



FOUNTAIN CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Fountain Creek Watershed District
Citizens Advisory Group Meeting Minutes Friday August 9, 2024
Via Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99749871376>
(Meetings are open to the public)

1. Call to Order, Establish Quorum and Introductions,

a. CAG Members Present

Angie Schirtzinger - FCWD, Watershed Outreach Coordinator
Susan Finzel - FCWD, Pueblo Outreach Coordinator
Fiona McLaughlin - FCWD, Summer Colorado College Fellow
Terry Hart - CAG Chair, former Pueblo County attorney and commissioner
Jessica Mills - CAG Ag. Representative, Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District
Mary Barber - CAG Vice Chair, website manager of FCWD
Melody Daugherty - Manitou Pollinators
Annie Berlemann - CAG Liaison, CSU
Shelbi Rowland - citizen member
Heidi Abed - citizen member

b. Overview of CAG: Terry Hart described purpose of CAG, history and function of the district

- a.** Formation, Responsibilities, Funding
- b.** Committees: Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).
- c.** Board Composition: 9 members – representatives from El Paso County and Pueblo County
- d.** Funding – MMF, \$50 million permit related to Pueblo County, grant funds, Tax levy in future

2. Approve August Meeting Agenda

- a.** Motion to approve by Jessica, second by Mary.
- b.** Addition of discussing the Amara annexation and development to new business.

3. Approve Minutes of Prior Meeting

- a.** May 2024
- b.** Motion to approve by Terry, approved by consensus.

4. Committee Member Comments

- a.** Jessica Mills (lives in Rocky Ford) represents those below Pueblo Dam, voice for downstream impacts
- b.** Susan highlighted May's conversation of unhoused populations along the creek

5. Reports

- a.** Governing Board – Alli/Terry
 - i.** Loop Project
- b.** Projects - Angie on behalf of Alli
 - i.** Overview of summer activities, Water Equity discussed as highly valuable
 - ii.** Growth of staffing to be more sustainable with time

ii. District Project Updates

- Southmoor Dr, Eagleridge + educational display exhibit
- Outreach

iv. Upcoming Events and Creek Week

c. MMFAC - Alli Slideshow

- i. How to leverage money with grant use and public visibility of projects
- ii. Funds for one last big project vs. spreading it out over time with smaller projects.

d. TAC – Annie

- i. Discussed stormwater management at Fort Carson, and the district CAG tour.
- ii. NRCS Natural Resource Conservation Service Center Project on Fountain Creek
- iii. Creek Restoration Project Timeline - lightning-fast construction and \$1.37 million total
- iv. Coordination of military bases and civilian population

e. Website - Mary

- i. New logos, accessibility

f. WOC - Susan (shared in presentation)

- i. Year overview of outreach and education Pueblo County
- ii. Grant funded position, discussed expansion of outreach, impact, and progress
- iii. continued efforts towards grant funding to keep position
- iv. suggestion to approach Arkansas Roundtable for funding support

g. AFCURE – Annie

- i. Nutrient management and monitoring water quality standards in Colorado
- ii. Efforts to address nutrient issues in the watershed with state regulatory authorities.
- iii. Models for describing the relationship between nutrients and aquatic life
- iv. Colorado Water Quality Forum's annual retreat - many stakeholders

6. New Business

a. Introductions

- i. Watershed Outreach Coordinator Angie Schirtzinger
- ii. Summer Colorado College Fellow Fiona McLaughlin

b. PFAS Issue on Fountain Creek

- i. Water quality issues in Pueblo County and potential financial implications
- ii. PFAS contamination in well water and creeks, with recommended solutions such as charcoal filters or reverse osmosis.
- iv. Encouragement for others to attend upcoming events related to PFAS.

c. Upcoming Events:

- i. Science on Tap – Jack Quinns – Alli presenting 8.12 6:30pm
- ii. Aug Liquid Lecture – Bristol Brewery – CreekSide project, 8.15 6pm
- iii. CS Urban Bike Tour – 9/16 and 17
- iv. Bleating Heart Night – Goat Patch – Fundraiser, CW signup, plant giveaway 9/10 4-9pm

d. Amara annexation and development

- i. Representation from downstream areas are critical voices for decision-making.
- ii. Potential development impacting local watersheds.
- iv. Suggestion to remind jurisdictions to notify the watershed group of potential impacts.

7. Ongoing Business N/A

8. Old Business

a. State of the Watershed Planning Update – Alli

9. Presentations

- a. Pueblo District Outreach Programming - Susan
- i. 2nd Year grant funded by Xcel Energy with match
 - ii. Year review of outreach and education Pueblo County
 - iii. Continued efforts towards grant funding to keep position
 - iv. Suggestion to approach Arkansas Roundtable for funding support

10. Public Comment

11. Next Meetings, mentioned once a ¼ in person/hybrid, remainder remote

- a. 9.13 (remote), 9:30am
- b. 10/11 (remote), 9:30am
- c. 11/8 (next in-person – Fountain City Hall), 9:30am followed by a field trip to Fountain Creek Nature Center)

12. Adjourn (time)

Motioned to adjourn

Future Efforts

- Contact Colorado Springs about the Amara annexation and development project.
 - Notice list of events to have opportunity for public comment, want concerns to be considered
 - Remind jurisdiction we'd like to be notified of activity
- Funding efforts for Susan to continue Pueblo Outreach
 - Arkansas Roundtable
 - Gracie Goodwin
- Non-urgent - continue more water equity workshops to continue the conversation on inclusion and equitable access to water resources.