



CWG Meeting Summary

Attendees Community Working Group Members:	Matt Benjamin Elizabeth Black Dylan Blaskey George Craft Bruce Feinberg Tim Holbrook Laurel Hodory	Lillian Hoodes Ana Casas Ibarra Joan Lutz Phil Michael RJ Pautch Liz Payton Clancy Philipsborn	Ted Rose Steve Pomerance Ann Quenzer Mark Squillace Paul Wallick
Attendees City of Boulder:	Katie Knapp, Project Manager Joanna Bloom, Utilities Business Relations Manager Laurel Olsen, Engagement Specialist Brandon Coleman, Engineering Project Manager Candice Owen, Stormwater Quality Supervisor Joe Taddeucci, Director of Utilities		
Catalyst:	Barbara Lewis, Facilitator		
Attendees Tetra Tech:	Vicki Scharnhorst, Project Manager Amy Murdick, Project Technical Lead		
Date & Location:	April 2, 2021 Virtual Zoom Meeting		
Subject:	Comprehensive Flood & Stormwater Master Plan Community Working Group Meeting #3		

Materials Discussed

- I. Overview of Flood and Stormwater Management in Boulder
- II. Introduction to Technical Memo #2
- III. Community Outreach: Be Heard Boulder Input, Interview One-Pager

Overview of Flood and Stormwater Management

- I. The City provided an overview of the Utilities Department including functions, infrastructure, and funding sources
- II. CWG discussed prioritization of projects, maintenance, and life safety.
 - a) The City noted that previously projects were prioritized based largely upon the benefit-cost ratio. Moving forward issues like climate change, racial equity, and community interests and values will play a larger role in the project prioritization process.
 - b) The City is currently developing a plan and resources to address maintenance of stormwater and drainage facilities. Current staffing and equipment remain somewhat reactionary — and attend to problems that have already occurred, and support proactive maintenance at a lower level of service. City staff have been preparing a plan to determine resource needs that would allow for maintenance of the entire system, which will likely include different maintenance schedules for different elements of the system.
 - c) Within the City of Boulder, no lives were lost during the 2013 flood; however, two lives were lost along Twomile Canyon Creek just outside of the city limits. Additionally, US-36 overtopped in the

middle of the night which is particularly problematic as it is a main emergency route in to the City. As a result, the utility has since been planning a project along South Boulder Creek, which has been contentious.

- III. A link to a video was placed on the BHB site provide information on the Stormwater and Flood Management Utility and its programs, the current master planning effort, and to address some of the common questions that have been raised during previous CWG meetings. CWG members commented on the video. Common themes included the following:
 - a) The video contained a wealth of information
 - b) The link for the video was difficult to find on the BHB site
 - c) Questions were raised about education on non-point source pollution and how to report violations, and what type of maintenance the City is currently performing on drainageways.

Technical Memo Updates

- I. The first technical memo has been finalized and placed on the BHB site for reference.
- II. The second technical memo will cover policy review. This process will review existing policies and programs to determine what adjustments are required to best meet the objectives of the Stormwater and Flood Management Utility.
- III. The CWG will play a critical role in helping the project team identify key questions prior to launching into an in depth review and evaluation of the program and its policies. Community interviews will provide a better understanding on how the broader community is being impacted.

Be Heard Boulder Comments

- I. CWG members were put in breakout groups to discuss observations after reviewing public responses posted on the BHB site. These observations and themes were recorded on Jamboard following the discussions (*reference pages attached at end of document*). A summary of the noted themes include the following:
 - a) Stormwater Quality: Preventing non-point source pollution, support of green infrastructure
 - b) Stormwater Drainage: Maintenance, equity of infrastructure (retrofit)
 - c) Flood Management: Development in floodplains, knowing where risks are, maintenance, climate change in planning, protecting natural areas, preparedness & education, life safety, warning systems
 - d) Project Prioritization: Communication on how prioritization is done, public education on what utility does, sewer backups, inadequate funding, life safety, property protection, protect environment
 - e) Funding: Communication on revenue sources and how funding is used
- II. Feedback reinforced issues the City is currently working on. Examples of this include a major investment in upgrading the sanitary sewer system to prevent sewer backups and increasing asset management planning.
- III. The City noted that this master plan will inform the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) process, which is a 6-year plan that is reviewed every year. The CIP process is currently underway, and the CWG will be kept informed of the activities.

CWG Subgroups

- I. Outreach subgroup has asked for chronology of what the City's outreach tasks have been. They will review this information and provide recommendations at the next meeting.
- II. One-pager subgroup has developed a document that can be sent to individuals prior to interviews to provide information on flood protection and stormwater, what the CFS Master Plan is and why it is being updated, and the role of the CWG in this process. It is not a briefing sheet on funding or flood preparedness.

Community Interviews

- I. An overview of the interview process was provided. The CWG was asked to provide suggestions for people that might be interviewed and to provide a mix of people from the broader community.
- II. The interview guide was introduced along with the list (Google Doc) that will be used to recommend individuals for the interview process.

Next Steps

- I. CWG members to recommend at least three (3) individuals for interviews and then conduct interviews with at least two individuals as assigned by the City.
- II. The next CWG meeting will be scheduled for May 14th. Future meetings through the summer will take place on the second Friday of each month from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

Actions

- I. CWG members to provide comments on One-Pager by April 5th on the BHB site.
- II. CWG members to provide interview contacts by April 6th and conduct interviews by May 7th.
- III. Notes from interviews will be scanned and emailed to the City.

Stormwater Quality Themes

THEME:
Stormwater
Maintenance

THEME:
Prevent
stormwater
pollution and
runoff

THEME:
Encampment
impacts on
public health

THEME:
Maintenance/Clean-up

Related questions

Where do
sewage and
stormwater
cross paths?

Suggestions

Separate
storm and
sanitary sewer
system

Encampments and
water quality:
express a position in
the CFS master plan.

Address non-point
sources of pollution
such as restaurants
dumping cleaning
solutions on
pavement and auto
fluids.

Stormwater Drainage Themes		Related questions		Suggestions	
THEME: DRAINAGE CHANNEL MAINTENANCE		Desire to understand stormwater limitations and when it becomes flooding (eg. 5 year storms, etc.)	What infrastructure exists? What's already in place, how does it work and how is it funded?	Don't pave alleys	Cut curbs to keep water out of streets
THEME: EQUITY FOCUS CITYWIDE AND NOT JUST SPECIFIC AREAS	THEME: ADDRESS SEWER BACKUPS REALTED TO STORMS	Why can storm water and sewage backup into homes during flood events and why there are risks?		Convey water through streets/Don't convey water through streets	Develop a GIS map showing who has responsibility for maintenance around the city.
THEME: SUPPORT FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE	THEME: SUPPORT FOR GREENWAYS AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS	What has been done or will be done about sewer backups?			
THEME: ROAD ELEVATIONS/DESIGN IMPACTS FLOOD AND STORM RUNOFF	THEME: CITY IS RETROFITTING	What has been done about stormwater conveyance?			

Flood Management Page 1- Mapping Themes

THEME:
**How big is
my risk?**

THEME:
**Who is at
risk?**

Related questions

What are the
priorities of
the city in this
area?

Distrust of
mapping -
How accurate
is the existing
mapping?

Suggestions

Map
vulnerable
populations -
schools, elder
centers etc.

Show irrigation
ditch/drainageway
connections

Show
groundwater
mapping

Flood Management Page 2 - Regulation Themes

THEME: Don't fill floodplains to allow development

THEME: General feeling that there's nothing that can be done about private property impacts to stormwater drainage

THEME: Encampments along creeks

THEME: Use green infrastructure

THEME: Flood/ditch maintenance to address flooding

Related questions

What's in place already? What tools and resources do people have to address their own issues?

Why are flood protection measures not an absolute guarantee of individual flood protection?

Suggestions

Prevent new development in floodplain

Remove homes in floodplains

Support a better understanding of the concepts of risk and uncertainty.

Civil problems such as joyriders in vehicles seeing how high they would make waves

Flood Management Page 3 - Flood Mitigation Themes

Related questions

Suggestions

THEME:
Address
Climate
Change
Impacts

THEME: Keep
up with
maintenance
before taking
on more
projects

THEME:
Maintenance

We need a plan that
would actually
protect most areas,
and then figure out
how to pay for it, so
that it gets done in a
finite amount of
time.

Address climate
change in planning,
plan for projected
risk not current risk

**Protect
from
OSMP
runoff**

THEME: Sense
of urgency to
implement
flood
mitigation

THEME:
Prevent sewer
back-ups that
cause flooding

**Protect
natural area
ecosystems**

What is the plan
with CU property -
more ground should
not be covered in
cement and asphalt

THEME:
Protect life
and property
(including
items inside
homes)

THEME: Use
spongey
wetlands to
soak up flood
waters

More communication
with the community
re: risks,
preparedness, etc.
beyond the city's
website, esp for
residents who I
moved here po

Analysis of comments:
many people don't
understand that there
is inherent risk by
living in Boulder. They
think flooding should
be "taken care of". --
Education issue

THEME:
Convey flood
waters
through
existing
channels

THEME: Poor
street design
led to flooding

The CU South project,
as currently designed,
is a huge mistake --
holding ponds will
just lead to
overtopping and
another round of
flooding. And doing
fill in that area just
compounds the
problem.

**Residents don't
understand their
responsibilities with
respect to creek and
ditch maintenance
issues, like keeping
them clear of debris.**

Why is so much
attention/money
being spent on CU
South, at the
expense of other
neighborhoods?

Flood Management Page 4 - Emergency Preparedness

**THEME:
WHAT TO
DO IN A
FLOOD**

**THEME:
Preparation is
key**

**THEME:
Warn us
earlier**

**THEME: Had to
relocate from
my home due
to floodwater**

Master plan needs to clearly connect neighborhood sewer backups to stormwater/flood control and complete specific near term and long term steps to minimize this hazard, regardless of which City Department is responsible.

Life safety was a major theme for 10 of my people

Emergency Egress. Do we have proper signage in at risk locations?

Emergency warning system is inadequate under storm circumstances

A number of respondents reports feeling helpless during the 2013 flooding

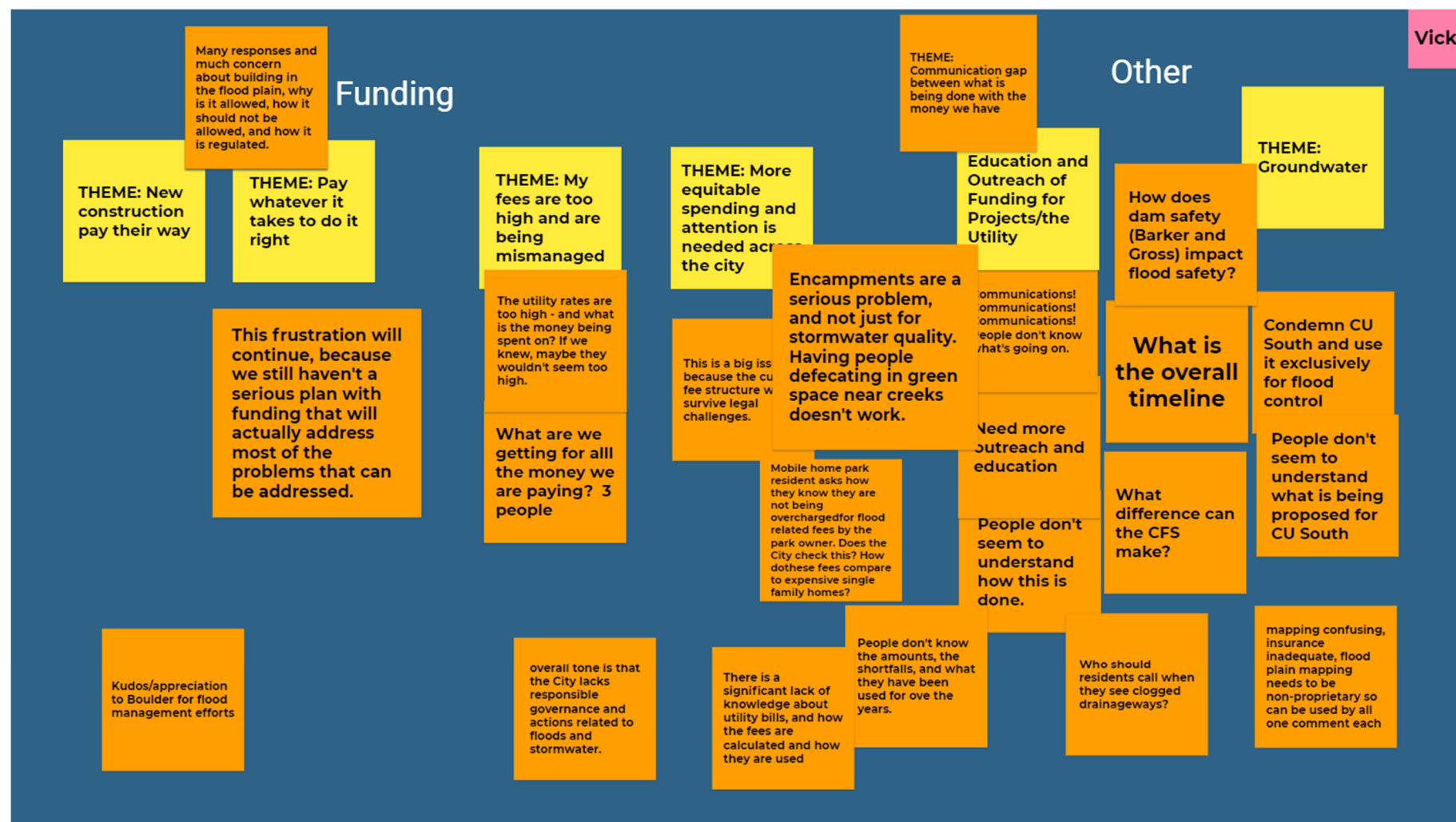
This frustration will continue, because we still haven't a serious plan with funding that will actually address most of the problems that can be addressed.

Does the City have disaster insurance that covers flood damage to eg. Wastewater trunk lines/treatmentplant (or wild fires) or even residential damage (premium paid on utility bill) ? If not why not? MasterPlan needs to state City will at least investigate public and municipal cost/benefits of parametric insurance as 10 states along Mississippi and many developing countries (Haiti) have. See article reviewing options for municipalities:
<https://www.politico.com/news/agenda/2020/07/14/climate-change-fema-insurance-341816>

Barbara



Vicki



Amy

Values



**Spanish
responses**

**English
responses**

**Responses
common in
Spanish &
English**

**CWG
review**

We need a whole lot
more responses. Are
the ones we've
gotten meaningful?

