

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

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TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

FROM: Kevin Houck, P.E., Chief
Joe Busto, Staff
Watershed and Flood Protection Section

DATE: November 5, 2013

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 20, November 19-20 Board Meeting
South Platte River Master Plan**

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

James Eklund
CWCB Director

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board authorize staff to modify and update the Operations and Maintenance Manual for the Chatfield Downstream Channel Improvement Project in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and local agencies to balance flood control, stream ecosystem function, and recreational objectives.

Background

The CWCB is the non federal sponsor of the Chatfield Downstream Channel Improvement Project (Project). State and Federal funding was used to straighten the South Platte River downstream of Chatfield Reservoir and line the banks with rip rap to accommodate a 5,000 cfs maximum reservoir release. A 1990 Operations and Maintenance (O&M) manual outlines the role of the CWCB as non-federal sponsor. The entire project is six miles in length. The upstream two miles is a floodplain park called South Platte Park and not owned by the CWCB. Agenda Item Ten at this board meeting is a Fish and Wildlife Resources Mitigation Fund request by partners in this master planning effort. Moving downstream, the next four miles of river and adjacent parcels are owned by the CWCB. This reach is within Littleton, Englewood, and Sheridan in Arapahoe County.

Discussion

In 2007, the South Platte Working Group (SPWG) was formed. It consisted of local communities, the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD), CWCB, and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers. Together, the group completed twenty projects, including land acquisition, trails, urban renewal, and open space. In 2012, SPWG II was formed with the focus on the South Platte River and projects that enhance ecology, integrity, recreation, and economic development while maintaining flood conveyance. Staff believes that Corps approvals for these proposed projects can be secured based on interactions with Corps staff.

Staff will give an introduction of the Project, UDFCD will present constructed and planned projects within the reach, and the communities will present the vision for the river. If successful, this flood control project will also become an amenity while still honoring longstanding agreements with the Corps for operations and maintenance.

SOUTH PLATTE WORKING GROUP STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Members

South Platte Working Group
Arapahoe County

Town of Columbine Valley

City of Englewood

City of Littleton

City of Sheridan

South Suburban Parks and
Recreation District

Arapahoe County Open Space & Trails
Advisory Board

South Metro Land Conservancy

South Suburban Park Foundation

Urban Drainage and Flood
Control District

Our purpose is

- To preserve and protect the river corridor as a community asset and to enhance the quality of life in western Arapahoe County through an ongoing collaborative process to improve the natural environment, economic benefit, and recreational features of the South Platte River.

Our vision is

- A vibrant river environment that is integrated with the surrounding communities to bring new economic, cultural, recreational and natural opportunities.

Our goals are

- To enhance the South Platte corridor as a recreational resource for the entire region;
- To restore and revitalize the river and its habitat, while maintaining its role as a flood conveyance;
- To encourage and improve opportunities for education and understanding of South Platte River health and its tributaries;
- To connect the communities to the river – through more consistent land use, economic development and coordinated policies.

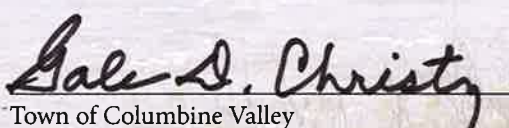
Our process is

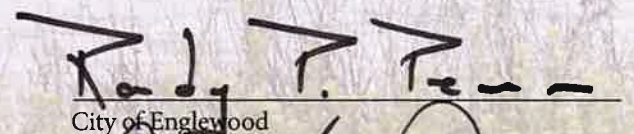
- To evaluate each proposed project on its individual merits and as it contributes to a regional vision for a vibrant river corridor, acknowledging that this working group advises the elected councils and boards;
- To coordinate with regional, state and federal entities to maximize the benefit of their planned action through leveraging local resources and cooperation;
- To ensure that the visions and plans are inclusive in their process and results;
- To act as a forum for coordinating plans and identifying new opportunities.

Our commitment is

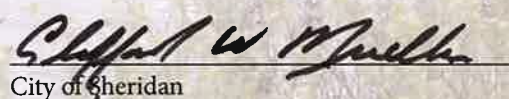
- To the vision and to the corridor as a whole;
- To agree to collaborate as we are more effective together than individually; and
- To a long term effort that ensures a legacy for future generations.

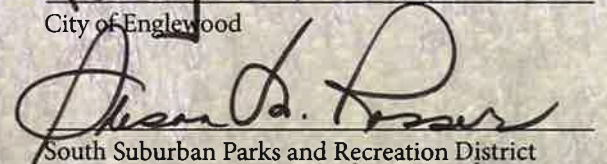

Arapahoe County


Town of Columbine Valley


City of Englewood


City of Littleton


City of Sheridan


South Suburban Parks and Recreation District


South Metro Land Conservancy


South Suburban Park Foundation


Urban Drainage and Flood Control District


Arapahoe County Open Space & Trails Advisory Board

Approved in 2012

