion will be by May 31, 2018.
- Highway 47 Bridge Project. Larry received the contract from CDOT, they will pay us \$1.5 million to run the project.
  - A draft 30 percent design review has been held, and additional design may be done prior to releasing the project for bid.
  - Larry hopes to get the RFP out around the middle of September, with completion set for May 31 next year.
  - The design calls for a 6 foot high, 120 foot wide, and 350 feet long floodway culvert under Highway 47. CDOT recommended exaction rather than boring, although Larry is not anxious to cut a trench across a well-travelled highway.
  - The channel will be moved more to the center and will incorporate a curve to slow down the flow. Lots of vegetation will be added, requiring lots of dirt, which CDOT has from another project in Pueblo.
  - Larry commented that the project is going well and that CDOT is good to work with.
- The Dredging Project in Pueblo is nearing completion.
  - Lots of vegetation has been removed, greatly increasing visibility.
  - Larry remarked that with the sediment removed, a 3000 CFS flow was well below the old mark where a normal flow of 100 CFS would have been. The capacity of the levees have thus been greatly increased.
  - The herbicide originally selected was not effective against the phragmites reed. They're already eight to ten inches high, so the contractor is re-treating them. The rain was also washing away some of the herbicide.
  - Vegetation has been cleared all the way from the confluence to 4th Street on the

east bank, although some smaller equipment will still have to be deployed along the steeper banks. Work on the west bank will begin soon. Homeless camps have also slowed the work, but Larry is pleased with the progress being made and feels the area could be turned into a very nice greenway.

**7. New Business. None**

**8. Public Comment. None**

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

**10. Adjourn:**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.**