

The information below was provided by Kathy Minter who attended the August 18, 2014 meeting regarding the South Boulder Creek Floodplain study.

Charles and I attended the WRAB (Water Resources Advisory Board) meeting on Monday, August 18. We arrived too late for the Open House, but the Floodplain Link below gives a flavor of the displayed maps and other materials. The Presentation Link contains the formal materials prepared for the hearing presentation. The process under consideration for South Boulder Creek Flood Mitigation is on-going and expected to be lengthy. If you wish to attend public meetings, there will be several! The next is tonight, Wednesday, August 20 with the OSBT (Open Space Board of Trustees).

Presentation Link: https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/FINAL_SBC_WRAB_Presentation_7_17_14_for_web-1-201407231628.pdf

Floodplain Link: https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/map_boulder_floodplains-1-201304171217.pdf

Crudely speaking, three phases were discussed in much detail. First, building a berm and catchment facility in south Boulder near/on CU South property to mitigate devastating flooding of Hwy 36. Second, a catchment facility at Flatirons Golf Course. Third, a catchment facility using the athletic fields at Manhattan Middle School. There was also considerable discussion of a pipeline option, which was part of the earlier 2010 study; I sense we haven't heard the last of it, especially if the political and financial complexities of Phase 1 prove prohibitive. Buy-in of interested parties (Flatirons and Boulder Public Schools) for parts 2 and 3 has been secured and the recommendation is to begin those projects as soon as possible since regardless of what happens with Phase 1 (HWY 36 facility), parts 2 and 3 will improve the overall situation. The timeline and buy-in for Phase 1 is complicated, unsettled, controversial, expensive and thus likely to involve a 5 - 10 year timeline if it's even feasible at all. For example, compliance with the Endangered Species Act is a huge issue, along with expense and negotiation with CU.

My take-away from Monday's meeting was that enormous time, talent and money is/was involved in trying to reach the best solution for a hideously complex problem by balancing conflicting interests and limited funding. The speakers were well-prepared. Many thoughtful questions and equally

thoughtful and knowledgeable answers were part of the evening, both from the Board and public speakers. It was a good experience to hear about some of the many concerns and possible mitigation strategies and to better understand how improving some aspects aggravates others. Underlying fiscal, political, and property ownership factors, everyone is concerned about maintaining property values and dealing with the fear and anxiety of future flooding events. 2013 wasn't even "the big one" and quite sobering to hear comments from people whose damage far exceeded anything experienced on Centennial Trail.

Yours,
Kathy