

**CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO  
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING MINUTES**

<b>Name of Board / Commission:</b> Water Resources Advisory Board	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 18 November 2013	
<b>Contact Information of Person Preparing Minutes:</b> Laurel Olsen-Horen 303.441.3203	
<b>Board Members Present:</b> Chuck Howe, Vicki Scharnhorst, Mark Squillace, Ed Clancy <b>Board Members Absent:</b> Dan Johnson	
<b>Staff Present:</b> Jeff Arthur, Director of Public Works for Utilities Bob Harberg, Principal Engineer – Utilities Bret Linenfelter, Water Quality and Environmental Services Manager Douglas Sullivan, Engineering Project Manager Pieter Beyer, Civil Engineer II Ken Baird, Budget Financial Analyst Michelle Wind, Drinking Water Program Supervisor Mike Leone, Water Quality Inspector Laurel Olsen-Horen, Board Secretary	
<b>Meeting Type:</b> Regular	
<b>Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order</b>	<b>[7:02 p.m.]</b>
<b>Agenda Item 2 – Approval of the 21 October Meeting Minutes:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>[7:03 p.m.]</b></span> Motion postponed until the arrival of board member Johnson. <b>Motion to approve the 21 October meeting minutes as presented: Squillace; Seconded by: Scharnhorst</b> <b>Motion Passes; 3:0 – board member Howe abstained</b>	
<b>Agenda Item 3 – Public Participation and Comment</b>	<b>[7:01 p.m.]</b>
<b>Public Comment:</b> <b>Roger Koenig:</b> Resides along Gregory Creek. Mr. Koenig presented a Power Point Presentation to the board. The 2013 flood exceeded FEMA’s 500-year boundaries. There was a massive amount of damage to residences along Gregory Creek. Mr. Koenig is seeking WRAB to assist with the maintenance of Gregory Creek. If the creek had been properly maintained prior to the flood event, damage to current structures would not have been so catastrophic. <b>Dennis Kennedy:</b> The undersized culvert in the trench along Pennsylvania St. caused much of the damage near Mr. Kennedy’s property. Taking out the old culvert and leaving it as a creek bed, cleaning it up a bit and not leaving Pennsylvania as two dead end streets would be cheap options for the city to help residents during future events. <b>Scott Hoffenberg:</b> Mr. Hoffenberg brought a map from 2010 Gregory Creek Floodplain Study which was used for the LOMR. The new 500-year flood zone boundaries were not representative of where the water went down 7 <sup>th</sup> St. The water went beyond the extents of the 500-year flood zone. Two of the major failures (Willowbrook and 7 <sup>th</sup> Street) had trash racks on them. There is no consistency in the size of the culverts as water flows downstream. The originally planned 4’ x 8’ culvert would likely have worked well had it been installed. <b>Stewart Machle:</b> Mr. Machle’s largest concern is that over the years, no city official has actually walked the creek to see what maintenance is needed. Over the years, residents have been told that they need to maintain the culverts, the city will hire a private company to do it and the residents would need to pay for it. The culvert overflowed due the trash racks being placed at a 45 degree angle. Debris and child safety are the biggest concern especially near Flatirons Elementary. Being proactive would be a good thing <b>George Shopp:</b> Please maintain the system. The culvert under Willowbrook was clogged before the event. Maintenance for both the culverts and the creek is vital. The Gregory Creek meeting residents were told culverts are the property owner’s responsibility to maintain. If that is the case, then residents need to be told that before events happen. <b>Rebecca Roser:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Street was a raging river for days post the flood event. Anderson ditch is still filled with silt to this day. Ms. Roser’s concern is for the safety of the children that attend Flatirons Elementary. Also, the flashing lights sometimes go off at night and the city needs to fix the flashing lights to keep people from falling into the hole in front of her property. Remediation of Gregory Creek is a serious issue. The culvert that runs under 7 <sup>th</sup> St to a smaller diameter culvert is a serious issue. This really needs attention from the city.	

**Jack Jewell:** Mr. Jewell's property is next to Gregory Creek. Mr. Jewell provided a detailed map of his property with marked points of where the water was on his property during the event. The Willowbrook culvert was blocked and didn't function at all during the event. That culvert isn't even the lowest point of the creek. City officials need to look at the flows (from his map) and where the water tends to flow, and any plans to take his notes into account. – Mr. Jewell's map was scanned and shared with appropriate staff.

**Richard Macintosh:** Mr. Macintosh has spoken with a number of hydrologists and they were pleased with how accurate the estimated flows were. However, the debris was not taken into account on the flood maps. You cannot ignore debris when taking into account what will happen with water flows during an event like this one.

**Ed Von Blacher:** Mr. Von Blacher has resided in his home for 20 years, and does not have flood insurance as he was not in the current floodplain. He sustained over 1,000+ ft<sup>2</sup> of damage to his basement. The sediment created a dam between University and Pleasant which caused the water to flow into Mr. Von Blacher's property. Mr. Von Blacher is facing around \$20,000 worth of damage restoration and only received \$1,250 from FEMA. What resources are available not only to replace what was there, but to improve? A clear picture of funding sources, and who they are would be helpful. A clarification of WRAB's role would be helpful.

**Jose Jimenez:** The city could do a lot in coordination and facilitation of information. Mr. Jimenez started working with engineers prior to the event to address issues with the creek next to his property, and struggled with the city's processes on permitting etc. The city's process is very difficult to understand.

**Al:** There are two issues that could be addressed. 1.) The sizes of the culverts are not sized large enough and filled with debris. 2.) There are varying sizes of culverts along the creek which tends to divert water onto the streets. Once the water gets out of the creek, all bets are off as to where the water goes. The culverts need to be rebuilt and sized properly. The retaining wall which was built after the flood of '69 was completely blown out in this event. The retaining wall needs to be built to reasonable standards, or at least better than they were built in 1969. Rebuilding the retaining walls to previous conditions does not make sense as those walls will not perform during this type of event. Mr. – would like to be given permission to make the retaining wall on his property stronger.

**L Neimith:** Mr. Neimith only found out about this meeting last night which does not allow for adequate time to prepare. The main issue was the culverts were blown out. Around five years ago the city had a meeting at the Senior Center. At that time, Mr. Neimith brought to attention the size of the downstream culverts being too small. The city told residents that there were no such smaller culverts downstream.

Staff responded to some of the comments made during public comment.

**Continued Public Comment:**

**Julie:** It would be helpful to know as the plan is developed for the flow of Gregory Creek, what is the city's plan? Knowing that would be helpful to the residents as they work on remediation.

**Agenda Item 4 – Information Item – Backflow Prevention Program Update**

**[8:39 p.m.]**

Mike Leone presented the item to the board.

**Executive Summary from the Packet Materials:**

As part of compliance with drinking water regulations, the City of Boulder (city) implements a program for cross-connection control, also known as backflow prevention, to prevent contamination to the city's water distribution system. The Backflow Prevention Program includes tracking the installation and testing of cross-connection control devices (also known as backflow prevention assemblies) on customer water service lines to protect the city's system from back pressure and back siphon events, as well as performing education and outreach and field inspections and investigations. In Boulder, backflow prevention assemblies are required on commercial facilities, fire lines, dedicated metered irrigation lines, but not residential households unless they have dedicated irrigation systems.

The city's Backflow Prevention Program has been in place for many years, but in the past five years, staff has made significant changes in the program. This agenda item is intended to provide WRAB with an overview of the backflow prevention program. Staff is not requesting any formal action by the WRAB.

**WRAB Discussion Included:**

As this was an informational item, no action was requested of the board. The board asked some clarifying questions to better understand the materials and presentation.

**Agenda Item 5 – Information Item – Background on Wastewater Collection, Comprehensive Flood and Stormwater Master Plans**

**[9:18 p.m.]**

Bob Harberg and Douglas Sullivan presented item to the board.

**Executive Summary from the Packet Materials:**

This information item presents background information concerning the Comprehensive Flood and Stormwater, the Stormwater and the Wastewater Utility Master Plans. These master plans provide an analysis of the utility infrastructure and improvements needs. The identified needs and their relative importance are the primary basis for prioritizing projects identified in the 6-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). It is important that WRAB members have an understanding of the analysis approach and master plan recommended project priorities. WRAB has a key role in reviewing staff recommendations and making recommendations to City Council on master plans as well as the annual 6-year CIP budget process.

The flood disaster will likely influence the previously identified master plan based project priorities. Consideration of additional improvements to utility infrastructure designed to mitigate future damages may be warranted.

Maps depicting the location of recommended master plan based improvements, along with the location of flood damages will be available at the meeting for review and discussion.

Staff will be investigating the cause of various damages and reviewing the recommendations of these master plans in preparation for the 2015 budget process. Recommendations will be made regarding any revisions to the previously approved master plan based project priorities along with financing options.

**WRAB Discussion Included:**

- The city’s decision to keep maintenance of culverts on a two-year cycle, and is that the best practice?
- The city’s practice for communication with private land owners on the importance of maintaining culverts on their land.
- The city’s use of Inquire Boulder and its ability to assist with addressing community concerns with blocked culverts.
- The city’s ability to bring the stormwater system back up to standard prior to the spring run-off season.

**Agenda Item 6 – Board and Commission Report**

**[8:00 p.m.]**

Council member Plass presented item to the board.

This item was moved up on the agenda to accommodate Councilmember Plass.

**Executive Summary from the Packet Materials:**

No executive summary given.

**WRAB Discussion Included:**

The board gave suggestions to Councilmember Plass including:

- Cross-board communications and increasing relationships with other board members.
- Board likes getting rid of the city resident requirement to be appointed to a board.
- Develop a poster to be placed around the city indicating when each board meets and possibly use it as a recruitment tool to attract more people to the boards and commissions.
- Having a clear mission/direction on how to be a useful, helpful and impactful board for staff and council.
- Knowing staff’s “view of the world” would be helpful, as it may differ from what the board thinks is important.

**Agenda Item 7 – Matters**

**[9:57 p.m.]**

**From the Board:**

Board member Scharnhorst brought up the below matter(s):

- The GAC went on a bike tour of the Greenways system post flood event. The Greenways system really functioned well in the areas where improvements had been made.

Board member Howe brought up the below matter(s):

- Last Friday there was a meeting at the Library between the City, the University and NCAR on the flood event. This partnership will result in a more effective way of moving forward.

**From Staff:**

**[10:03 p.m.]**

None
<p><b>Agenda Item 8 – Discussion on Future Schedule</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>[10:03 p.m.]</b></span></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to tailor the agenda and locations of future WRAB meetings to handle the large public interest in post-flood comments.</li> <li>• The increased pressure from the community to facilitate system upgrades and how it will impact the WRAB’s decision on the CIP for 2015.</li> <li>• December’s meeting will have a large portion of time set aside for how to move forward with the flood recovery discussions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>[10:25 p.m.]</b></span></p> <p>There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, by motion regularly adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.</p> <p><b>Motion to adjourn by: Squillace; Seconded by: Scharnhorst</b></p> <p><b>Motion Passes 4:0</b></p>
<p><b>Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting:</b></p> <p>The next WRAB meeting will be Monday, 16 December 2013 at 7:00 p.m., in the West Conference Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the municipal building, 1777 Broadway unless directed by staff or the board.</p>

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Date

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An audio recording of the full meeting for which these minutes are a summary, is available on the Water Resources Advisory Board web page.