

Roger Koenig: GCIO Presentation to Boulder Water Resource Advisory Board Meeting, Dec. 16, 2013

As our previous speakers have illustrated, the Gregory Creek flood hazard is an ongoing and present risk to property and people along the drainage.

To see the big picture, I would like to take a minute to view Gregory Creek in the context of flood hazards in the State of Colorado.

Just last month, the State of Colorado made a tri-annual update to our "2013 Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan." To quote the executive summary of this 159 page plan,

"The Colorado Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan summarizes the State of Colorado's vulnerability to flooding and outlines strategies to manage and reduce the impact of flood hazards."

Colorado faces approximately a 19% chance of a major flood disaster in any given year – the chance of a major flood disaster event approximately every five years in Colorado.

There are at least three types of weather patterns that can cause severe flooding in Boulder. 2013 was a different weather pattern and time of year than the tragic Big Thompson event and our own catastrophic June 1894 flood. We have a continuous history of flooding in Boulder.

So when will Boulder have its next major flood?

You have probably heard or read phrases such as, "Boulder is the number one flood hazard in Colorado." What does this really mean?

The Colorado Flood Hazard study uses FEMA standardized risk computing algorithms, with input of data from Colorado communities, to provide comparative flood hazards among counties and several cities. Boulder has an extreme flood risk – by nature of our geography and land development over the years.

In Boulder County, residents and government have over \$1.1 billion of FEMA flood insurance - the highest level of flood insurance in the state.

Is Boulder flood mitigation a great investment for the City in comparison to \$1.2B of hard property loss?

How about \$13B of potential economic loss? I believe the answers are YES.

We have known of Gregory Creek hazards and deficiencies through multiple engineering studies. Theory became reality in September.

I believe that the Water Resources Advisory Board has the appointed responsibility for advocating that City Council embrace the two-step plan of action outlined in the slide as a priority.

First, maintain and repair. Second, fund bottom-up flood mitigation improvements for Gregory Creek.

Thank you.