



BOXELDER STORMWATER AUTHORITY

Newsletter

boxelderauthority.org

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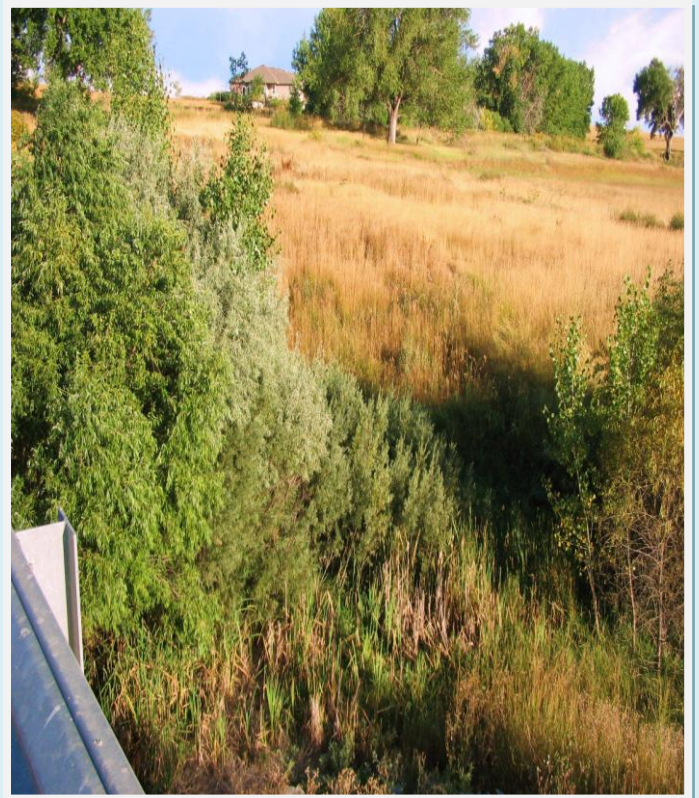
Who are we? Three local governments, Fort Collins, Larimer County, and the Town of Wellington have collaborated to form *the Boxelder Stormwater Authority. The Authority is a unit of local government based in Wellington., Colorado.*

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

Planning Stormwater Facilities

Planning stormwater facilities to achieve the optimum benefit at the least cost is a complex mix of engineering, hydrologic, economic and legal issues. A stormwater storage facility can only be constructed where the terrain will allow. Different locations differ in cost of construction and hydrologic effect – for example, relocating storage downstream may increase the volume required to achieve a given reduction in downstream flows. Economic issues arise regarding the benefit in terms of damage reduction that would accrue from the cost required to build a particular configuration of improvements. Legal issues dictate whether a given property can be acquired. Engineering issues may arise if the soils cannot be used for dam construction.

Engineering – even preliminary engineering - of stormwater facilities is expensive because it is a specialized field that requires very technical analyses of hydraulic and hydrological factors. As a result, conceptual planning is a very important part of the process, since it is done without a large expenditure of funds. Ideally, conceptual planning continues throughout the design process, as information becomes available about alternatives.



Proposed IGA Amendment

Floodwater Storage Siting

The purpose of floodwater storage is to hold the floodwater and then release it slowly over a period of about three days. This lessens the peak rate of flow so to avoid damages downstream. To be effective, a site for floodwater storage on Boxelder Creek must store between about 1,600 acre feet and 3,000 acre feet, depending on where the site is located, and what downstream peak flood flow rate is acceptable.

Financial participation by the Town of Timnath would require less residual flow, and thus a greater amount of storage. The Town's objective is to decrease the peak rate of flood flow from Boxelder Creek sufficiently so that it does not exceed the rate that is otherwise needed for local runoff at the intersection of County Roads 5 and 40.

The Authority is currently investigating a possible floodwater storage site between County Roads 50 and 52, east of Interstate Highway 25. The site now contains the Gray Lakes Reservoirs which are used for irrigation water supply. Boxelder Creek at that site is deep enough to afford a high volume of storage upstream of an embankment which would be constructed along the north side of County Road 50. It is not known at this time whether sufficient storage can be constructed at the Gray Lakes site to meet the needs of Timnath.

Those who follow Authority activities will recall that the Authority Board of Directors recommended amending the Intergovernmental Agreement which formed the Authority. The proposal was to revise the Authority Service Area to include all areas not controlled by downstream reservoirs.

What has happened with this proposal?

The three governments have not yet adopted an amendment to the IGA. In midsummer 2011, Larimer County suggested that the IGA amendment contain a sunset provision for the Authority. Managers of the three entities asked the Authority to propose a timeline for completion of the remaining improvements. The Authority Board then prepared financial scenarios for completion of the remaining projects which showed that issuing debt may not be more expensive, and it would eliminate a number of uncertainties. After reviewing the report, the Board of Directors of the Authority voted to recommend to the three member governments that any "sunset" provision placed in the Intergovernmental Agreement governing the Authority be at least 25 years from present to allow the Authority to finish the projects. The Board stated a preference to bond the improvements so that the projects could be completed in a timely manner. This recommendation was passed on to the three governments in November, 2011.

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. At their meeting of December 15, 2011, they discussed the process to accept proposals for management services. They then scheduled a work session for January 5, 2012 at

2:30 P.M. in the Leeper Center 3800 Wilson Avenue in Wellington to consider a request for proposal for a management consultant, and the requirements for the position.