



**FOUNTAIN CREEK  
WATERSHED DISTRICT**

*For the thriving life of the watershed and all it touches.*

**Fountain Creek Watershed District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**2025 Budget Hearing**

**November 15, 2024 9am**

**In Person at Fountain City Hall, 116 S. Main Street, Fountain, CO 80817, or Via Zoom:**

**Zoom Meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89493089235>**

**Meetings are open to the public.**

**1. Call meeting to order 9:00-9:10**

- a.** Roll call, and establish a quorum (supermajority needed)

Chair Estes called the Fountain Creek Watershed District Board of Directors Meeting to order.

In attendance were the following duly designated members of the District Board of Directors:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>
Tamara Estes	Chair, City of Fountain
Mary Barber	CAG, alternate
James Romanello	Small Municipalities
Jay Kita	Small Municipalities, alternate
David Leinweber	City of Colorado Springs
Dr. Bob Barr	Pueblo Landowner
Daneya Esgar	Pueblo County
Stan VanderWerf	El Paso County
Jessica Mills	Lower Arkansas Valley
Alli Schuch	Executive Director
Stephane Atencio	Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

- b.** Introduction of Guests

Annie Berlemann, Colorado Springs Utilities

- c.** Approval of November District Meeting Agenda

Alternate Barber made a motion to approve the November District Meeting Agenda. Director Barr seconded and the November District Meeting Agenda was unanimously approved.

**2. Recess to Water Activity Enterprise Meeting 9:10-9:20**

Chair Estes recessed the Board of Directors into the Water Activity Enterprise Meeting.

- a. Consent Calendar**

ED Schuch requested a modification to the Consent Calendar to include a new invoice from Total Terrain. Director Mills made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar with the modification. Alternate Barber seconded and the Consent Calendar with the modification was unanimously approved.

**b. Old Business**

**c. New Business 9:20-9:40**

**i. Southmoor Drive Special Meeting - ED Schuch**

1. MMF Emergency Meeting took place to discuss modifications to Southmoor Drive design due to one land leaseholder unwilling to approve the landowner agreement (Astar Group, Campmor property). Matrix has absorbed the redesign costs and staging will take place on Security Sanitation District's property instead. Cost may increase due to the need for more riprap. More will be reported in future.

**ii. 2025 Capital Improvement Plan - ED Schuch**

1. 2023 Amended CIP: \$100,000 for woody debris removal
2. MMF Recommendation: Two projects, \$197,011.00
  - a. Frost Ranch Focus Area WaterSMART grant match: Value of \$388,044, District pays \$97,011
  - b. Pueblo County Woody Debris Removal \$100,000.00
  - c. Director Barr made a motion to approve the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan. Director Mills seconded and the 2025 Capital Improvement Plan was unanimously approved.
3. Appendix A - MMF CIP Project Selection Process History
4. MMF member recommendation/introduction - Andrew Callaghan
  - a. TAC recommendation to have Andrew Callaghan become a member of the MMF as TAC representative.
  - b. Director Barr made a motion to approve Andrew Callaghan as an MMF member. Director VanderWerf seconded and the motion to approve Andrew Callaghan as an MMF member was unanimously approved.

**d. Confirm Next Meetings 9:40-9:45**

9am Via Zoom or in person at Fountain City Hall (116 S. Main St. Fountain, CO 80817)

- January 17 - Annual Meeting
- February 21
- March 21
- April 18
- May 16
- June/July - no meetings
- August 15
- September 19
- October 17
- November 21
- December 19 - no meeting (tentative)

**e. Adjourn WAE Meeting**

Chair Estes adjourned the Water Activity Enterprise Meeting and returned to the Board of Directors Meeting.

**3. Reconvene District Board Meeting 9:45-10:00**

**a. Board Member Comments**

**i. Watershed Moment - 60 seconds for each Board Member to update on watershed happenings in your jurisdiction.**

1. Director Leinweber: Partnered with FCWD on a great riparian restoration project on a section of Fountain Creek behind Angler's Covey. Working with Gold Hill Mesa and City of Colorado Springs Stormwater as a section of

Fountain Creek runs through Gold Hill Mesa is currently owned and controlled by the Mesa. Initial approval has been given to give the stretch of waterway to the City which would then lease it back to Gold Hill Mesa so the City can support the land through Parks and Gold Hill Mesa will have control over what is done on the land including unhoused population concerns.

2. Director Barr: excited to see Tezak beginning construction at Eagleridge. Barr's son is working on fire mitigation around the creek. After a fire occurred in April, Mayor Graham is in support of fire management including potentially adding a fire station on the north side near Director Barr's land.
3. Director Mills: Lower Arkansas Valley WCD is working with DWR on updates to ensure all users of sprinklers and irrigation in the area have a Rule 10 plan. Partnering with CSU on new economic impact reporting. Developing revegetation legislation and have support from multiple stakeholders in the Senate and House.
4. Chair Estes: City of Fountain is busy and excited to see FCWD's Southmoor Drive project advancing. Developing code enforcement regarding unhoused persons along creek, different areas including near the bridge. City of Fountain engineers providing retention pond inspections.
5. Director VanderWerf: EPC has plans to develop two stormwater retention ponds at the EPC maintenance facility on Akers Drive, 20+ acres, multimillion dollar project. Included in the budget and coming up for approval at the December meeting.
6. Alternate Kita: Green Mountain Falls is working on retention pond cleaning and beautification in the spring. ED Schuch had a connection with Karen Rowe at PPACG regarding bridges that cross Fountain Creek; FCWD will share master planning documents that include the area and possibly support grant funding.
7. Alternate Barber: congratulations to FCWD Outreach team and ED Schuch on the success of Creek Week and the year's Liquid Lectures.

**b. Consent Calendar 10:00-10:10**

Director Barr made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Leinweber seconded and the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

**4. Executive Director Report 10:10-10:20**

- a. Project Updates: Eagleridge construction has begun. Unhoused camp causing a bit of slowdown. Southmoor construction has begun. Southmoor Project Public Info Meeting for first publicly visible project. Southmoor exhibit installation at Fountain Creek Nature Center to share more of the project's details with the public. Frost Ranch contracting underway. Woody Debris Pilot Project completed at Clear Springs Ranch (removed 1400 yards of material). Scope of Work in development for Stantec - will share lessons learned and guidance for use of final MMF dollars.
- b. Working with a consultant to finalize our Employee Handbook.
- c. Developing RFP for grant consultant for 2025; will bring to Contracts/HR committee for review before release.
- d. Sentinel Landscape Designation Introduction meeting.
- e. 6035 Strategies: would the Board like to continue retainer with 6035 or send out an RFP for 2025 strategic consulting?
  - i. Recommendation from Director VanderWerf, Chair Estes, and Director Barr to proceed with an RFP to ensure FCWD is receiving best return.

- f. Outreach: Riparian Restoration Project on Fountain Creek (Angler's Covey) was a success. Partnered with Jerry Cordova of City of Colorado Springs Stormwater on Storm Drain Art Project & led tour for Stormwater Conference. WOC Hiring in process. Received Xcel Foundation Grant (increased from \$10K to \$20K) to fund Pueblo Outreach Coordinator. 2025 team planning meeting to hone in on efforts for next year. CWCB raingarden/rain barrel grant suspended due to lack of support from partnering organizations. Member government support - how can FCWD best support your efforts?
- g. Proposed Paid Staff Holidays:
  - i. Approved with recommendation to choose from Cabrini Day (designated state holiday 10/6/2025) or Indigenous People's Day (aka Columbus Day 10/13/2025).

**5. Committee Updates 10:20-10:25**

- a. **HR/Contracts**
  - i. Susan Finzel Xcel Contract 2024-2025.
- b. **Finance** - None
- c. **Governance** - None

**6. Presentations 10:25-11:00**

- a. **2025 Budget Hearing**
  - i. 20% Member Government contribution increase request to support: establishment of District Project Maintenance Program, In Lieu Fee Program Development (staffing may occur in Q3/4 to support the program), grant writer/administrator, earmarked grant match dollars, increase from summer only to year-round Colorado College Fellow, strategic planning/communications contractor.
  - ii. First request for a contribution from Lower Arkansas Valley of \$50K to support 50% of maintenance program budget.
  - iii. Director Romanello made a motion to approve the proposed 2025 Budget. Director Leinweber seconded the motion. Director VanderWerf proposed a friendly amendment of the following: any member governments that are unable or unwilling to provide the contribution increase will be taken into account and the budget will be modified to accommodate any change in funding and finalized at the January meeting. The Directors agreed and the 2025 Budget with the amendment was unanimously approved by roll call.
  - iv. Recommendation from Director Mills that the Finance Committee meet before January Board meeting if any member governments do not support the increase.
- b. Resolution 2024-5, Budget
  - i. Director Barr made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5. Director Mills seconded and Resolution 2024-5 was unanimously approved by roll call.
- c. IMEG Progress Report on Jackson Creek Scoping Project - 20 minutes
  - i. IMEG Introduction
    - 1. Significant population growth and land development has occurred or is actively occurring, degrading the creek channel bottom and banks, negatively affecting water quality, and reducing the ecological resilience of the system.
    - 2. The FCWD aided by the PPACG is actively seeking funding to implement a new Watershed Group that will help advance projects in the northern regions of the FCWD jurisdictional area advancing the Jackson Creek project and others in the northern region of El Paso County.

**7. Old Business** - None

**8. New Business 11:00-11:15**

- a. Board input to Executive Director - Director Romanello
  - i. Tabled for January meeting.

**9. Executive Session 11:15-11:25**

- a. Greenview Trust: Request from Counsel Atencio to enter Executive Session for the purpose of having a conference with an attorney to receive legal advice regarding Greenview Trust.
  - i. Director Mills made a motion to enter an Executive Session. Director VanderWerf seconded the motion and the Board of Directors entered Executive Session.
  - ii. The Board of Directors was provided legal advice regarding the Greenview Trust matter during Executive Session. No decisions were made.

**10. Public Comment 11:25-11:35 - None**

**11. Confirm Next Meeting 11:35-11:45**

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**12. Adjourn Board Meeting 11:45**

Chair Estes adjourned the Board Meeting.