



BOXELDER STORMWATER AUTHORITY

Newsletter

boxelderauthority.org

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Who are we? Three local governments, Fort Collins, Larimer County, and the Town of Wellington have collaborated to form *the Boxelder Stormwater Authority. The Authority is a unit of local government based in Wellington., Colorado.*

What do we do? The Authority was formed to finance and construct three improvements which act as a system to lessen possible damages from flooding along a 20 mile reach of Boxelder Creek and its tributaries.

Eastside Floodwater Storage Facility

The Eastside Storage Project is one of two remaining projects authorized for the Boxelder Stormwater Authority to construct. Its purpose is to temporarily store floodwater so that the peak rate of flow downstream is reduced.

Sizing of Eastside Storage The 2006 Regional Boxelder Master Plan contemplated two possible sizes for the Eastside Storage Project, depending on whether the Town of Timnath participates. Participation in Authority improvements by the Town of Timnath would require a greater reduction in peak flood flows crossing Prospect Street on the east side of Interstate Highway 25.

Coal Creek Mapping Changes

The Coal Creek Flood Hazard Mitigation Project will be completed in spring, 2012. At that time, the Authority will ask its engineers to prepare and send a request to FEMA for a Letter of Map Revision, known as a LOMR. The LOMR will change the official FEMA flood maps for Coal Creek. Some of the homes that are currently in the 100-year floodplain will be removed once the revised floodplain maps become effective. Homes that are not removed from the floodplain will be investigated to see if they qualify for a letter of map amendment (LOMA) so that they do not have to buy flood insurance.

Siting A siting study conducted by Ayres Engineers concluded that no site exists on Indian Creek upstream of its confluence with Boxelder Creek that could provide sufficient storage by themselves, to effectively mitigate flood flows as envisioned by the Master Plan, whether or not Timnath participates. The study recommended construction of storage on the north side of County Road 56 at a site being used by the Agricultural Research Development and Education Center (ARDEC).

ARDEC Site The Siting Study identified a property on the north side of County Road 56 which now houses the ARDEC for Colorado State University. An investigation showed that the site would accommodate a floodwater detention facility. After review of grading plans for the site, ARDEC personnel stated that use of the site for floodwater storage would somewhat interfere with current use of the site for grazing by the University. They asked that the Authority exhaust other possible sites before moving forward with plans for use of the

ARDEC site. This would be needed to convince the governing body of the University that use of the ARDEC site was necessary. Also, the volume of storage which could be constructed at the ARDEC site did not quite meet the needs of the Town of Timnath.

Thornton Site Given that participation by the Town of Timnath was more likely, Ayres was directed to look at an adjacent site owned by the City of Thornton, Colorado. An investigation showed that the Thornton site could be graded to store sufficient volume to meet the needs of the town of Timnath. The Authority Manager then contacted officials from the City of Thornton and discussed possible purchase of rights to land on the north side of County Road 54 for a stormwater storage facility. Personnel from the City of Thornton responded that they are not interested in selling neither land nor rights to land at this location. They stated that at great expense, Thornton obtained a decree from the Water Court allowing them to make use of certain water rights. They stated that use of the land for stormwater storage might endanger the conditions of that decree, which require restoration of the land to native grass. They also stated that they wish to retain ownership of the land, as it may be needed as part of a future water project that the City constructs.

Gray Lakes Site After determining that the Thornton site was not available, the Authority has begun to research a third site, on the north side of County Road 50, known as the Gray Lakes site. This site is currently being used for irrigation storage. This site was not previously selected for study because its southerly location would not provide flood hazard mitigation in areas upstream of County Road 50. As of this writing, it is not known whether the Gray Lakes site would accommodate sufficient storage to meet the needs of the Town of Timnath. In the event sufficient storage is not available, Gray Lakes may be combined with storage at the ARDEC site.