



**FOUNTAIN CREEK**  
WATERSHED DISTRICT

**Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control, and Greenway District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**August 16, 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 to order and establish a quorum**

Chair Estes called the Fountain Creek Watershed District Board Meeting to order. In attendance were the following duly designated members of the District Board of Directors:

**Name**

Tamara Estes  
Jessica Mills  
Daneya Esgar  
Terry Hart  
Jay Kita  
David Leinweber  
Joe Latino  
Stan VanderWerf

**Representing**

Chair, City of Fountain  
Lower Arkansas Valley Water Cons. District  
Pueblo County  
CAG  
Small Municipalities, alternate  
City of Colorado Springs  
City of Pueblo  
El Paso County

Alli Schuch  
Stephane Atencio

Executive Director  
Legal Counsel

A quorum was present.

**2. Introduction of Guests**

Susan Finzel, FCWD  
Annie Berlemann, Colorado Springs Utilities  
Marci Day, Pueblo County  
Fiona McLaughlin, FCWD  
Mary Barber, CAG alternate  
Detra Duncan, City of Fountain alternate  
Dan Bare, Matrix Design Group

**3. Approval of August Board Agenda**

Director Latino made a motion to approve the August Board Agenda with amendment. Alternate Kita seconded and the August Board Agenda was unanimously approved.

**4. Board Member Comments**

- A. Discussion on City of Colorado Springs' City Council denial of Amara annexation.
- B. ED Schuch is invited to the Drainage Basin Study of Jimmy Camp Creek. Please share any questions, comments, concerns for her to bring to the meeting.

- C. El Paso County approved contributing funds to match federal funding for flooding in the northeastern part of the county.

## 5. Consent Calendar

- A. Director VanderWerf made a recommendation to remove items already paid and itemized in the approved annual budget; any expenses needed beyond approved budget would be directed to the Board prior to purchasing or paying, such as increase in staffing, etc.
- B. Director Hart made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director VanderWerf seconded and the Consent Calendar was unanimously approved.

## 6. Executive Director Report

### A. Our Summer Vacation

- i. TACAG combined committee tour of Fort Carson
- ii. Attended *Mirasol* Film Screening
- iii. Supported Colorado Springs Bike to Work Day
- iv. Attended USAFA Local Leaders Tour
- v. Supported Manitou Pollinators & Climate Event
- vi. Hosted Collaborative Brew: *Flower Eater* Honey Lavender Blonde Ale fundraiser
- vii. Hosted Native Seed Planting (350!) with Rick's Garden Center
- viii. Attended CSU Native Grass Class
- ix. Hosted Water Equity Workshop

### B. Finances

- i. District Debit Card received.
  - 1. Purchases over \$1,000? ED Schuch has the authority to already make purchases based on the annual budget. Any payments over \$1,000 that are already approved budget expenses, ED Schuch can request approval from the treasurer to proceed. Request for ED Schuch to draft a written policy for card use and have the Finance Committee review first, then present to the Board.

### C. District Project Updates

- i. Eagleridge - Construction bidding begins. ED Schuch outlined the bidding process. Construction should begin October and extend through Spring 2025. Adding 1% retainage fee.
- ii. Southmoor Dr - Due to results of earlier design review, design changes will increase project cost; change orders will be brought to future Board meetings after review at next MMF meeting. Exhibit at Fountain Creek Nature Center in development to display project process and need to the community. Construction bidding begins. ED Schuch outlined the bidding process. Adding 1% retainage fee.

### D. Grants

- i. Frost Ranch Focus Area - Developing ARPA Grant with CWCB Technical Assistance support.
- ii. Developing CWCB Education & Innovation grant for underserved communities for expanding rain barrels and rain gardens.
- iii. Developing a second grant application with Mile High Youth Corps/GOCO to continue project maintenance work in 2025.
- iv. Received \$5,000 for landowner willow planting project to mitigate erosion.
- v. USDA Innovation in Agriculture grant was unsuccessful.
- vi. Submitted Colorado State Forest Service Urban & Community Forest Grant with CONO, \$248,000, no match.
- vii. WaterSMART Collaborative Watershed Grant *Jackson Creek Watershed Together* for \$300,000, no match.
- viii. Developing EPA Community Change Grant.

- E. State of the Watershed Event - Planning for October 2025. Goal to launch In Lieu Fee simultaneously.
- F. Budget - 2025 General Fund - Proposed Changes
  - i. Raises for District staff & contractors where and when appropriate
  - ii. Colorado Springs Leadership Institute - Executive training for ED Schuch
  - iii. Grant writing and grant management services
  - iv. Increase Operations Manager from 20 to 30 hours/week
  - v. Development of ongoing maintenance program and contract
  - vi. Continuation of In Lieu Fee program development
  - vii. Propose a request of a 25% increase for 2025 member government contributions.
- G. MMFAC - Sandoval Focus Area RFP review on hold. 2nd Notice of Violation upstream.
  - i. 2025 CIP to be discussed at next meeting, Thurs, August 21, 10am via Zoom.
- H. MMF Contributions Report
- I. Outreach
  - i. Colorado College Fellow, Fiona McLaughlin - Watershed Outreach Assistant
    - 1. Assisting with design work, outreach events, and supporting outreach efforts during gap of former and new WOC.
  - ii. Watershed Outreach Coordinator hired; will begin full time hours on Monday.
  - iii. Extended Susan Finzel's contract through October to support Creek Week and other outreach.
  - iv. Creek Week planning!
  - v. Submitted Brewshed® Alliance application for award.
  - vi. Bleating Heart Night fundraiser at Goat Patch Brewing Co.
  - vii. Fiesta Patrias, Sept 14-15, Downtown COS
  - viii. September Liquid Lecture, Sept 19 at Mash Mechanix Brewing Co.
  - ix. Creek Week, Sept 28-Oct 6! Litter Letter Project Cleanup, Sept 28 at America the Beautiful Park.

## 7. Committee Updates

- A. **HR/Contracts:** None.
- B. **Finance:** None.
- C. **Governance:** None.

## 8. Presentations

- A. Pueblo Outreach Programming - Susan Finzel
  - i. Xcel Energy Foundation Grant Report - 2023-2024 Continuing Outreach in Pueblo, CO
    - 1. Outcomes in Pueblo: Creek Week 2023 Participation (8 groups, 150 volunteers, ~1,500 pounds of trash removed, 3 new partners), 10th Anniversary celebrating at proclamations and with Friends of the Arkansas, 2 Land Stewardship events at Confluence Park (invasive removal, native seed dispersal), Girls Gone Fishin' Derby (38 young female participants, 70+ trout caught & released, 20+ volunteers/staff); Brewshed® Alliance (4 active locations), Liquid Lectures, Field of Drinks Festival; Great American Cleanup in April 2024 (11 groups, 266 volunteers, 2,000 pounds of trash removed); School Outreach & Education (more Spanish translation of materials, distributed Educator's Guide, Teachers' Resources webpage on FCWD site); CDPHE Mini Grant Award (\$5,000) funded the Ride the Watershed Pueblo Bike Tour and trash receptacles and pet waste bag dispensers for Pueblo City and County parks.

## 9. Old Business

None.

## **10. New Business**

- A. Resolution in support of WaterSMART Grant Application
  - i. Director Hart made a motion to approve the resolution in support of the WaterSMART Grant Application. Director Mills seconded and the resolution was unanimously approved.
- B. Reimbursement Policy
  - i. Advance notice of future resolution.
- C. Discussion on supporting entities
  - i. Counsel Atencio recommends the Board consider developing a process and policy for supporting organizations.

## **11. Executive Session**

- A. Greenview Trust and Southmoor Drive Landowner Agreements
  - i. Director Mills made a motion to enter into Executive Session to receive advice from an attorney regarding the Greenview Trust and Southmoor Drive Landowner Agreements. Director Hart seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. No decisions were made based on counsel's advice. Counsel Atencio asked the Board to consider forming a Greenview Trust Task Force as it may be a benefit to the District and other entities.
  - ii. Director Hart made a motion to form a Greenview Trust Task Force. Director VanderWerf seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

## **12. Public Comment**

None.

## **13. Confirm Next Meetings - ALL MEETINGS NOW HYBRID!**

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

- A. Fri Sept 20, 9am
- B. Fri Sept 27, District Project Tour
- C. Fri Oct 18, 9am
- D. Fri Nov 15, 9am - Budget Hearing
- E. December - no meeting

## **14. Adjourn Board Meeting**

Chair Estes adjourned the Board Meeting.