

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

**Meeting Minutes  
March 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 March 13, 2015 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 9:30 a.m. A quorum was noted, with the following CAG members in attendance:

Irene Kornelly – Chair  
Richard Skorman - CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Ferris Frost – Alternate CAG Representative to the FCWD Governing Board  
Nancy Keller – TAC Chair and Representative to the CAG  
Mary Barber – FCWD Web Manager  
Jack Wallick – CAG Secretary  
Dana Nordstrom  
Allison Plute  
Amber Shanklin

**CAG Members not present:**

Dan Henrichs  
Lois Illick  
Ross Vincent – Vice Chair  
Tom Ready  
Lisa Godwin

**Also in attendance:**

Larry Small, Executive Director Fountain Creek Watershed District

**2. Approve Agenda of March 13, 2015 Meeting**

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

**3. Approve Minutes of February 13, 2015 Meeting**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the corrected February 13, 2015 minutes were approved.**

**4. Presentations: There was no presentation this month, instead there was a discussion of the CAG's purpose, accomplishments, and goals held under Current Business later in the meeting.**

**5. Reports.**

**a. Governing Board Meeting.** Larry Small reported on the March 4, 2015 meeting of the Governing Board. The meeting, originally scheduled for February 27, had been postponed one week because of a snow

storm. There were insufficient members in attendance to form a super majority, so some items were not discussed.

- The first of these was a resolution to ask Colorado Springs Utilities and Pueblo County to re-negotiate the 1041 permit to direct SDS-related funds to the District's Water Activity Enterprise rather than the District itself, because the District cannot accept the monies without triggering TABOR consequences, resulting in most of the SDS funding being returned to taxpayers. The issue will be taken up in the March 27 meeting.
- The other topic that was postponed until the March meeting was GOCO grant application for acquisition of the Greenview Trust property on the east side of Fountain Creek, in Pueblo County.
  - The purchase would be of 360 acres, currently being sharecropped and with very senior water rights. There are excellent opportunities for wetlands redevelopment, as well as extension of the Front Range Trail to Pueblo.
  - The District wants to participate in this \$3.7M acquisition. Other participants include Pueblo and the Lower Arkansas Water Conservation District. The District would borrow against its anticipated \$50M SDS money, under the loan program's restriction to purchase of water rights or construction of capital water projects. We would be purchasing the most senior water rights in Colorado, being granted during territorial days.
  - Richard Skorman spoke enthusiastically of the many positive aspects of the likely acquisition, noting first of all that it is good for Pueblo, which, in perception at least, does not often get their share of things. But the property would become a nature center, providing a second anchor, with the Fountain Creek Nature Center, of the Front Range Trail between them.
- Also to be discussed next meeting is Larry's submittal of a grant application to build a demonstration project in the Cheyenne Creek watershed. The program is limited to \$300,000 per watershed, and Larry is applying for \$290,000. The project would entail about 340 feet of bioswale along Cheyenne Boulevard west of Cresta Road, between May and Sumner streets. It does not appear that there is any competition for this money, so we are likely to get it. The area was hit hard during the 2013 floods, and the bioswale is designed to capture runoff in similar events. Larry sees it as an excellent opportunity for developing and demonstrating low-impact flood control methods. The project targets surface runoff primarily from the Stratton Open Space, a major concern of area residents who spoke during the open house.

**b. TAC Meeting.** The TAC did not meet in March; its venue being preempted by the Board's postponed meeting. Nancy Keller commented on upcoming topics and issues for the TAC.

- The upcoming meeting will feature the AF CURE presentation and water rights issues.
- Efforts to come up with a better meeting day/time to ensure consistent quorums were unsuccessful. The meeting day will not change.

**c. Outreach Group. Allison Plute reported on the Outreach Group.**

- Website training was held, and several members attended and will begin work fixing broken links, updating material, etc.
- The Group is wrapping up work related to submittal of this year's CDPHE 319 grant. The intern has been instrumental in this effort.
- The Group did not meet in February because of the snow. Next meeting is the 4th Friday of the month, as usual.
- A number of city groups are seeking a grant or other support to allow teams from Keep Colorado Springs Beautiful to be present on the greenway identifying problems, homeless camps, litter, etc. from May to September, three days per week from Pikeview Reservoir to MLK Bypass.
- The Parks Department has been removing a lot of dead wood and trimming vegetation in the greenway to make problems more visible for clean up.

**d. Website and Facebook Page.** Mary Barber reported on the website.

- The website training will enable more people to work on the website.
- We'll have good software when we need it in the future.
- The overall format of the web page is somewhat limited, so we have to work within the existing framework.

## **6. Current Business.**

**a. Future Meetings and Field Trips.** Irene requested attendees' preference for dates of suggested field trips. The CAG decided to visit the Frost Ranch bank stabilization project after the May 8 CAG meeting, and to visit the Rainbow Falls area on the October 9 meeting.

**b. Presentation and Discussion on the Purpose of the CAG, Accomplishments, and What's Next.** To bring the CAG up to date on who we are, what we've done, and what we're doing, Allison Plute presented a Power Point slide show (updated by the Outreach Subcommittee) on the Watershed District.

- As a part of the CDPHE grant, a Speakers Bureau was created, and all CAG members are a part of the Bureau. As such, we must be knowledgeable of the District's history, purpose, and activities. The Power Point presentation was essentially a training session for future speakers.
- The presentation goes through the following topics.
  - The definition of what a watershed is and a description of the Fountain Creek Watershed in particular, including the many individual drainages that make it up, and its connection with the Arkansas, Mississippi, and the Gulf of Mexico.
  - A discussion of watershed issues, including hard surface development, stormwater, water supply, and water quality. Loss of habitat and land are among the results.
  - The District is examining ways to mitigate the effects of watershed neglect, such as using natural processes to reverse the damage incurred over the years.
  - Senator Salazar's 2006 comment that the Greenway and related watershed features could be the crown jewel of Colorado Springs sparked a lot of community discussion and action to revitalize the city's waterways as esthetic and recreational resources.
  - After inputs from a visioning taskforce, the District was created to manage, administer and fund the improvements that are necessary in the watershed. Its objectives are mitigating flooding, addressing water quality and quantity issues, improving drainages, funding and protecting open space, and improving habitat and wetlands. Its mission is to turn the watershed into a regional asset that adds value to the communities. The vision is of Fountain Creek as a strong, resilient, sustainable ecosystem supporting a wide variety of interests for our communities.
  - The governing structure, advisory groups and subgroups, all represent the various interest groups throughout the watershed. The financial powers, i.e., the ability to raise taxes and other revenue, the ability to spend those monies are likewise described.
  - The presentation then goes on to show the District's master plans and projects in which the District will be or has been involved, among them the sediment collector, detention projects, trails, the fish passage, and bank restoration. Outreach programs and the Speakers Bureau will further spread awareness of the District's role in the community.
  - Creek Week was a huge success for the District and its partners last fall, and this event will continue annually.
- The presentation was very well received and Richard asked for a copy to send former senator Salazar, and also proposed that it be given to the incoming city council, as so many in the community are unaware of who we are or what we do. Larry agreed to schedule a presentation with the new council, when elected.
- Allison is tentatively scheduled to give the presentation to the Board at the April 24 meeting.
- Irene challenged each of the members to take this presentation to their own groups and make sure the

community is informed about the District, what we've done, and where we're going. Allison commented that the Group had purchased eight thumb drives upon which the presentation can be loaded and provided to speakers. It was suggested the presentation also be uploaded to the website.

- As part of the CDPHE grant application, the Outreach Group, in particular Mary, Ferris, and Allison, worked up an extensive list of organizations to be targeted for presentations and funding requests. This list will be distributed to the CAG for additional targets or questions.
- The current CDPHE grant has permitted the Outreach Group to develop and purchase all the materials for a speaker to give a professional presentation, backed up with literature and hand-outs, including kids coloring pages and activities.

**7. Other Business.** Ferris Frost commented that she had attended the HBA meeting on the Drainage Criteria Manual, and was impressed to see how the old development and construction paradigm is being changed to a new outlook. The new DCM is science based and will change the impact of development on the watershed.

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

**9. Next Meeting.** The next scheduled CAG meeting will be Friday April 10, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fountain City Hall, 116 W. Main, second floor meeting room.

**10. Adjourn:**

**Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.**