



INFORMATION PACKET MEMORANDUM

To: Members of City Council

From: Jane S. Brautigam, City Manager
Paul J. Fetherston, Deputy City Manager

Date: November 18, 2013

Subject: Information Item: Update on Flood Recovery and Disaster Assistance Status

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This memo is to update City Council on the flood recovery and disaster assistance status since the flood of September 11 through 15. Previous updates were included in the October 1, October 15, and October 29 City Council meeting agenda packets. A comprehensive review of the flood and lessons learned will be presented at December 3, 2013 council meeting.

City staff continues to work with state and federal agencies to restore city facilities and streets, and recently hired a consulting firm to advise city staff long-term related to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Grant process requirements. CDR Maguire will replace the city's initial 60-day consulting firm, Adjusters International, between November 18 and 20.

BACKGROUND

By September 17, most city departments transitioned from emergency response to disaster assistance efforts and have been working cross-functionally to restore municipal government operations, facilities and community infrastructure. A summary of the disaster assistance and recovery highlights from October 30 through November 18 are included in ATTACHMENT A. Accomplishments that were listed in previous council memos are available through the following links:

- https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/10.01.13_Final_Agenda_Packet_Electronic-1-201309271640.pdf
- <https://documents.bouldercolorado.gov/weblink8/0/doc/123876/Electronic.aspx>
- <https://documents.bouldercolorado.gov/weblink8/0/doc/123953/Electronic.aspx>

ATTACHMENT A –Flood Recovery Highlights

Flood Recovery Highlights

Across the city organization, the focus has been on continuing to assess the flood-related damage, coordinating with FEMA and drafting scopes of work related to recovery projects. Highlights of work conducted in November are listed below.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Update

The city recently went out to bid for consulting services related to the Public Assistance FEMA Grant process. The city had retained Adjusters International for an initial 60-day period to better understand the FEMA reimbursement process and take initial steps to submit preliminary assessments. This 60-day period enabled the city to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the next phase of the FEMA process, which is expected to last at least 9-12 months.

Seven firms responded to the RFP, and three firms were invited for an interview with the selection team. Of the three firms interviewed, CDR Maguire was selected. The changeover from Adjusters International to CDR Maguire will occur from November 18-20. CDR Maguire will initially focus on working with FEMA to finalize Category A & B Project Worksheets, along with continuing site visits and project worksheets related to higher priority permanent work.

CDR Maguire's scope of work includes:

Grant Management Tasks:

- Provide general grant management advice
- Assist in the development of a comprehensive recovery strategy
- Provide advice to disaster recovery team as appropriate
- Prepare draft correspondence to State and FEMA as necessary
- Assist in the development of mitigation proposals under Sections 404 and 406 of the Stafford Act
- Help coordinate Requests for Time Extensions

Eligibility Tasks:

- Review eligibility issues, and work with the city to develop justifications for presentation to FEMA and the State
- Attend meetings with the city, State and FEMA to negotiate individual Project Worksheets as needed
- Assist city departments with compiling and summarizing Categories A-G costs for presentation to FEMA and the State
- Assist the city to prepare Project Worksheets for small and large projects based upon information provided by the departments
- Provide oversight to departments having difficulty with claims
- Assist the city in determining if any eligible damages have not been quantified and presented to inspectors/Project Officers
- Work with city to resolve disputes that may arise
- Address issues related to inter-agency funding conflicts
- If city disagrees with FEMA determinations, assist with appeals

- When city has completed all projects and drawn down reimbursement for all eligible costs, assist with finalizing preparations for State/FEMA final inspections and audits, and participate in exit conferences with State/FEMA
- Assist city in developing approach to filing and tracking costs
- Review contracts and purchasing documentation
- Review documentation prepared to date by departments
- Assist in capturing and summarizing eligible costs for selected departments

Engagement Management Tasks:

- Prepare program management plan
- Prepare Flash Reports
- Attend status meetings
- Prepare invoices and supporting documentation

OPEN SPACE AND MOUNTAIN PARKS DEPARTMENT

Visitor Access

Trailheads

As of November 14, 32 of 35 (91%) of OSMP trailheads are open.

In late October, the city met and exceeded its goal to restore 80 percent (=28) of OSMP trailheads by November 1, 2013. Since the previous update, two additional trailheads (Four Mile Creek and Fourth of July) have been opened, bringing the total to 32 or 91%.

Under the original objective, a trailhead counted as “restored” if it either provided visitor access or an area available for the staging of reconstruction materials and equipment. Currently, all but three trailheads are open to the public. South Mesa and Chapman Drive remain closed. With the opening of Flagstaff Road to the general public, the OSMP trailheads on Flagstaff Mountain will once again see vehicular use.

Trail Access

As of November 14, 114 miles or 77 percent of OSMP managed trails are open to public access.

In the October 29 council update, trail access objectives were adjusted upward after meeting the initial objectives. A long-range trail recovery plan was presented with incremental goals for November 1, 2013, December 31, 2013 and left about 20 percent of the trail system to restoration “sometime after the beginning of 2014”. The goal for November 1 was exceeded by eight miles. OSMP is on the way to exceed the objective of opening 80 percent of the trails by year’s end, already having reached the 80 percent objective on November 16. (See table below.)

	Percent of Trail Miles	Miles
Open as of Previous Update (10/22)	61%	91.4
Long Term Trail Recovery Plan		
Date of Opening	Proposed	Actual
November 1st	8%	13%
December 31st	12%	6%*
After 2013	18%	--
TOTAL		80%*

* = as of November 16, 2013

Community Outreach

Volunteer Programming

As of November 14:

- over 600 volunteers
- spent over 3,000 hours
- working on 29 flood-related OSMP projects

Since September 23, the staff objective to provide at least four volunteer flood restoration projects weekly was met. The onset of winter weather affects the availability of volunteers for many reasons. Inclement weather may also reduce the number of projects. Consequently, the volunteer program objectives have been revised to the following:

As weather and site conditions allow, OSMP will offer ten volunteer projects in November and December and four projects monthly in the first quarter of 2014.

A 10-person AmeriCorps crew (considered volunteers because the crew's labor comes at no direct cost to the city) will be deployed on OSMP lands to assist with flood recovery from November 12 through December 19.

A trail repair project is scheduled for Junior Ranger alumni, their families and friends on Saturday, November 16 at the South Trailhead of the Mesa Trail.

The following volunteer projects were completed on Open Space and Mountain Parks' lands since the previous City Council update:

1. **Wednesday, October 23 –31** Nature Conservancy volunteers helped to dig out the Silver Lake Ditch.

2. **Saturday, October 26** – Wildlands Restoration Volunteers (WRV) cleared debris from fence lines and removed destroyed fences.
3. **Saturday, October 26** –73 volunteers spread crusher fine materials on the trail, trimmed back bushes and helped to build some rock walls at the South Boulder Creek Trail near the Bobolink Trailhead.
4. **Saturday, October 26** – As part of an Eagle Scout project, Boy Scouts fixed flood damage to the ADA trails leading to Panorama Point and the Halfway House. Twenty-one people attended.
5. **Friday, November 1** - Nineteen WRV volunteers repaired 175 linear feet of trail damage on the Mesa Connector trail and filled in 60 feet of eroded trail on South Boulder Creek West. The group moved about 15-20 tons of material.
6. **Saturday, November 2** – Ten CU students volunteered to repair fences and clear them of debris on the Van Vleet property as a part of a “Give a Day Project.”
7. **Saturday, November 2** – Community Service workers removed several hundred feet of fencing wire and cleaned up flood debris—mainly washed out sand and rock on city open space along Boulder Creek downstream of Foothills Highway.
8. **Wednesday, November 6** –Eighteen volunteers worked to remove debris and repair fences on the Van Vleet South property near South Boulder Creek.
9. **Friday, November 8** - Eleven members of the public and a few members of the Boulder Trail Runners helped with repairs to the South Mesa Connector.
10. **Thursday, November 14** – Ten person AmeriCorps project on the Van Vleet open sand Rolling Rock open space properties repairing and removing debris from fences.

Ecological Systems

Ecological restoration and enhancement projects continue forward to meet the goal of developing and prioritizing at least three distinct post-flood ecological management projects.

Ecological Systems & Resource Operations

The staff objective of identifying at least two sources of funding for projects which are unlikely to be reimbursed by FEMA has been met. There has been a lack of clarity about the degree to which FEMA is likely to provide assistance to municipalities for repairs to water delivery infrastructure (ditches, headgates, etc.) used primarily for agricultural purposes, and it is clear that FEMA will not provide individual assistance to farmers and ranchers who experienced losses to their operations from the flood. OSMP staff has worked with ditch companies to direct them to grants made available from the Northern Water Conservancy. At least two ditches have been successful in securing funding (\$20K and \$25K) during the first round of grants. Open Space and Mountain Parks has applied for second round funding to assist with the repairs of ditches in the Coal Creek drainage badly damaged by the flood.

In addition, the same two ditch companies, both severely affected by the flood and both with significant OSMP ownership have applied for no/low interest loans from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. These loans, interest free if paid back within three years, will provide the means for ditch companies with small cash reserves to take action, and provide a way for expenses to be recouped from shareholders over a reasonable period of time.

COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNCTIONS (encompasses Human Services, Housing and Community Planning efforts)

The city received a preliminary evaluation of flood data from HUD that shows:

- Of more than 23,000 FEMA registrants for Individual Assistance in the State of Colorado, about half are in Boulder County and more than 60 percent of FEMA inspected housing damage are located within the City of Boulder. This means that the City of Boulder accounts for more than one third of all FEMA inspected housing damage in the State of Colorado.
- However, the vast majority of flooding in and around the city was actually minor compared to the northeastern portion of Boulder County. Only 4 percent of the flooded homes in and around the city had more than four feet of flooding either on the first floor or in the basement. The incidence of major or severe damage in the city limits is also quite low compared to other places in Colorado.
- The high volume of damaged homes translated into heavy concentrations of damage. The neighborhoods with concentrated damage in and around Boulder generally exhibit much higher median household incomes and higher per capita incomes than the state average and low rates of people in poverty. The neighborhoods with concentrated damage in the City of Boulder have higher rates of renters and people in poverty than the state average, but this is likely due to the high college student population.

Neighborhood open houses:

- To date, the city hosted seven flood open houses (six general and one open space focused); 675 people signed in for these meetings. One additional open house is scheduled for South Boulder Creek on November 21 from 5-6:30 p.m. at Manhattan Middle School. Key input from the open houses included:
 - Feedback on flood maps to confirm or refine the work done by staff and consultants to document where flooding occurred. Maps will soon be available and posted to the website.
 - Support from community members for flood mitigation infrastructure improvements and accelerated timing for improvements.
 - Questions about how neighborhoods and property owners can work together (with the city in some cases) to clean up and make improvements to prevent future flooding.
 - Questions about how to protect personal property from future flooding.
 - Questions about when open space trails would be open and how volunteers can participate in accelerating repairs and openings.
 - Desire to see future follow-up meetings with information about proactive planning.

A number of people had general questions related to Energy Smart and building improvements but they did not leave written comments.

Annexation:

The number of county residents in proximity to the city limits contacting the city interested in connecting to city water and/or sewer due to unpotable water and/or damaged septic systems continues to grow. A staff team is looking at potential annexation packages/out-of-city utility extensions for different areas.