

Community Outreach Kickoff Summaries

South St. Vrain – Meeting held Dec. 16, 2013, approximately 100+ attendees

Key Issues Discussed

- **Property Access** – There is deep sand on access roads
- **Debris** – There is culvert blockage and massive debris piles of varied content
- **Banks & Alignment** – There are significant areas of damage
- **Septic & Wells** – There are areas of damage

West of Lyons

Issue	Discussion Summary
Access & Roads	<p>Residents are able to access their properties but there is a lot of sand everywhere. They are crossing over a foot of sand to reach their homes.</p> <p>Culverts along South St. Vrain Road and Old South St. Vrain Road are either completely plugged or have been completely destroyed.</p>
Debris	<p>Culverts need to be cleared out before spring runoff.</p> <p>The creek has deposited “massive” piles of debris throughout the area. The piles are too large for residents to move themselves. Many residents have been in touch with contractors to do this yet have not been able to find any service providers that are capable or willing to remove the debris.</p> <p>Debris piles are mostly made up of trees, rocks of all sizes, sand, pipes, septic tanks, propane tanks, tires, concrete and other materials. The size of some debris piles is up to 2,000 cubic yards.</p> <p>Sand piles have been pushed up around homes. At times, these piles are 20 feet high. Residents stated that some homes are completely surrounded by these piles and when the winds blow they are pelting homes with the sand from these numerous piles.</p> <p>There has been a lot of earth moving. Homes have been surrounded by sand and mud. Some residents are continuously digging up to a foot down through the sand and mud to get to their doors in order to enter their homes.</p> <p>There are many downed trees. There is a lot of downed tree mitigation needed. CDOT has been clearing woody debris and forming piles of it along State Hwy 7 near Hall Ranch.</p>
Septic & Water Quality	<p>Most residents’ wells have been destroyed on the south side of the creek.</p> <p>Some irrigation wells are dried out while some are still buried under sand.</p> <p>Many well water users cited a high level of water contamination; one resident had his water tested and has 75% more iron contaminating his drinking water.</p>
Agency Coordination & Communications	<p>The City of Longmont is diverting water out of this area for its City’s public use. There has been damage to properties that borders boundaries owned by</p>

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Longmont, Boulder County Open Space, Ditch Companies and Private Property owners. There needs to be a coordinated effort regarding the mitigation measures that take place because people are not sure who to turn to in order make repairs prior to spring runoff.

Property owners along old South St. Vrain Road expressed a strong interest in conducting a walk through with Boulder County to participate in a joint dialogue about the impacts so that Boulder County staff can thoroughly understand the level of damage because it is all very different throughout the area.

Residents need information about what standards they will need to rebuild to - 10, 50, 100 or 500 year flood plain?

Residents need more information about what kind of actions will be taken by the county to address immediate issues

Banks & Alignment

The creek carved out huge sections of land and formed new waterways; there are new diversions throughout with property boundaries. The creek flooded this entire area and spread out across the floor of the valley.

The creek overtopped the roads during the flooding and in some areas water began running along ditches on the opposite side of the road from the creek and burrowing out the ground on the cliff sides to the point it would completely wash it out.

Creek flows have been impeded by debris; this has caused additional and on-going flooding.

Creek elevations have changed - 7 to 15 feet lower in areas than what it used to be and it is 8 to 10 feet higher in other places than what it used to be.

The old creek channels have dried up in some places where water used to flow. Some previous channels/ditches are dried up and their water has been diverted so it doesn't line up with previous dams. The water that used to flow in these ditches is going elsewhere.

Upstream/Downstream Impacts

New drainage channels have been created. Water is flowing down from Lyons Park Estate and has been diverted from the Red Gulch drainage to a new channel.

Any time there is new precipitation water goes everywhere. As much as 2 inches of rain will cause water to flood areas that previously didn't flood such as County Road 69; it will see a new stream run right along the road.

There are some drainages and ditches that have been cut off. Because of drainages being destroyed or clogged by debris, water is flooding new areas. Red Gulch and Flint Gulch have significant issues. Red Gulch was a major drainage for the hill above Old South St. Vrain Road. With development, Red Gulch became a road and drainage issues increased. After the flood, drainage was rerouted into Flint Gulch which dead ends in some houses. Drainage issues need to be addressed.

Residents are concerned what will happen when spring runoff occurs. They have massive sand dunes around their homes that are exposed to potentially

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being eroded by water and washing into their properties, creating more debris. Residents would like to take action to build or establish berms to divert water or create a barrier between the run off and their properties before the spring.

Middle-South St. Vrain (areas southwest of Lyons)

Issues	Discussion Summary
Access	<p>The floods damaged and destroyed many structures that serve as access points for residents in the Middle-South St. Vrain group. A truss bridge, which is likely a private bridge, has fallen above the Narrows.</p> <p>A road that is part-public/part-private was washed out, as well as a State Highway 7 bridge, eliminating access to three year-round residencies.</p>
Debris	<p>Large trees remain in the creek, while mud slides have ruined head gates, irrigation ditches, homes, and basements.</p>

Raymond & Riverside Drive – 800 and Below (Many homes in this creek segment are seasonal cabins)

Issues	Discussion Summary
Debris	<p>Debris that collected in the creek contributed to additional flooding and caused damage by diverting creek flows, creating new channels which flooded fields, clogged culverts and damaged bridges.</p> <p>Debris continues to be challenging to clean up, obstructing repair and rebuilding activities. Debris remains in large piles in many yards.</p> <p>There are large debris piles that remain in the creek throughout this segment. The debris is made up of woody material, rocks, silt and housing/structural materials.</p>
Banks & Alignment	<p>Creek changed alignment throughout several properties. In some cases, the creek originally ran in front of a house and now runs behind the house. Property owners stated that the creek should not be moved back to its original alignment for two reasons. The first reason is that property owners believe realigning the creek is an unnecessary expense. Secondly, property owners believe that if the creek is realigned it will move again with another flood.</p>
Agency Coordination & Communication	<p>Residents expressed reluctance to sign Right of Entry form because of the section stating that the county not be held liable for damage incurred during county-led rebuilding activities.</p>
Upstream/Downstream	<p>Debris will cause problems if it is not cleared before spring runoff.</p>

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Impacts

Raymond & Riverside Drive – 800 and Above

Issues	Discussion Summary
Access & Roads	<p>Many culverts in the area are clogged and restricted. Residents want to know if implementing temporary culverts is still being recommended.</p> <p>Approximately 14-16 bridges were destroyed in this area. Boulder County needs to protect the existing bridges before the spring runoff.</p> <p>There are several cases in which property owners do not own the land directly beside the creek, but own the land very close by to access it.</p>
Debris	<p>Sediment, deposited rocks and woody debris in throughout this area in the creek. Equipment is needed for much of the remaining issues. Ice has made it hard to remove debris.</p>
Property Damage	<p>The Fire Station was damaged; who should residents contact in place of the Fire Station?</p>
Septic and Water Quality	<p>Is funding being set aside for future water testing or other resources at a later date, especially for those who are not able to do that work now?</p>
Agency Coordination & Communication	<p>There needs to be improved coordination among Boulder County and the federal agencies.</p> <p>There are many out of state property owners and there is a concern that they have not been adequately communicated with. The community has a good neighborhood e-mail list and may be able to help with communication.</p> <p>People have not felt satisfied with the response at the FRPIC office. They feel like their questions have not been answered. Many are no longer coming to the county with questions due to their frustration.</p> <p>The purpose of the right of entry and access form was not explicit enough in the mailer. The importance of allowing immediate access needs to be described better. A specific concern is that a property owner may not allow access, which would delay improvements and could directly impact the recovery efforts to assist others' properties.</p>
Upstream/Downstream Impacts	<p>There is a significant concern that the area will flood during spring runoff due to the amount of sediment and debris in the creek channel. There are lots of trees in the creek and there is concern that living trees are left in the creek channel, they will eventually fall down and cause additional damage.</p> <p>Residents want to ensure that the area up to Peaceful Valley is considered in the Creek Planning Initiative, along with U.S. Forest Service and Boulder County Parks and Open Space lands.</p>