



BOXELDER STORMWATER AUTHORITY

Newsletter

boxelderauthority.org

P.O. Box 1091 Wellington, CO 80549

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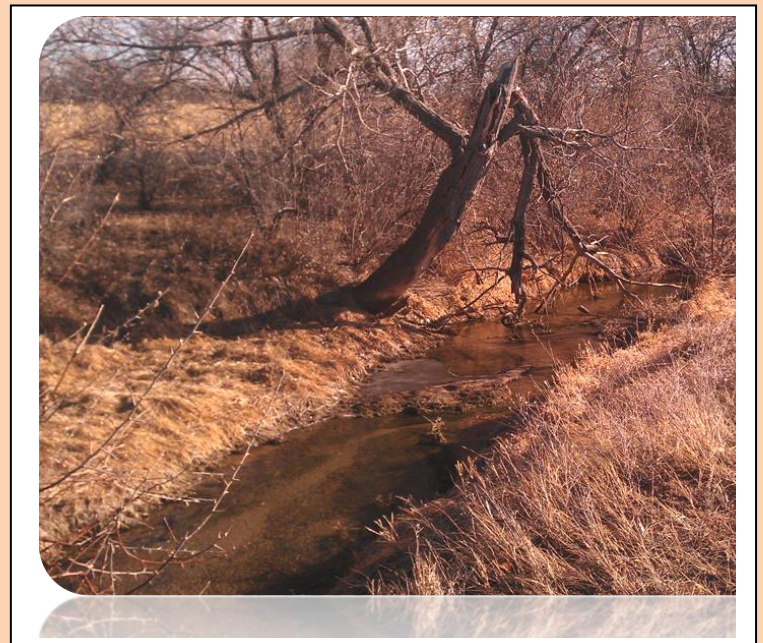
970-443-9505

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 will act as a system to lessen possible damages from flooding along a 20 mile reach of Boxelder Creek and its tributaries. One of the improvements has been essentially completed.

Environmental Stewardship and Project Configuration

The Intergovernmental Agreement which formed the Authority requires that the BBRSA take into account the potential for environmental, recreational and wildlife enhancements in its projects. The Gray Lakes site which is currently being investigated for the East Side Floodwater Detention Facility would offer great potential for environmental and wildlife enhancements. Use of the site would involve regrading the right , or west overbank of Boxelder Creek along an approximate 4,500 foot reach of the Creek between County Roads 50 and 52. The creek channel would remain undisturbed as shown in the picture at upper right. One idea is to seek grant money for establishment of waterfowl habitat in regraded parts of the Creek overbank. This might consist of a series of shallow ponds for habitat and feeding. Sites for nesting might also be established in higher areas.



Boxelder Basin Regional Stormwater Authority Fees

The agreement that formed the Boxelder Stormwater Authority (the IGA) provides for two types of stormwater fees to be assessed to properties within the Service Area of the Authority. Service fees are assessed periodically on properties which have impervious surfaces. System development fees are one time fees which are assessed to newly constructed buildings at the time of their construction.

Both types of fees are based generally on impervious area on a property. Impervious areas consist of surfaces such

as rooftops, asphalt and concrete driveways which do not allow stormwater to infiltrate into the ground. The reason that the fees are based on impervious surfaces is that impervious surfaces generally cause an increase in the amount of runoff from a property.

The amount of the fees is determined by a “base rate” which is multiplied by the number of square feet on a given property to determine its fee. The IGA provides that the base rate for the fees is to be set by the Authority Board of Directors within an allowable range set by the IGA. The base rate may not be less than \$.03 nor more than \$.04 per square foot of impervious surface. The Authority Board of Directors set the current base rate at \$.03 per square foot in December 2008.

The IGA provides that each of the three member entities or local governments can elect to assess and collect stormwater fees for parts of the Service Area within their jurisdiction. The amount apportioned to various properties may be assessed as deemed appropriate by the local government, but the amount forwarded to the Authority must be the amount which would have been collected if the Authority had made the assessment and collection based on its fee resolution. Each of the three jurisdictions elected to assess and collect fees independently of the Authority.

Because of the difficulty in determining the exact amount of impervious surface for single family residences, the practice has been to separate single family residences into “groups” based on lot size. Both the Town of Wellington and the City of Fort Collins use a single tier. Because of the wide range of lot sizes, representing different amounts of impervious surface, Larimer County elected to use several tiers, or groupings for assessing single family residences.

Authority Management

At the conclusion of their November 29 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Authority voted to end its existing management contract with Local Government Solutions, LLC on February 29, 2012 and accept proposals for management of the Authority after that date. A Request for Proposals (RFP) has been prepared. The RFP may be examined by any interested person by visiting the Authority website, boxelderauthority.org. Questions may be directed to Larry Lorentzen at 568-3381.