Lyons Strong
2013 Flood Event and Disaster Recovery
Lyons, Colorado

- Located in Boulder County
- Confluence of North & South St. Vrain Creeks
- Beautiful Sandstone and Canyons
- Outdoor Recreation, Music and Art
- Local Restaurants, Beer and Distillery
- Population 2,035 - Statutory Town
- 960 Households
- General Fund Budget: $1.1 Million Annually
- Operate Water, Sewer, and Electric Utilities
- 15 Full Time Staff

http://www.lyonsfightsback.org/
Flood Event

- Normal Creek Flows at Spring Runoff > 1,200 cfs
- Flood Estimates Range > 26,000 cfs
- 8,800 cfs is 100 Year Event = 500+ Event
- River Created 400+ foot Gash through Town
- Ripped Apart Water distribution, Sewer collection, Electric, Gas and Communication lines
- Waste water Plant Inundated
- Divided Community into Six Islands
- Roads and Bridges Destroyed and Access Cut off
- Town Isolated for 36 Hours
Aftermath

- 2,000 Evacuated - Search and Rescue / National Guard
- One Death
- Emergency Protective Measures Taken
- 211 Homes Damaged
  - 84 Substantially Damaged
- Preliminary Damage Assessment
  - $50 million for Public Assistance
- Town Hall & Library Uninhabitable
- Public Works Facility and Equipment Destroyed
- Complete Destruction of Parks Facilities
- Creeks Re-routed and Stream Banks Scoured
Actions

- Residents to Temporary Housing
- Daily Staff Meetings
- Weekly Community Updates
- Schools Relocated to Longmont for 3 Months
- All Businesses Closed for At Least 7 Weeks
- Security Checkpoint into Community
- Temporary WWTP and Utilities
- Secure and Build Temporary Roads and Bridges
- Partnerships with Local, State and Federal Agencies
Affect

- Loss of 20% of Housing Stock and Decrease of Property Tax Revenue for 2014
- Business Community Closed for 7 Weeks
  - Loss of All Sales Tax Revenue and Anticipate 40% Decline
- Use of All Funds and Reserves toward Disaster
  - $50 million Damages
    - 75% FEMA / 12.5% State / 12/5% Local
    - Local Match = $6.5 million
    - Lyons Reserves = $4.4 million
- Reimbursement causes Cash Flow Issues
- Complete Destruction of Parks Facilities
Short-Term Recovery

- Mental Health Assistance
- Locating Temporary Housing
- Individual Assistance – Volunteers Critical
- Hiring Temporary Personnel
- Temporary WWTP and Utilities Installed
- Secured and Built Temporary Roads and Bridges
- Returning Neighborhoods as Utilities Restored
Mid-Term Recovery

- Prepare for Spring Runoff
- Financial Forecasting & Strategy
- 4 Projects in FEMA PAAP Program
- 33 Standard Public Assistance Projects
- 64 Recovery Action Strategies
- Long-term Recovery Planning

http://vimeo.com/77357408
Long-Term Recovery
Rebuild Lyons Strong!
Progress Report

Nine Months Post Flood

Town Expense Incurred To Date $6,622,000
CIRSA Insurance To Date $3,172,362
Requests for Reimbursement in Queue 1,899,521
FEMA Reimbursement To Date 946,942
State Reimbursement to Date 165,842
Advance from FEMA/State Approved 3,500,000

Need Additional Support for Grant Management
Resiliency & Strategic Planning

- FEMA Capacity Building Led to Lyons Recovery Plan
- CPAT / APA Visit and Plans
- Lyons Recovery Action Plan
- Recovery Working Groups – 64 Goals
- Sustainability and Mitigation Consideration in each
- DHSEM – Hired State Recovery Liaison
- DHSEM – Hired Local Disaster Recovery Manager
- Need Communications Coordinator
Rebuild Lyons Strong