

**Fountain Creek Watershed, Flood Control, and Greenway District**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**July 21, 2023 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: Representing:**

Tamara Estes City of Fountain

David Leinweber City of Colorado Springs

Daneya Esgar Pueblo County

Mary Barber CAG, alternate

Jessica Mills Lower Arkansas Valley

Dr. Bob Barr Land Owner

Larry Atencio City of Pueblo

Detra Duncan City of Fountain, alternate

Alli Schuch Executive Director

1. **Introduction of Guests**

Stéphane Atencio, Attorney, District General Council

Marci Day, Pueblo County

Gary Rapp, citizen

A quorum was present.

1. **Approval of July Board Agenda**

Director Mills made a motion to approve the agenda. Alternate Barber seconded, and the July Board Agenda was unanimously approved.

1. **Board Member Comments** 
   1. Chair Estes shared about the Mile High Flood District tour. MHFD has mil levy since origination to create sustainable funding. DIP (Development Improvement Project) - developers pay MHFD to manage offsetting development impacts. Chair Estes encourages directors to attend next MHFD tour.
   2. Pikes Peak Waterways group - Director Atencio mentioned creating a waterways group in Pueblo area.
2. **Consent Calendar**

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

1. **Executive Director Report**
   1. Xcel Energy Foundation awarded $10K grant for outreach in Pueblo area.
   2. Largest Creek Week sponsorship to date - Pikes Peak Waterways contributed $5K.
   3. Invited to record podcast with Kyle Blakely & Mark Waller *We Have Issues.*
   4. Interviewed by Thirst Magazine for article on Brewshed Alliance.
   5. Need more CAG participation from different jurisdictions. Please give Alli recommendations.
   6. Fountain Creek Chronicles e-newsletter published monthly.
   7. Applying for a grant with Mile High Youth Corps in collaboration with GOCO. The corps would provide service around District projects (invasive species mitigation, weed pulling, etc.)
2. **Committee Updates** 
   1. **HR/Contracts**
      1. Jurisdictional support for HR development as the District staff is growing.
      2. Council Atencio, Chair Estes, and ED Schuch meeting to discuss contract language.
   2. **Finance** - Meeting in July, mid year review.
   3. **Governance**
      1. Bylaws Review Meeting - July 24, 2023 at 9am
      2. Statute Update - wait to update until after the Strategic Plan is adopted.
3. **Presentations** 
   1. 6035 Strategies, Anthony Carlson - Strategic Plan Draft
      1. Primary goal to build a path to sustainable funding and successfully scale the District to handle the funding.
      2. Future sustainable funding options: mil levy, increase of jurisdictional annual contributions, determine fees FCWD could/should charge for particular services (consider best practices from other Districts). Includes consideration of supplemental funding from grants and other sources as well.
      3. Increase position as regional hub for partnerships and intra-jurisdictional collaboration; improve name recognition of FCWD; build a stronger culture of conservation and preservation of the waterways.
      4. Conversation around whose responsibility it is to develop future budget planning.
      5. Ensure we differentiate from Stormwater; collaborate with COS Creek Plan (Pikes Peak Waterways) & other stakeholders; possibly create Development Service Enterprise that manages water-related projects for developers for a fee; determine how to best partner to improve public safety; strengthen relationship with USACE and possibly obtain regional permit.
      6. Recommendation: Update FCWD mission & vision.
      7. Assign responsibilities to specific objectives (time-bound).
   2. American Pulse Research & Polling, Dustin Olson - Polling Results
      1. Survey of El Paso & Pueblo Voters, 559 participants, margin of error 4.1%.
      2. Strong support for Clean, Safe, & Healthy Water from both counties. Majority of 60.7% support higher property taxes for clean water across voter segments.
      3. Strong recommendation by Anthony to poll again June/early July 2024 to determine how successful FCWD could be at the November 2024 election.
4. **Old Business**

None.

1. **New Business**
   1. District Tour - Friday, October 13, 2023, start in morning through lunch
      1. Tentative Plan: start at Angler’s Covey, Creekwalk projects, Southmoor Dr, Confluence Park, lunch at Brues Alehouse.
2. **Executive Session**

None.

1. **Public Comment**

Gary Rapp recommends review of the 2009 Fountain Creek Watershed Study and Watershed Plan prior to meeting with USACE.

1. **Confirm Next Meetings - ALL MEETINGS NOW HYBRID!**

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

1. Fri Aug 18, 9am
2. Fri Sept 15, 9am
3. Fri Oct 13 – District Tour
4. Fri Oct 20, 9am
5. Fri Nov 17, 9am – Budget Meeting
6. Fri Dec 15, 9am – tentative
7. **Adjourn Board Meeting**

Chair Estes adjourned the Board Meeting.