

New team members boost flood recovery efforts

By Jeanne Davant

Flood Recovery Manager Shelley Cobau has had her hands full for the past six months preparing grant applications and juggling multiple flood-control projects.

Now Cobau has a team of three people to assist her efforts and brand-new offices to house them — all obtained through funding brought in by her grant requests.

Cobau introduced the new team to City Council on Tuesday.

Lizabeth Jordan, flood recovery grant administrator, is helping with the complex job of finding and applying for federal and state grants and funding.

Jordan, who joined the flood recovery team Aug. 3, graduated from Colorado Technical University in 2011 with a doctorate of management that emphasized her interests in emergency management and disaster recovery. She has worked as regional emergency services director for the Pikes Peak Chapter of the American Red Cross and emergency program manager for El Paso County.

Her current main concern is to help the city obtain reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for damages incurred during this spring's heavy rainfall.

She will work with Sara Hartley, the flood recovery project manager, to obtain additional grant funding from federal and state agencies, including the federal Community Development Block Grant program and Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

Hartley attended Metro State University in Denver and spent six years in law enforcement with the El Paso County Sheriff's Department. She has spent the past five years in the construction industry as a project manager and coordinator.



Photo by Jeanne Davant

Flood Recovery Manager Shelley Cobau meets with her new team Tuesday in the conference room of their modular office building. From left: Lizabeth Jordan, grant administrator; Sara Hartley, project manager; Cobau; and Isaac Brisk, construction observer.

Hartley, who started with the city Aug. 5, will manage a culvert-replacement project in Wildcat Gulch and repair of the retaining wall in Mansions Park, for which the city will soon receive grant funding.

Born and raised in Manitou, Isaac Brisk is the third new team member. Brisk, who will serve as flood recovery construction observer, has worked for the city since May 2005. He has been team lead for the streets department and the city's lead equipment operator; he also has been a member of the Volunteer Fire Department. He will ensure projects get built to specifications, are completed on time and meet sediment and erosion-control requirements. He joined the flood recovery team Aug. 6.

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