

Lower Lefthand – Meeting held Dec. 18, 2013, approximately 120-140 attendees

Key Issues Discussed

- **Water Quality** – concerns about contamination
- **Debris** – Debris is significant and widespread in the area
- **Banks & Alignment** – there are significant channel changes; spring runoff is a major concern
- **Coordination & Communications** – Need more and improved information from the county and agencies

Lefthand Canyon – West of Crestview Estates

Issues	Discussion Summary
Actions Taken or Planned	Residents have accomplished rebuilding activities, fixing damaged houses and are collecting rocks and debris.
Septic & Water Quality	Residents are concerned about potential contamination of the soil and water. By not knowing what is in the soil, water, or what the wind stirs up, residents feel there are unknown public health concerns. When contamination testing is done, is E. coli considered?
Agency Coordination & Information	Residents would like to know if the EPA has assessed Lefthand Canyon yet for contaminants.
Upstream/Downstream Impacts	The residents stated that if spring runoff is not contained Lefthand Canyon will experience similar damage as it did in September 2013. In order to mitigate for the spring runoff residents believe it is necessary to remove debris from the creek.

Crestview Estates and Streamcrest

Issues	Discussion Summary
Perceived imminent dangers/concerns:	High risk areas include septic systems and some structures that are facing undercutting problems from the creek.
Access & Roads:	<p>Residents believe a culvert at Hwy 36 exacerbated the flood damage, because it was too small to handle the water flow and debris. The culvert dammed up during the flood and the backed up water and debris expanded throughout the neighborhood. The culvert was replaced to its pre-flood dimensions. Residents believe the culvert needs to be bigger, potentially a block culvert.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The flood destroyed Middlefork Road and Streamcrest Drive. • Temporary roads and utilities were established, but the neighborhood requires a permanent road fix. Any location of a permanent road is dependent upon the location of the stream.

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Debris	<p>Debris and silt are in the creek. There is concern for debris to be added to the creek due to trees with roots eroded that have the potential to fall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Along Middle Fork Road the creek was diverted by trees and flowed under the road. During the flood the creek flowed in multiple channels (i.e., up to four channels in some areas). The water table rose and continues to be 9 to 12 feet higher than its normal level. The neighborhood is also experiencing stagnant water. In the upper section of the neighborhood the creek re-routed.• In the southeastern section the creek is higher with debris built up toward Hwy 36 off Streamcrest Drive.
Agency Coordination & Information	<p>As the neighborhood seeks to rebuild the neighborhood (i.e., and move the creek to the original channel), funding has become a barrier to recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding has come from FEMA, but the group does not have sufficient funding necessary for rebuilding, particularly to realign the creek. The residents do have tentative support from NRCS to provide funding if permits are issued.• Recovery of the neighborhood involves a sequential challenge. In order for funds to be allocated, often a permit is needed. Conversely, permits require funding. The residents seek assistance to understand and meet the sequential needs in rebuilding.
Banks & Alignment	<p>Creek moved vertically and widened. Residents believe the solution is to return the creek to its original alignment. The neighborhood continues to experience challenges from erosion, especially along Streamcrest Drive. Erosion has deteriorated roots of trees and banks of the creek channel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crestview/Streamcrest residents have been working actively with NRCS, Army Corps of Engineers, and Flatiron Engineering to re-route the creek to its pre-flood location.• In addition to moving the creek, residents want the stream shored down (e.g., deepened) as opposed to banks being built up. Residents are concerned that they will not be able to acquire a Floodplain Development Permit to start this project.
Upstream/Downstream Impacts	<p>Residents stated that sump pumps are currently working continuously. This effort has stabilized the water coming in to basements and crawlspaces. However, the water table remains approximately six feet higher than normal, which makes residents concerned about spring runoff. The roads have puddles, which is atypical at this time of the year. This is very apparent on Streamcrest Drive. Residents believe that moving the creek to its original channel will lower the water table and funnel water, reducing the erosion problem</p>

Community Outreach Kickoff Summaries

Oriole Estates (63rd to 67th)

Issues	Discussion Summary
Banks & Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new Lefthand Bridge put homes in the flood plain. • The creek is in the same place as before the flood. • An abandoned ditch on Niwot Road flowed heavily for four days. • The water table was 16 inches below grade. • North Cardinal Lane was flooded. • Haystack Golf Course was flooded.
Debris	<p>A permit was provided to dredge debris to open the main creek channel. Most of the houses along Robin Drive have been cleared of debris and have also moved a good deal of dirt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A whole bridge (not the new one) washed downstream and caused blockage below 63rd and Bluebird. • There is still a lot of debris in the neighborhood. • Debris piled up on the new bridge before the flood, beginning sometime after spring runoff.
Health & Safety	Mosquitoes were heavy in areas of stagnant flood water.
Roads & Access	Residents feel that what's been done with the roads is unacceptable.
63rd to the Baseball Field:	<p>Residents are discouraged that Boulder County doesn't know why the water flooded in the direction that it did. Major damming happened somewhere.</p> <p>The county spent lots of time and money on new Lefthand Bridge that put homes in jeopardy.</p> <p>Boulder County's credibility is low within the neighborhood.</p>
Landis & Robin Drive:	<p>Clumps of trees caught debris which caused a dam. Flood water from the trees went towards Robin Drive going southeast the width of about three houses. Residents are not sure if the debris around the trees is still there.</p> <p>Residents believed that normal spring floods could have caused the same problems.</p>
North 63rd, South of Waxwing Court	<p>Boulder County put in a big pipe across 63rd street. This caused overflowing and affected ground water. The pipe had no ditch to divert water.</p> <p>Water flowed east on Niwot to Oriole Lane.</p>
East Niwot Road:	<p>A resident blocked the ditch on East Niwot just east of Oriole Lane to avoid flooding on his property. Other residents who were concerned that it would cause flooding for other neighbors removed the block.</p> <p>Some residents were concerned that their sump pump drainage would affect their neighbors.</p>
Redwing Place	<p>There should be plenty of data available to guide plans to move or restore creek flow. Need to take historic creek path into account. Need to consider where the streams have been. Historically, it looks like Lefthand stream has moved north.</p>

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Residents have noticed old creek beds under the soil on their properties south of the current flow.

East of 67th Street

Issue	Discussion Summary
Debris	Residents stated that mitigating the risk of floods from spring runoff is their highest priority. In order to accomplish this, debris that is currently damming the stream needs to be removed. Debris this segment is experiencing includes trees, sand, and sediment.

East of the Foothills to 55th Street

Issues	Discussion Summary
Flooding	<p>The water table is very high all around this area. There is lots of water pooling on the north side of the creek; this has been an ongoing problem. A lot of the creek banks have been breached.</p> <p>Spring runoff is a concern because there is already way too much water in the system in this area causing regular flooding over-topping creek banks already. Many culverts in this area are plugged or semi-plugged which causes concern of potential impacts during spring runoff.</p>
Debris	There is a lot of river silt all over this area. People are very concerned about how to get it off their properties. Roughly 80% of the meeting attendees are experiencing debris issues. The debris in this area is mostly huge trees, rocks and other natural materials.
Septic & Wells	Some property owners have wells out and need to drill another one but don't know what's allowed or involved in the process. They understand it's a state issue but would like the county to assist with this or provide resource information about this.
Agency Coordination & Information	<p>There is concern about the long time period required for flood plain mapping. There are implications for flood insurance, elevation certification and rebuilding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People wanted to know about temporary emergency stabilization to stabilize stream banks. They are concerned about the fact that they won't know where the creeks will be ultimately routed, in terms of investing money in emergency rebuilding and stabilization.• It has been slow getting permits to do work on own properties. In some cases it has been over a month wait and no response. <p>Some folks in this area (especially the Oxford Road area) are hesitant about providing information specific to their property because it becomes public information and they don't want "all kinds of people starting to knock on their</p>

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doors.” They say they value their privacy, which is why they live out there. Some are choosing not to fill out the forms because of this.

Brigadoon Glen

Issues	Discussion Summary
Flooding	<p>Strath Road Bridge dams each time there’s rain causing flooding. There’s a central pier that prevents stuff from getting through. Debris is getting caught and damming, causing flooding. It is a big problem. It is not a 100 year bridge. During the floods this backed up a tremendous amount of water causing flooding to the surrounding area.</p> <p>Lefthand Ditch had higher flows and caused water levels to change due to their releases. The water table raised about 4 feet above the original point because of this.</p> <p>On the east side, right outside the golf course, the creek dropped about 5 feet down to the shale and old water lines. It is still about 4-5 feet lower than usual. In other areas the creek is 2 feet lower than usual.</p> <p>Residents concluded that this area was severely impacted by two man-made structures, the bridge and the canal/ditch. These structures caused a lot of flooding that put many properties into the flood plain.</p>
Debris	<p>Debris is still prevalent throughout the area. It is made up of natural and man-made objects. Lots of woody debris washed into the neighborhood from the golf course.</p> <p>Residents are concerned that spring runoff is going to pick up much of the scattered debris and run it into the bridge causing additional problems.</p>
Health & Safety	<p>Bank erosion has exposed mud and stagnant water which has created a fertile breeding ground for mosquitos. Residents expressed concern about a big mosquito problem that could happen next summer if nothing is done.</p>
Roads & Access	<p>A new bridge is needed. There has been lots of damage to culverts around the bridge area. The culvert on Strath Road is filled with mud and sand.</p>
Banks & Alignment	<p>Residents believe some berms are needed to protect properties from the flooding caused by the bridge. Rip-Rap banks didn’t fare as well during this flood as some of the landscaped/bermed areas did.</p> <p>Much of the land near the creek has been eroded.</p>
Agency Coordination & Information	<p>Right of Entry: Residents are hesitant to sign the right of entry forms granting access to their properties because of the wording in the language.</p> <p>Boulder County should send an information card or comment form to all property owners to obtain data from those that do not want to participate or interact with the county. Perhaps those residents will mail in their comments. It is believed that many do not want to participate because of distrust over the</p>

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right of entry forms and also because of lingering animosity over the newly established Local Improvement District for subdivision paving.

Boulder County should facilitate the creation of a “neighbors helping neighbors” forum or group for community members to network with each other and share resources.