

Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir Watershed Association
 BMW Board Meeting
 April 26th, 2016 9:00am – 11:30pm
 Metro Wastewater Reclamation District
Technical Services Building, Laboratory Room, First Floor

Minutes

Board Attendance:

Steve Lundt - Metro
 Amy Woodis – Metro
 James Boswell- Thornton
 Shelley Stanley – BDCWA
 Chris Douglass – ECCV
 Sarah Reeves – SPCURE
 Laurie Rink– FRICO (phone)
 Julie Tinetti – Centennial
 Dennis Stowe – L/E WWTP
 Jim McQuarrie - Metro

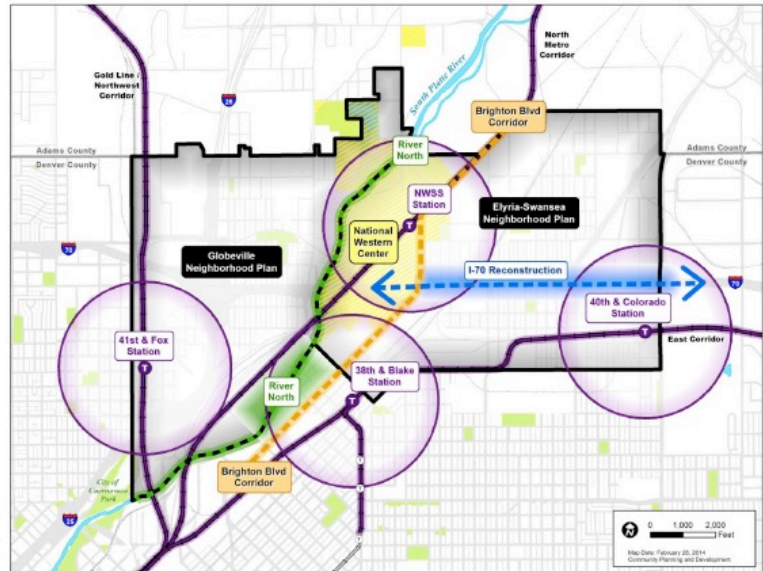
Michelle Neilson - Metro
 Jillian Taylor - Metro
 Shursteen Sharpe - MSU
 Jordan Parman - Metro
 Bob Thomas - Metro
 Jim Doersch - Metro

Public Attendance:

Amy Conklin – BMW Coordinator
 Celia VanDerLoop - Denver

Laurie welcomed the group.

Continuing Implementation – Celia VanDerLoop, Environmental Project Manager, Denver, and Metro Board member gave a presentation on the North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative. It is one of the largest urban redevelopment efforts in the nation with over 3,000 acres planned for redevelopment. Plans for redevelopment begin with the neighborhood plans and many of the neighborhoods involved have been neglected for years. It will take billions of dollars of investment in infrastructure to complete the area’s revitalization. Celia talked about progress in the different subsections of the project, commenting that water quality becomes more degraded as the river travels through the urban corridor. One of the considerations in the redevelopment plans is water quality impacts. For example, plans made to increase connectivity and make areas more pedestrian friendly have an added benefit of improving stormwater runoff quality.



To fund the redevelopment effort, the City and County of Denver recently passed an \$866 million bond issue. Funding is also being secured from other sources but a funding gap remains. The plan is very ambitious and includes a lot of renovations along the river. For many parts of the redevelopment area, renovations along the river will take the form of a park-like amenity with bike paths and native vegetation. The renovation in the planned area is spilling over into adjacent areas with gentrification becoming an issue of ever increasing

importance. The area is just upstream from the Burlington Ditch diversion so land use changes will impact water quality in diverted water; hopefully improving it.

When asked about the redevelopment of the stockyards, in particular, Celia responded that they are moving closer to the river but water quality protections are being increased. Grassy swales will be constructed to protect water quality in the river. Use of the stockyards facility is temporary, with most uses being only for specific events. For that reason, redevelopment plans are trying to include the option for other uses, such as temporary gardens, so that maximum use of the area can be accomplished while still protecting water quality and tying the area to its agricultural tradition.

The redevelopment area has historically been an industrial area with a legacy of environmental issues. EPA has worked to remove Arsenic and Lead contamination in residential areas to the extent that those areas are now probably the cleanest areas of Denver. Odors remain an important concern in the area with increasing concerns about the odors from Marijuana grow facilities. Denver is working to regulate odor emissions from Marijuana grow facilities.

Redevelopment of the I-70 corridor will be part of the project. The most likely plan is to have I-70 be redeveloped to be partially covered. Because of the redevelopment and improvements in vehicle exhaust regulations, air pollution along the I-70 corridor is predicted to be reduced by as much as 75%. Denver has signed an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Colorado Department of Transportation to leverage work done to manage stormwater quality.

Several water issues are also being addressed as part of the project. A TMDL for e coli has been developed for water bodies in the area. Working with Urban Drainage and Flood Control District, Denver plans to daylight some of the currently buried drainage pipes. The expectation is that by changing stormwater drainage from underground pipes to open canals, flooding will be reduced and water quality may be improved. Additional stormwater drainage will have to be constructed in the golf courses and parts of the canals will be converted into park-like amenities. This is the first major effort to upgrade the city's stormwater infrastructure. Like so many cities, natural channels were often filled in and built upon. When asked about maintenance of the stormwater facilities, Celia responded that there were still specific plans that needed to be developed to identify responsible parties and it is likely there will be significant stormwater fee increases to fund the required maintenance. When asked about whether or not they plan to collect water quality samples, Celia responded that it is part of the plan. BMW offered to help facilitate conversations about existing water quality monitoring that could be leveraged. One of the significant efforts along the drainages is, and will continue to be, trash management.

The redevelopment plans call for aggressive goals to make the redeveloped area more than just sustainable. The goal is to treat not only the stormwater generated onsite but to also treat any stormwater flowing through the area. It is planned to have the buildings LEED certified, generate zero waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The plans are so innovative that many of them will require regulatory policy changes. Denver has already adopted the state's greywater regulations. Despite the need for significant land acquisition, Denver hopes to break ground as early as 2018.



The Army Corps of Engineers is actively working to restore habitat for the Long-nosed Dace in the project area. Their efforts to restore fish habitat will likely also have positive water quality impacts. Some of the options to improve habitat include widening the river channel.

BMW made Celia aware of issues with diffuse runoff in Segment 15 of the South Platte River that may be of concern in the project area, which is in Segment 14. BMW also made Celia aware of water quality messaging developed as part of a grant BMW received from EPA. The messaging has been translated into Spanish, a critical consideration in communicating with the neighborhoods. Groundwork Denver has been successful engaging the neighborhoods being impacted. BMW already collaborates with Groundwork Denver and will discuss the project with them to see if there are additional ways we can partner.

The group thanked Celia for her presentation and hopes to continue communication about the project, especially in regards to water quality. In the middle of the presentation, there was an announcement about a chemical emergency. We went to a hazmat shelter in the building for about 30 minutes. Apparently there had been a gas release upwind at Suncor. As a precaution, everyone in the building was instructed to shelter in a safe room.



Updates/Action Items

- Chair's Report - The group thanked Amy Woodis for her significant contributions to BMW and presented her with a special, smothered burrito, card and present.
- Treasurer's Report - There was a Thumbs up approval for payment of the six (6) invoices received this month. For a total of \$15,584.56. All were budgeted for and were within budget. The Budget committee will meet after the Board meeting and finalize the draft budget for the Board's consideration at the May meeting.
- Coordinator Updates (Amy C.)
 - There was a Thumbs Up approval of the February 19th Meeting Minutes.
 - Watershed Tour Planning – June 28th – Milton Res. With stops at ECCV. **Amy** will continue working with Chris Douglass and other to finalize the details of the tour.
 - CWA conference call for papers – **Steve and Laurie** will work with **Amy** to draft an abstract for submission to the conference committee.

Technical Committee Report. – The Technical Committee met on March 24th and has several recommendations for the Board's consideration. **Steve** will discuss specific modeling alternatives at the May Board meeting. The In-Lake Treatment Options report prepared by Ken Wagner is almost complete. The contract with Ken is under budget. **Steve** has almost completed the Linnocorral Study Report. **Laurie** reported on her discussion with Kenan Diker regarding keeping the alum discharge permit. The Board decided the permit had served its' purpose and should be closed. Laurie will complete the paperwork to close the permit.

I & E Committee Report – The I&E Committee has drafted some language to use in the displays at DIA and for the Adopt-A-Watershed program. The **Board** was given until **May 7th** to submit edits to the language. **Steve** will contact Jennifer Garner at DIA, again, to see if any progress had been made toward the approvals needed for installation of the BMW display cases. Shursteen reported on progress to develop an Adopt A Watershed program. Schools will be recruited first then other groups such as businesses, Boy Scout Troops, Homeowners Associations and others. Steve reported that the groundbreaking for the new Nature Center at Barr Lake State Park had happened. The Nature Center will be a wonderful amenity for BMW.

Next Meeting

- I/E Committee Meeting – **May 4th, 9am, Barr Lake Nature Center**
- Stakeholder Meeting – **June 28th, 2016, 10am, TBD**

- Technical Committee meeting – **May 26th, 2016, 9 am, Metro**
- Board Meeting – **May 24th, 2016, 9 am Metro**

BMW I/E Events for 2016

Date	Event	Activity	Name and contact
Saturday 4/9/2016	Barr Lake Raptor Run	Hand out water	Chris D.
Saturday 5/7/2016	Barr Lake Fishing Clinic	T-shirts	Shursteen S.
Saturday 7/16/2016	Lake Appreciation Day	T-shirts, Booth	Steve L., Michelle S., Shursteen S., Amy C.
Saturday 9/10/2016	Barr Lake Birding Festival	T-shirts, Booth	Laurie R.
Saturday 9/24/2016	Barr Lake Shoreline Cleanup	Collect Trash	Steve L.
Saturday 10/8/2016	Barr Lake Harvest Festival	T-shirts, Booth	Blair C.
Saturday 10/29/2016	Barr Lake Halloween Trail	Booth	
Thursday 5/12/2016	Tri-Cities Water Festival	T-shirts, Booth	James B.
Sat/Sun Late June	River Fest	Booth	Shursteen S., Steve L., Michelle S.
Friday 7/29/2016	Adams County Fair	T-shirts, Booth	Shelley S., Shursteen S., Steve L.
Weekday August	Commerce City Neighborhood Event	T-shirts, Booth	Steve L., Michelle S.
June	Brighton Culture Fest	T-shirts, Booth	
Weeknight	Pelican Lake Ranch Meeting	Speak	Blair C., Steve L.
Tuesday 9/20/2016	Nat. W.Q. Awareness Week	T-shirts	Steve L., Amy C., Dennis S.
	Watershed Assembly	Speak, Booth	Laurie R.
	Cherry Creek Partnership	Speak, Booth	Amy C.