

# Estes Valley Watershed Coalition Minutes – May 13, 2015

<b>Board</b>					
<b>Black C:</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Jay Blackwood</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Jim Sloan</b>	
<b>Big T:</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Gary Miller</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Carly Lober</b>	
<b>Fall R:</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Phil DuChateau</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Marcus Snyder</b>	
<b>Fish C:</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Sue Durnford</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Chuck Bonza</b>	
<b>At Large:</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Jim Daugherty</b>		<b>Ron Wilcocks</b>	<b>X</b> <b>Frank Theis</b>
<b>Advisory Group:</b>		<b>Jeff Crane</b>		<b>Katherine Luscher</b>	<b>Naren Tayal</b>
		<b>Chris Sturm</b>		<b>Kim Slininger</b>	<b>Curt Gleaves</b>
	<b>X</b>	<b>Branden Krueger</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Tina Kurtz</b>	<b>Christy Crosser</b>
	<b>X</b>	<b>Mary Banken</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Chris Bieker</b>	
<b>Non-Voting Members:</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Barb May</b>			

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 pm by President Frank Theis. The meeting was held at the Estes Valley Public Library in Estes Park, Colorado.

## II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chuck Bonza introduced Chris Bieker of the Upper Thompson Sanitation District as a member of the Advisory Group. Bieker gave some background regarding the Upper Thompson and the Estes Park Sanitation Districts.

Bieker discussed recent information regarding sewer line in the Antlers Point to Lower Fawn Valley reach which is one of the planning grant project areas. In order to implement the dual (high-flow) channel called for in the master plan, the sewer line has to be moved. Since that move is not a “restore to pre-flood condition” cost, it is not something that FEMA can pay for under the current utilities restoration project. Unless funding can be identified from some other source (such as a CDBG-DR Infrastructure grant at a cost of \$3,800 each for two manholes and \$55-60 per linear foot for installation), the only option will be to restore the high-flow channel to its previous condition so that UTSD can get to each manhole access point. This would be quite an un-resilient solution, as the existing clay pipes are vulnerable to future events. Bieker will be invited to join in on the planning sessions for this area as alternative funding solutions are sought.

Bieker also reported on the progress on the Fish Creek utilities project. Due to some change orders, weather conditions, and other delays, they now estimate a final completion date in late July. Spring run-off and last week’s rains caused bank de-stabilizations and the need to dewater the work areas. In places lines have to be buried deeper for mitigation purposes. Original estimate to complete the Fish Creek sewer work was \$2.4 million; current estimate is \$4.7 million: 75% paid by FEMA, 12.5% paid by State, 12.5% paid by UTSD.

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Chuck Bonza noted that the Brodie crossing work is scheduled to begin in mid-June. Public meetings to review 90% designs will be held in July. Work will begin in Spring 2016.

Sue Durnford noted that the Long Term Recovery group got funding to help private landowners with culvert and drainage problems. She was not sure if these funds were to be provided as loans or as grants.

## III. COALITION STATUS

### A. *Minutes of the April 22, 2015 Meeting*

MOVED (Jay Blackwood/Sue Durnford second) and passed to accept the minutes from the April 22<sup>th</sup> meeting as corrected.

### B. *Report on Thompson Watershed Alliance*

Carly Lober and Chuck Bonza attended the Thompson Watershed Alliance's "All Coalitions" Planning meeting on April 28 at the Big Thompson School District Board Room in Loveland. Tina Kurtz and Brandon Krueger also attended. As time goes on, it is expected that this alliance can be a good networking resource for the coalitions.

### C. *Meeting with Chris Sturm*

Frank Theis and Mary Banken met with Chris Sturm and Julie Ash on Friday May 8. Sturm will soon be providing technical oversight for \$100 million in river and recovery funding. The formats for the CWCB Fiscal Sponsor grant requests were reviewed, and the grant application was submitted on Monday May 11.

Discussed types of work that could be completed with the State Senate Funds, and Sturm confirmed that the projects can be done using sole source contracts. Julie Ash will draft a project description for the State Senate Fish Creek project for EVWC's review. As the State Senate project rolls out, EVWC will need one or two Board members to represent the Board, since the two Fish Creek representatives on the Board have personal conflicts of interest.

Discussed DOLA time table problems and Federal OMB Guidance on administrative funding for nonprofit grants. These are issues for which there is a mutual awareness and agreement.

### D. *Committee Reports*

#### 1. *Hiring Committee*

- **Capacity Grant Status**

A few coalitions have received their capacity grant paperwork (EVWC has not), but none of them have a fully executed contract in place. We expect to receive the paperwork soon.

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- **Coordinator Candidates Update**

Deb Phenicie, the candidate that has been leading in the evaluations, had identified a set of employment requests. The executive and hiring committees met on Friday May 8 regarding these requests. Further details will be discussed in Executive Session. A memo from Gordon Gilstrap identified top coordinator candidates for Big and Little Thompson Coalitions, but none of these have been formally offered a position since there are no fully executed contracts.

## 2. **Grants/Projects Committee**

- **Implementation Grant Status**

Jim Daugherty reported that the site visit to the Morten property with DOLA went very well. EVWC's proposal was for \$287,000, but based on a recommendation from DOLA staff, we submitted a revised budget for \$300,000 to also include inlet and outlet structures for the wetlands.

- **Planning Grant Status**

Still awaiting the contract for this grant.

## 3. **Public Outreach Committee**

Marcus Snyder reported "no update" for the committee.

Jay Blackwood reported that, at an independent meeting with Larimer County, he had talked with Tom Donnelly (Commissioner) and Marc Engemoan (Public Works) regarding the Watershed Coalition, and they are very interested in sending a county representative to EVWC meetings. Gary Miller is the Advisory Group contact for the County representatives, so he will follow up on this, perhaps through the new County Watershed Coordinator.

## IV. **SENATE FUNDS TRANSFER TO EVWC**

The Town Board unanimously approved the transfer request of State Senate Fish Creek funds to the Coalition. The request letter has been signed and sent to Chris Sturm.

## V. **BOARD & COMMITTEE CHANGES**

Jim Daugherty has consented to serve in the position of Secretary, if elected. Staff will be responsible for taking minutes, with Secretary review and approval. Frank Theis NOMINATED Jim Daugherty to the office of Secretary, seconded by Gary Miller and unanimously approved.

Other Board changes: MOVED (Sue Durnford/Gary Miller seconded) and unanimously voted to implement the following changes in Board membership: (1) appoint Frank Theis to the at-large position previously held by Dixie Hyatt-Hendrix; (2) appoint Phil DuChateau to the Fall River position previously held by Frank Theis.

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A Board Development Committee will be established as soon as the Coordinator is hired.

Sue Durnford noted that Advisory Group members assigned to Dixie might now be assigned to Phil.

## **VI. CWCB UPDATE**

Brandon Krueger (FEMA) reported that on June 24 at the Colorado History Center in Denver, FEMA will be conducting a “unified review” meeting with presentations focused on the FEMA national agenda toward a unified review. Coalition members are invited to attend.

NRCS/Todd Boldt is reviewing the master plans and GIS files in preparation for the EWP Phase 2, hoping to adopt a more holistic approach to the projects.

## **VII. TOWN UPDATE**

Tina Kurtz reported that the Town Trustees have voted to contract with Cornerstone Engineering and Deere & Ault to prepare an engineering study of the Scott Ponds options. Larimer County Open Space funds are designated for this \$205,000 study. The project is on a tight schedule, with the construction work needing to be completed by March 2016. The Town only owns 7.26 acre feet of water rights, so the ponds will necessarily be smaller than they were in the past. Once the design is selected and costs determined, whatever is remaining after dam construction from the approximately \$1 million in funds will be allocated to the Hydroplant work. Current speculation is that it could be \$146,000, that could then be matched by the State Senate Fall River funds that have yet to be tied to a project. Tina is currently working on the RFP for the Hydroplant work. Tina will also be working on the RFP for the Hydrology study.

With Dave Shirk’s departure and Wes’ soon-to-be departure, the Planning Department is currently understaffed. Alison is working on the Downtown project, and is contracting out the RFP development for that project.

Town is going forward with the May 29 application to rebuild the Moraine Avenue bridge with CDBG Round 2 infrastructure funds. That bridge is now at 40% of required capacity for floodplain management issues.

Kate Reusch is working with Alison and Tina about public outreach coordination regarding spring runoff and related issues. Kate will contact Frank Theis and Marcus Snyder to pull in Coalition cooperation on this issue (it cannot wait for a coordinator on-board).

## **VIII. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS**

None

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION – TO DISCUSS EMPLOYEE NEGOTIATIONS**

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss updates on the Coordinator hiring process.

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**X. ACTION ITEMS – NEXT MEETING**

- A. *Coordinator Contract*
- B. *Start-up budget issues*
- C. *Technology issues*

**XI. ADJOURN MEETING**

Following the Executive Session, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Prepared by: Mary Banken

Approved/submitted by: Jim Daugherty, Secretary

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