

Meeting Minutes – Public Meeting

Project Name Lower Lena Gulch	Date of Meeting March 14, 2007	Location Wheat Ridge Recreation Center
Purpose of Meeting Public Meeting	Time 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	
	Participants (see sign-in sheet) 40 participants 1 council member 4 sponsor staff 3 sponsor consultants	e-mail or telephone (see sign-in sheet)

1. PURPOSE OF PROJECT

- a. Ken MacKenzie with Urban Drainage and Flood Control District introduced the purpose of the project.
 - i. The purpose of this project is to develop a master plan for the Lena Gulch drainageway that can be used by the City of Wheat Ridge as development occurs in the lower basin of Lena Gulch. He pointed out that no construction projects will occur as a result of this study.
 - ii. He also defined key terms that are used in planning projects for floodplain management and drainageway studies.
- b. Ken introduced the consulting team members that were present for the public meeting (George Cotton and Ralf Sieberer from GK Cotton Consulting, and Bob Walsh from Shapins Associates). He also had the City of Wheat Ridge staff members introduce themselves (Steve Nguyen and Tim Paranto from Public Works and Rus Muensy from the Police Department)

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. George Cotton introduced the project scope using a power point presentation
 1. Purpose of the study
 - a. Update Lena Gulch hydrology,
 - b. Find flooding, erosion and water quality problems,
 - c. Develop a new flood hazard area, and
 - d. Develop a Drainageway Master plan.
 2. The physical features of the basin were described and the current flood hazard area was shown using the current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map
 3. A walk-through of the basin was then conducted using aerial photographs of the Lena Gulch corridor. The presentation was opened to questions from the participants.

4. The presentation concluded with a review of the remaining project activities.
 - a. May 2007 – Develop a preliminary design(Phase B) from the alternative concepts (Phase A) for the drainageway.
 - b. June 2007 – Study will conclude
 - c. Fall 2007 – The new flood hazard information will be incorporated into new FEMA flood insurance maps.
5. Large format plots of channel improvements alternatives and of the new flood hazard area were exhibited.

Summary of Questions and Comments Made:

1. Will property be taken for this project? No, UDFCD does not forcibly take property for projects.
2. Flood History. Many of the participants had experienced high water from Maple Grove Reservoir as part of Consolidated Water Company operations. Some remembered flooding due to the failure of the previous inflatable crest gate (many residents were not aware that the gates had been upgraded to steel gates in 2004). Local flooding had been observed by several residents in Lewis Meadow Park and on Swadley Street. Residents recalled that before the new bridge on 32nd Avenue was constructed that there was frequent flooding on Vivian Street. Likewise, since construction of the drop structure at 29th Ave, flooding on Ward Street has ceased.
3. There were a number of questions about Maple Grove dam operations. It was explained that Consolidated Mutual Water Company moves water to meet the needs of its customers and to obey Colorado water law. This can result in large day to day changes.

Flood control for Maple Grove Reservoir is conducted under a joint agreement between the City of Wheat Ridge, Urban Drainage and Flood Control District and Consolidated Mutual Water Company. The dam has two gates on the dam, one 6.0 feet high and the other 10.0 feet high that detain flood water. When flood water exceeds a depth of 1.0 foot over the highest gate then the gates automatically lower to the dam crest. Flooding up to the 100-year flood is controlled by this operation but very severe flooding is not well controlled. This study is therefore looking for better ways of controlling very severe flooding. This may involve using the flood forecasting capability of UDFCD.

4. Owners that are north of Lena Gulch near Quail Street commented that they were impressed with the channel improvements that were made by the City and UDFCD to Lena Gulch.
5. One resident asked the City about the disposal of lawn clippings and other yard materials into the channel. The City responded that this may be a neighbor to neighbor issue. It was also pointed out that it was against the law to pollute a waterway.
6. Several residents noted the quality of the wildlife along Lena Gulch and wondered how the proposed improvements would affect wildlife habitat. The

response was that by eliminating the very steep, eroded sections of channel riparian habitat would improve and that a wider bottom width and flatter side slopes would provide more area for the movement of animals. The quality of the riparian vegetation would be improved by creating a stable area that is closer to the water table.

7. Residents along Lena Gulch between Tabor Ct and Simms St would prefer that the maintenance road be along the south side of the channel rather than along the north side as currently shown in the alternatives concept. This would prevent the use of the road as a trail and as a gathering space for teens.
 8. Many local residents that will be outside the new 100-year floodplain asked how soon that they will be able to quit purchasing flood insurance. A conservative estimate is about two years. This accounts for submittal of new information to FEMA this fall and the FEMA process of reissuing the maps.
 9. Several residents are users of the Brookside Ditch and they commented that it would be difficult to maintain the ditch if it were placed in a pipe. They would prefer that it remain as an open ditch. These residents noted that there are leaves and sticks and other debris that often clog the intake.
3. NEXT MEETING
- a. A second public meeting will be held once a draft of the preliminary design is completed.