

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

**Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2014**

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 14, 2014 meeting of the Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District (“FCWD”) 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  
Ferris Frost – Alternate CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
John Chavez – TAC Chair and Representative to the CAG  
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary  
Jerry Cordova  
Dan Henrichs  
Lois Illick  
Elaine Kleckner  
Jordan Vana  
Ross Vincent  
Allison Plute

CAG Members not present:  
Richard Skorman - CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Mary Barber – FCWD Web Manager  
Tom Ready

Also in attendance:  
Terry Hart, Pueblo County Commissioner  
Larry Small, Executive Director Fountain Creek Watershed District  
David Mau, USGS  
Justin Fecteau, Colorado Springs Utilities  
Jim Lockhart, Pikes Peak Sierra Club

**2. Approve Agenda of March 14, 2014 Meeting**

Larry Small requested that his report be moved to follow Item 3, Approve Minutes of Prior Meetings, to allow him to leave early for another meeting.

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the revised March 14, 2014 Agenda was approved.**

**3. Approve Minutes of February 14, 2014 Meeting**

Jack Wallick reported that since mailing the draft minutes he had been made aware of a couple typos, which had been corrected.

**Upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the amended February 14, 2014 Minutes were approved.**

**4. Governing Board Meeting.** Larry Small reported that the Board met February 28, with the following actions.

- The Board heard a request for financial support from the Town of Palmer Lake for a wildfire mitigation grant. The Board will vote on the matter next meeting.
- Larry presented the Board with a request to begin a Colorado Water Conservation Board funded watershed restoration master plan, prior to receiving a contract, for Cheyenne Creek and the upper Fountain Creek. This request was granted by the board. As it turned out, Larry did receive the contract, and work is to begin March 20.
- The next meeting of the Governing Board will be March 28, in the Fountain City Hall.

**5. Presentations.**

**a. USGS Final Report, David Mau, USGS, Pueblo**

- David presented the final results of a study of various flood management methods along Fountain and Monument Creeks. With few exceptions, the results were essentially the same as the preliminary results presented to the CAG in the July 12, 2013 meeting.
- The presentation focused on a modeling effort begun in 2010 at the request of the FCWD. The purpose was to investigate the effectiveness of management scenarios on peak storm flows and sediment transport in the Fountain Creek Basin. The study was completed in December of 2013, with the final report submitted to Larry in January of this year.
- Thirteen different scenarios were developed to model the effects of side detention facilities (SDFs), drop structures, diversion of water to the Chico Basin, and a dam across Fountain Creek near Piñon. The storm event was a 100-year event around the centroid of the watershed, near Colorado Springs. The goal was to keep peak flows at the Fountain Creek gauge in Pueblo below 20,000 cubic feet per second (CFS). Modeling showed unmitigated peak flows in the range of 40,000 CFS.
- SDFs were added to the model until significant reduction in peak flows were noted at the Pueblo gauge. A total of 24 SDFs at various locations along tributaries and in the main creek corridor. (10,000 acre-feet of storage) were modeled on the various tributaries and main streams of the watershed before achieving an 18 percent reduction in storm flow at the Pueblo gauge.
- Additional structures were added up to a total of 38, at which the peak flow was reduced 42 percent.
- At 44 structures the flow at Pueblo was less than 15,000 Cubic Feet per Second (CFS), well below the target of 20,000 CFS.
- Diversion of flood waters to the Chico Basin (without any SDFs) had the expected result of lowering the peak flow at the Pueblo stream gauge, as Chico discharges below that gauge.
- A dam across the main stem of the Fountain, approximately 10 miles above the Pueblo gauge, would reduce peak flow to about 21,000 CFS. The dam face be 85 feet high, impounding 27,000 acre-feet of flood storage and 25,000 acre-feet of permanent storage (total of 52,000 acre-feet), and the water would back up about 4 miles behind the dam. The results were peak flow of 16,000 CFS, but sediment would be a problem behind the dam – a recurrent maintenance problem.
- Rip rap along the channel between Sand Creek and Jimmie Camp, a very vulnerable section, had no effect, as measured in Pueblo. The advantages in sediment load attributable to the rip rap were not detectable that far downstream, although local gauges saw a beneficial effect.
- Just 10 SDFs (13,00 acre-feet), six in Pueblo County, four in southern El Paso, had a beneficial effect in Pueblo but would do nothing to mitigate flood conditions or effects along Fountain Creek in most of El Paso County.
- Widening the stream channel to one mile wide 10 miles north of the confluence in Pueblo had little effect.
- Terry Hart commented that he had received information suggesting that the Corps of Engineers had proposed a single dam/retention facility to the east of the main stem of Fountain Creek, avoiding the highway and railroad. David indicated that to the best of his recollection that the dam was to be modeled along the main stem. Everyone agreed that sediment transport made any reservoir unworkable from a maintenance aspect.

**b. Fish Passage and Regional Trail through Clear Springs Ranch.**

- Justin Fecteau of Colorado Springs Utilities spoke on the fish passage and trail plans at Clear Springs Ranch.
  - Both projects are in the master plan (Projects 4.B.11 and 4.B.10, respectively), which is already approved.

- The fish passage over a diversion structure would enable the Arkansas Darter (endangered) and Flathead Chub (special concern) to move upstream past the diversion. Using in-house design, a model section was tested to ensure that flow velocities and rest areas would be adequate for the fish using the passage structure.
  - A project goal was a reproducible design, rather than a unique, location-specific solution. Sections are precast and can be adapted to other locations.
  - Design is essentially complete, with the project now in the permitting process. Utilities hopes to go for bids later this year, with completion by end of year. A monitoring program will then track usage.
- Justin also presented plans for routing the Front Range Trail through the Clear Springs Ranch property. This will add two miles of recreational trail, with trail head parking and other amenities.
  - Utilities is currently in the design phase but hopes to go to bid soon. Construction would be complete during third quarter 2014.
  - Elaine Kleckner added that El Paso County will maintain the trail when completed.

**6. Reports** (See Governing Board report by Larry Small under Agenda Item 4).

**a. TAC Meeting. John Chavez reported on the March TAC meeting.**

- The TAC heard the presentations on the USGS study and the Clear Springs Ranch fish passage and trail plans.
- John took his request to allow alternates to help ensure a quorum at meetings. The attorney for the Board will study the bylaws and address this issue at the next Board meeting.
- Dan Henrichs asked if the TAC had any preferred scenario from the USGS study. John replied that because of the broad scope and limited detail, the TAC understood that no scenario could be supported without an in-depth study.

**b. Regional Stormwater Task Force.** Irene reported that there was nothing happening but lots of discussion.

- The group's work may have to be transferred from the task force to a community action organization. A governmental organization cannot lobby or promote ballot measures, thus the need for a change.
  - Terry Hart asked whether the group has any sense of urgency, knowing how long public initiatives, polling and campaign materials can take to develop. Irene replied that some people in the group are aware of its tight time schedule. They are at least three to six months behind.
  - Irene was hopeful that ballot language would be delivered to the commissioners and council by end of month [March 2014].
  - The Taskforce will meet at Regional Building Center March 17.

**c. Website.**

Jerry reported that the animated video of SDS and numerous other media links have been uploaded.

**d. Outreach Group.**

- Jim Lockhart of the Pikes Peak Sierra Group reported that his organization had been approached by teachers in regard to a Water Week program at Sand Creek High School the third week of March. Although very little could be done for this year, Jim hopes the CAG can be involved in coming years. Ferris Frost has become involved in this effort.
- Jerry Cordova, Chair of the Outreach Committee, reported the following.
  - The Outreach Committee requests that the CAG vote to recommend Board support Water Week at Sand Creek High School.
  - Two representatives are needed for this support. Ferris Frost and Jerry will be serving in that capacity.
  - Jerry moved that the CAG support the event March 19 with display tables and literature, as well as panel discussion on local water issues. Participation would also include future events.

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the motion to participate in the Water Week event at Sand Creek High School and subsequent outreach events was approved.**

- Ferris Frost announced that the Outreach Group has been (informally) approved for a CDPHE Non Point Source mini grant (NPS 319 Grant) for education prior to even having submitted an application! Typically the grants are for between \$1,000 and \$5,000. She and Lois Illick are working together on the application process.
  - There is a 40 percent match, which Rich Muzzy at PPACG thinks he can provide, avoiding the need for the Outreach Committee to use its own funds. John volunteered to assist with grant applications.
  - The Committee needs ideas on how to use the money, as well as an overall outreach plan. The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will have extensive discussion on the topic.
  - The idea of the CAG providing speakers or representatives for various public water events, not just Outreach Committee members, was discussed. Jerry suggested a three to five minute video using existing video of the creek (taken by helicopter) and incorporating Google Earth resources as well.
  - If we go for \$5,000, that would require a 40 percent match of \$2,000, giving the outreach effort a total of \$7,000. The \$5,000 from the Board makes a total budget of \$12,000.
  - Allison suggested a once a year “Signature Event” such as creek clean ups, that get people engaged with the resource, rather than just videos and brochures.
  - The Outreach Committee meets Monday (March 17) to work out details on outreach efforts.
- Allison Plute announced a Utilities-sponsored clean up of Pikeview Reservoir and the neighboring stretch of Monument Creek on Saturday April 19. The CAG or its Outreach Committee could use the event in whatever capacity it wishes.

## **7. New Business**

There was no new business.

## **8. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**9. Next Meeting.** The next scheduled CAG meeting will be Friday April 11, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., at the Fountain Creek Nature Center at 320 Peppergrass Lane. Take the Mesa Ridge Parkway exit east from I-25, turn south onto U.S. Highway 85/87 (N. Santa Fe Ave.) for less than a mile, then west onto Peppergrass Lane and follow to the Nature Center parking lot. No presentations are planned; rather there will be a 20 or 30 minute nature walk. CAG members should come prepared for the outdoors in the Colorado spring.

## **10. Adjourn:**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m.**