

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, June 12, 2014

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**COMMUNITY MEETINGS FOR THE KICK-OFF OF THE ST. VRAIN CREEK WATERSHED MASTER PLANNING PROCESS**

***The public is invited to learn about the process to create the St. Vrain Creek Watershed Master Plan and about opportunities to provide input.***

**Boulder County, Colo.** – The public is invited to attend an upcoming community meeting to learn about the ongoing process to prepare the St. Vrain Creek Watershed Master Plan. The community meetings are being hosted by the St. Vrain Creek Coalition (SVCC)—a group of local, state and federal agencies with jurisdiction along the St. Vrain Creek, who have organized to coordinate master plan activities.

To initiate the public process for the master plan, the SVCC is conducting two public meetings, one on Monday, June 16 at Rogers Hall in Lyons and the second on Thursday, June 19 at the Boulder County Fairgrounds (Barn A) in Longmont. The purpose of these meetings is to announce the beginning of the master planning process, to inform the public on what flood recovery issues will be addressed by the master plan and to let the public know how they can provide input.

The St. Vrain Creek Watershed Master Plan is being developed to serve as a tool for informing the public, property owners, stakeholders, and local decision makers about the current conditions of the creek and to help identify and prioritize future projects that reduce risk to public and private infrastructure. Development of the master plan will also focus on preserving, enhancing, or restoring the creek's natural environment and providing for recreational opportunities, where appropriate and desired. The master plan seeks to identify a list of projects that meet community needs and can be implemented when funding becomes available.

Community involvement is critical to the success of the master plan and is essential to incorporate local needs of residents, property owners, businesses and the broader public into long-term planning for the St. Vrain Creek watershed.

The SVCC looks forward to hosting the community meetings. The SVCC is currently made up of the following entities:

- Boulder County
- Town of Lyons
- City of Longmont
- St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Colorado Department of Transportation
- USDA Forest Service, Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

**Background Information**

In September 2013, St. Vrain Creek experienced a catastrophic flood event. The flood destroyed large sections of Colorado Highway 7, US Highway 36, local roads, and public, residential, and commercial properties along the St. Vrain corridor. In the aftermath of the flood, land owners, land management and transportation agencies, private ditch companies, and communities along the St. Vrain Creek corridor responded by taking actions, many short-term and temporary, to address the damage they had experienced.

While local short-term solutions have been or are being implemented, affected communities recognized the need to conduct long-term planning for the St. Vrain Creek at a watershed scale. Not only is watershed-scale planning important from a risk-reduction perspective, it is necessary in order to incorporate local needs and broader stakeholder interests (stabilization, recreation, habitat preservation, etc.) into a long-term flood control and stream restoration approach. For these reasons, agencies along the St. Vrain Creek formed the St. Vrain Creek Coalition (SVCC) to initiate a master plan for the watershed.

As the planning process moves forward, forums for the public, property owners, and other stakeholders will be taking place to solicit input and feedback. The SVCC will also meet periodically throughout the master planning process, serving as the steering committee for the plan, and as a public committee, its meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates and times will be listed on the project website.

### **Public Meeting Information**

#### **Monday, June 16, 2014**

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Rogers Hall

High Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Lyons, CO 80540

#### **Thursday, June 19, 2014**

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Boulder County Fairgrounds, Barn A

9595 Nelson Road, Longmont, CO 80501

**Meeting Format:** The public meetings will include a formal presentation, a facilitated Question and Answer session, sign-up tables for future small group meetings, and an open house for discussions with the project team.

### **Project Team and Master Plan Contact Information**

For more information about the study please visit the project website at <http://Tiny.cc/StVrainCreek>.

Comments about this study can be submitted through the web page or emailed to [StVrainMasterPlan@Projects.MBakerCorp.com](mailto:StVrainMasterPlan@Projects.MBakerCorp.com).

St. Vrain Creek Watershed Master Plan Project Team Hotline: (720) 407-4786

#### **St. Vrain Creek Watershed Master Plan**

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#### **St. Vrain Creek Watershed Master Plan**

##### **Public Involvement:**

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