



FOUNTAIN CREEK WATERSHED

Flood Control And Greenway District

Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control and Greenway District

Technical Advisory Committee

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 4, 2024 – 1:00 PM

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Establishment of a Quorum: The meeting was held virtually via a Zoom video conference call and in-person at the City of Fountain Library. A quorum was established, the meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. Introduction of new members.

Committee Members in Attendance

Aaron Brice	Pueblo County
Andrew Callaghan	City of Pueblo
Andrew Rippe	Fort Carson
Annie Berlemann	Colorado Springs Utilities, Watershed Planning
Ben Sheets	City of Fountain
Beth Nosker	State of Colorado, Division of Water Resources
Brian Mhlbachler	Fish and Wildlife, USAFA
Christina Prete	El Paso County
Dominga Jimenez-Garcia	Pueblo County
Erin Powers	City of Colorado Springs, SWENT
Jeff Rice	El Paso County, Engineering
Jonathan Griffen	Pueblo County
Jonathan Moore	Fountain Sanitation District
Mark Shea	Colorado Springs Utilities, Watershed Planning
Terry Hart	CAG Chair

Others in Attendance:

Aaron Sutherlin	Citizen
Abha Dwivedy	City of Fountain
Alli Schuch	Fountain Creek Watershed District, Executive Director
Steven Rodriguez	Fountain Creek Watershed District, Operations Manager
Gary Rapp	Citizen

2. Approve Agenda for the September 4, 2024: Agenda reviewed and approved by consensus.
3. Approve Minutes of the August 7, 2024: Minutes reviewed and approved by consensus.
4. TAC Member Comments:
 - a. Field visit to Fountain Sanitation's Fountain Creek Restoration project with Jonathan Moore.
 - b. Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) bill with different language in the Senate and House. The senate bill will give the USACE authority to do projects in Colorado Springs, the House bill will give the authority the USACE to do projects withing the entire watershed.
 - c. Mark Shea gave an update on Regulation 87 Dredge and Fill that will cover waters that are no longer covered by WOTUS and USACE permitting.
5. Public Comments:

- a. None

6. Presentations:

- a. In-Lieu Fee Prospectus – Lucy Harrington, GEI
Overview of goals that include watershed-based mitigation. Proposed service area which includes 9 sub watershed and two ecoregions. The prospectus addresses need and feasibility. Currently there isn't a local commercial mitigation bank. A local mitigation bank will provide mitigation for local but federally listed species. Projects will be selected based on cost, size, and credit generation. Examples include Fountain North, Frost Ranch, BJ Ranches, and T-Cross. New projects can be identified. FCWD will not own land, so conservation easements or deed restrictions will be used. Recreation allowed if and where appropriate. Credit pricing incorporates the costs of the interim and long-term land management. ILF as a whole does not have water rights, so it is anticipated that a variety of mechanisms will be used such as SB-270 (Projects to Restore Natural Stream Systems). Water rights and/or augmentation plan with FCWD member governments. FCWD could develop its own augmentation plan. The Prospectus proposes crediting ratio of 1:1.25 for wetlands and streams and 1:3 for species. Propose implementing projects within a 5-year timeline. Next steps include meeting with Division 2 Engineers and have all comments in by September 27th. Alli will send out copy of presentation and prospectus.

7. Reports:

- a. District Board/Water Activity Enterprise Board/Project Updates: Alli Schuch reported that the District Board and Water Activity Enterprise Board met on August 16, 2024. Alli gave a summer report out to the BOD. The landowner agreements are nearly complete for Eagleridge and Southmoor Drive Projects. The District is developing a State of the Watershed event in 2025. Alli is working on early items for the 2025 budget that includes a 25% increase to member governments funding for grant writing and other line items. The District was awarded CWCB technical assistance grant for Frost Ranch design. The WaterSMART grant has been submitted to support work in the upper part of the watershed to focus on Jackson Creek. Alli give an update on other small grant efforts and 11th Annual Creek Week Cleanup from September 28th to October 6th. The next meeting is September 20, 2024, at 9:00 am on Zoom and in-person at Fountain City Hall.
- b. Monetary Mitigation Fund Advisory Committee: The MMFAC met August 21, 2024, and discussed possible projects and not recommending projects for the CIP to allow for current project completion and project effectiveness development. Engaged bookkeeping to ensure the final MMF will be spent to maximum benefit. The District did put and RFP for Sandoval property but above landowners are causing issues for downstream. This will be paused until there is some resolution. Large Woody Debris project to be completed on Clear Springs Ranch utilizing Mile High Youth Corps in 2024 and 2025. The next meeting on September 18, 2024, at 10:00 am on Zoom or in-person.
- c. Citizens Advisory Group: Terry Hart reported the CAG met August 9, 2024. The CAG focused on updates from the summer. Discussion on PFAS that was detected in Pueblo County wells and along Fountain Creek. Discussion about Amara annexation and effects on the watershed. The next meeting is September 13, 2024, held virtually at 9:00 am.

- d. AFCURE: Annie Berlemann reported that AFCURE met on September 3, 2024. AFCURE and reviewed the years' tasks and milestones. Discuss and will contribute \$5k to support feasibility study. Regulatory support has been a priority for the last year and will continue next year. Discussion on steps to finalize 2025 budget. The next meeting is October 1, 2024.

8. New Business:

- a. None

9. Ongoing Business:

- a. Partnership Projects
- b. In-Lieu Fee
- c. Regional/Military Stormwater Subcommittee

10. Future Business

- a.
- b. Jimmy Camp Creek Drainage Basin Fee Setting (Jeff Rice, November)
- c. COS Creek Plan Update (January or February)
- d. MHFCD discussion on project maintenance (?)
- e. AF CURE nutrient white paper and/or PFAS
- f. USAFA Update –Brian Mihlbachler gave a brief update
- g. Dredge and Fill permitting
- h. Exit 104 Potential Creek Crossing Project – Pueblo Public Works (winter)
- i. Tours

11. Set Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting: The next meeting is on October 2, 2024, at 1:00, on Zoom and in-person.

12. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m. by consensus.