FOUNTAIN CREEK
WATERSHED DISTRICT
For the thriving life of the watershed and all it touches.

Message for 2027 Fountain Creek Watershed District Proposed Budget

Date: October 19, 2026
To: Fountain Creek Watershed District Board of Directors
From: Allison Schuch, Executive Director

Introduction

The purpose of this message is to provide an overview of the proposed 2027 General Fund and Water Activity Enterprise (WAE) budgets for the Fountain Creek Watershed District (FCWD). The proposed budgets reflect the District's continued commitment to watershed restoration, project maintenance, flood and erosion mitigation, grant development, regional partnerships, and responsible financial management.

The 2027 budget balances ongoing operational responsibilities with investments in priority watershed projects. The General Fund supports the District's core operations, staffing, outreach, planning, and program implementation, while the Water Activity Enterprise supports major restoration projects and related administrative and management costs. Together, these budgets provide resources to advance the District's mission while maintaining financial reserves and planning for future obligations.

FCWD continues to leverage member government contributions through grants, partnerships, sponsorships, and other funding opportunities. These resources allow the District to extend the impact of its available funding and deliver services that benefit the watershed and its communities.

General Fund Budget

The District prepares its budget using a modified accrual basis of accounting, using best estimates as of the date of the budget hearing. These estimates are based on historical and expected spending and will likely change as events and circumstances unfold towards the end of the budget cycle.

The proposed 2027 General Fund budget anticipates **$727,701 in revenue** and **$712,958 in expenditures**, including project expenses. Revenue sources include represented government contributions, grants, outreach revenue, and Southern Delivery System (SDS) contributions.

Member government contributions remain an essential source of dependable operating support. The District will continue pursuing competitive grants, sponsorships, and other funding opportunities to supplement these contributions and support its programs.

The General Fund budget provides for staffing and contracted services, administrative and office operations, and targeted investments in District priorities. Key program and project allocations include:

- **In-Lieu Fee Program development:** $100,000
- **Project maintenance:** $50,000
- **Stewardship and outreach:** $20,000
- **Strategic planning and communications:** $20,000

- **State of the Watershed event:** $10,000

These investments support the District's ability to coordinate regional efforts, maintain and advance watershed projects, engage communities, pursue outside funding, and fulfill its ongoing responsibilities.

The proposed budget projects an ending General Fund balance of **$610,192**. This projection reflects the beginning fund balance and anticipated revenues less budgeted expenditures.

Water Activity Enterprise Budget

The Water Activity Enterprise budget supports major restoration and mitigation investments, including projects associated with the Monetary Mitigation Fund (MMF), along with the administrative capacity needed to manage these responsibilities.

The proposed 2027 WAE budget anticipates **$520,000 in revenue**, consisting of $200,000 in grant revenue, $300,000 in interest earnings, and $20,000 in investment gains. The budget includes $1,874,074 in project expenditures and $146,298 in administrative and staffing expenses, for total budgeted expenditures of **$2,020,372**.

WAE project allocations include continued work from 2026:

- **Frost Ranch Creek Restoration:** $1,484,074
- **Eagleridge project monitoring:** $100,000
- **Southmoor Drive project monitoring:** $150,000
- **Restoration and Resilience Assessment:** $40,000

These investments support the District's ongoing restoration, mitigation, project monitoring, and watershed resilience work. Grant funding remains an important strategy for extending available resources and advancing projects beyond what could be supported through existing funds alone.

The proposed WAE budget projects an ending fund balance of **$9,059,445**, based on the beginning fund balance, anticipated revenue, and budgeted expenditures. These resources must continue to be managed in accordance with applicable restrictions, project commitments, and the purposes for which the funds are held.

Financial Stewardship and Organizational Capacity

FCWD continues to operate with a lean, multidisciplinary team responsible for project oversight, grant development and administration, regional coordination, public engagement, financial management, and organizational operations. Staffing and contracted services provide the capacity and specialized expertise needed to carry out these responsibilities.

The proposed budget prioritizes core operating functions while directing substantial resources toward restoration and mitigation projects. The District will continue to seek opportunities to improve efficiency, share costs with partners, secure outside funding, and use available resources strategically. As project and program responsibilities evolve, maintaining sufficient operational capacity remains important to protecting investments and delivering effective services.

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Closing and Request

The proposed 2027 General Fund and Water Activity Enterprise budgets establish a financial plan for continuing the District's core responsibilities while advancing priority watershed projects. The budgets reflect the importance of balancing day-to-day operations, project commitments, grant opportunities, and the preservation of resources for future needs.

I appreciate the Board's continued leadership and support of the Fountain Creek Watershed District. I welcome questions and discussion regarding the proposed budgets and look forward to working together to ensure the District remains financially responsible, effective, and focused on long-term watershed health.

Thank you for your commitment to the District and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Allison Schuch
Executive Director
Fountain Creek Watershed District

Attachments: 2027 FCWD General Fund and WAE Draft Budgets