

Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir Watershed Association
BMW Board Meeting
August 25th, 2015 9:00am – 11:30pm
Metro Wastewater Reclamation District
Technical Services Building, HR Training Room, First Floor

Minutes

Board Attendance:

Amy Woodis – Metro
Michelle Seubert – CPW
Hope Dalton – Metro
Chris Douglass – ECCV
Steve Lundt – Metro
James Boswell- Thornton (phone)
Julie Tinetti – Centennial (phone)

Dennis Stowe – L/E POTW
Sarah Reeves – SPCURE
Blair Corning – S Adams
Laurie - FRICO

Public Attendance:

Amy Conklin – BMW Coordinator

Laurie welcomed the group.

Continuing Implementation Discussion –The group discussed the update to the upgrade schedule for Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs). It is BMW's effort to keep track of what BMW members are doing to comply with Reg. 85; the recently passed regulation that sets standards for the nutrients Phosphorus (P) and Nitrogen (N).

The Implementation Plan has been updated with Centennial's data. **Sarah Reeves** will provide updated information for the Littleton/Englewood POTW. Information is still needed from Lochbuie, Hudson and Brighton. Brighton will decommission their plant and send their flows to Metro. Hudson's discharge is no longer in the BMW basin. Lochbuie is using Ramey Environmental Services on a contract basis to manage their plant. **Hope** says she has contacts at Ramey Environmental Services and can talk to them. **Blair** will talk to someone at Brighton about their schedule for treatment updates.

Amy Conklin will draft a description of the public outreach and education campaign the Colorado Stormwater Council is pursuing, Live Like You Love It (LLYLI), www.coloradowater.org. The campaign hopes to change peoples' behavior and improve water quality.

The group discussed partnering with SPCURE and the Colorado Monitoring Framework (CMF) on their efforts to address nonpoint sources of pollution. Those efforts need to be included in the BMW Implementation Plan. BMW hasn't had a specific member to attend CMF meetings and represent BMW. **Laurie** will ask Shelley if should would represent BMW on the CMF. If BMW wants to participate in CMF, they should pay dues of \$4,850 to become a member. There was a Thumbs Up vote for BMW to pay membership dues and become a member of the CMF. The group discussed the overlap of the different organizations working on water quality. It seems to be the same utilities and other groups paying to be members of multiple organizations evaluating and protecting water quality. The smaller membership amounts may be easier to justify than one large assessment.

It's too early in our TMDL process to discuss a Use Attainability Assessment. First we need to gather more data and experience about implementing the standards identified in the TMDL.

Watershed Plan Updates - Steve reported on the sections that were still missing. **Blair** still needs to submit the introduction. **Sarah** will re-submit the draft of the Management section. **Michelle** will write the I&E section and **James** will write the Adaptive Management section. The new deadline is 3 weeks, **September 15th**, Blair's birthday.

Cyanotoxin Testing Sampling and Analysis Plan and Report on Data Collection - **Steve Lundt** has been collecting cyanotoxin data at Barr Lake and presented the results. He passed around the test kit. It takes about 30 minutes to conduct each test. The results are reported as greater than 10 ug/L or less than 10 ug/L. In the open water the test strips did not detect any cyanotoxin. There is a small population of microcystin near the shore that yields positive results. The grab sample near shore is taken in the worst possible water. In the open water, there is a different species of algae. The results sent for more detailed analysis, yielded 82 ug/L of microcystin but none of the other toxins. He will conduct one more test on August 26th and then stop testing for cyanotoxins.

A positive result doesn't mean there are toxins in the water because the test requires the cells to be lysed which may not happen under normal conditions. With no contact allowed at Barr Lake, the exposure is much less than water bodies with swimming uses. However there is some very limited contact with water. The majority of the contact at Barr would be on the skin. Because the test lyses the cells, the test doesn't really measure exposures, just maximum potential cyanotoxin presence.

Michelle has not changed park management based on the cyanotoxin testing. She has just continued the education and outreach about algal blooms as she has been doing for years. Barr Lake has less algal blooms than normal this year.

Currently, Michelle is forwarding BMW test results to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) who forward the information to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). There is a meeting on September 3rd to discuss the results of cyanotoxin testing across the state. Michelle is concerned that Barr Lake will be labeled as a problem water body when it isn't. So far, only two lakes in Colorado are reporting cyanotoxins test results; Stagecoach Reservoir and Barr Lake.

BMW originally began testing for cyanotoxins based on the belief that CPW would be conducting cyanotoxin testing at many Colorado Lakes. Because there is such limited contact with water at Barr Lake, there is very little chance for exposure to cyanotoxins. The thinking was to collect current data on the presence of cyanotoxins, but the response to the data may be inappropriate. Under current circumstances, the cyanotoxin testing is just a pilot project with no controls.

The Board expressed their desire to assist Michelle. The Board wants to communicate that they are open to being part of a larger plan to sample all lakes but we are unwilling to collect data that is mis-used. The issue is not with collecting the data but how it's used. **Laurie** will draft a

letter to send to Michelle that reflects BMW's willingness to participate in a more coordinated program but without a thoughtful, comprehensive statewide effort to assess cyanotoxins, BMW believes further testing will not be productive. Steve will continue to collect data through August, as planned, and give the results to the Board. The Board appreciated the quality of the SAP and would retain it as a working draft.

Board Discussion on the Updated 303 d list- Barr and Milton have been removed from the list for DO and pH, but Milton is on the list for ammonia. Barr and Milton have been removed for DO and pH because the TMDL has been approved. Steve is reviewing the calculations used for determining the status of ammonia impairment. His initial review indicates that CDPHE may not have used in-lake data, using outflow data instead. The results will likely be the same whichever data are used. When the lake is anoxic, ammonia builds up in the lake. The results show that Milton just barely meets the criteria for being put on the 303 d list. A Thumbs Up vote was made to have **Steve** evaluate the data and report to the Board by **September 15th**, Blair's birthday. A decision on how, or if, to respond to the listing will be made at the September meeting.

Update on Rhino Vacuum Truck Spills - Laurie reported that FRICO is developing a SAP and is working under deadlines from CDPHE. She thinks the dumping has been stopped and the site has been secured.

BMW Intern – Amy reported that she, Steve and Michelle had met with Metro State University (MSU) and One World One Water (OWOW) personnel about the liability and other details of BMW hiring an intern. The Board discussed that they would want the BMW intern to work on BMW efforts such as the display case for DIA and other BMW Information and Education Activities. They discussed the concept of having the BMW intern shadow Board members for a day and the need for the intern to have access to an office. Metro may be able to provide them with an office and/or Michelle may be able to find space at Barr Lake State Park. Hope noted that she is a professor at MSU if we needed to coordinate with a staff person. **Amy Conklin** will revise the intern job description and send it to the Board by **September 15th**, Blair's birthday. The intent is to finalize the intern advertisement by the end of September and begin recruiting from Environmental Studies and Environmental Engineering students.

Discussion of Annual Meeting/BBQ – Amy, Michelle and Steve suggested the annual meeting/BBQ be held at Barr Lake, that it be a Board potluck, and that we have canoes available for folks to paddle the water trail. **Amy Conklin** will organize the event by sending out a potluck sign up and an invitation to our Stakeholders. Steve and Michelle will be the speakers talking about the lake's water quality and the water trail, respectively. The meeting will be on September 22nd.

Updates/Action Items

- Chair's Report - In-Canal Treatment – presentations update. Future presentations will be postponed until results from Ken Wagner's evaluation of in-reservoir treatment options are available. Those options will be included in the presentations.
- Treasurer's Report
 - As of July 31st, we have a balance of **\$170,549.90**

- Blair is continuing to work on 2016 budget meeting with Laurie and Chris.
- Technical Committee – Steve reported that he has collected 20 sediments samples from Barr and 15 from Milton for Ken Wagner’s in-reservoir treatment options analysis. The Technical Committee will meet at end of September. Steve has updated the water quality summary series for 2014 and the files are posted on website.
- Coordinator Updates (Amy C.)
 - Approval of the June 23, 2015 Minutes. Thumbs Up approval
 - Update on Toolkit legislation – The effort is not moving forward in the foreseeable future.
 - The Board decided not to have a BMW Booth at Watersheds conference,
 - Amy distributed an article in which BMW messaging was cited.
- I & E Committee – Steve reported that he and Michelle gave out lots of T-shirts at the Commerce City event. Michelle’s volunteer’s produced a video of Lake Appreciation Day. **Amy Conklin** will post it to the website. Everyone was encouraged to send **Laurie** content for BMW’s quarterly newsletter.

Next Meeting

- Technical Committee meeting – **September 24th, 2015, 9 am, Metro**
- Stakeholder Meeting – **September 22nd, Annual Meeting and BBQ**
- I/E Committee Meeting – **September 1st, 9am, Barr Lake Nature Center**
- I & E Opportunities –

Nat. WQ Monitoring Day, **September 23**

Greenway Foundation River Clean up, **September 26**

Harvest Festival, **October 10**

Halloween Trail, **October 24**

Colorado Watershed Conference, **October 6-8**

Cherry Creek Stewardship Conference, **November**