

Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir Watershed Association
BMW Board Meeting
April 23rd, 2013 9:00am – 10:30pm
Metro Wastewater Reclamation District, Denver, CO

MINUTES

Board Attendance:

Sarah Reeves – SPCURE
Shelley Stanley – Big Dry Creek WA (phone)
Laurie Rink – FRICO (phone)
Amy Woodis – Metro
Blair Corning – S. Adams W&S
Chris Douglass – ECCV

Steve Lundt – Metro
Tim Grotheer – Centennial
Michelle Seubert – State Parks (phone)

Public Attendance:

Amy Conklin – BMW Coordinator
Susan Thornton – BMW Coordinator

- I. **Opening** - Steve welcomed the group. He requested that the topics of discussing Metro's comments on the TMDL and Board approval of the RFP for in-canal treatment RFP be added to the agenda.

- II. **Updates/Action Items**
 - **Chair's Report Status** - Laurie Rink reported on the status of the TMDL approval. EPA commented that they were uncomfortable with deleting some of the justification for DO part of TMDL. The WQCD wants to include some of the historical rationale for the DO values in the TMDL. They sent us the documents one more time just to give us the opportunity to identify any glaring errors. Amy Woodis commented on behalf of Metro to clarify how wasteload allocation values in the TMDL would be incorporated into discharge permits. There needs to be consistency between the TMDL and Reg. 85. For facilities with phosphorus discharges at 1 mg/L, they should probably follow Regulation 85. For the Milton Wasteload Allocation Tables they forgot to add the Robert Hite Treatment Facility and it should be added back into the Tables. The comments aren't enough to stall the process but it will make implementation of the TMDL much easier in the long term. Both Centennial and Metro think the best way to resolve the conflict is to have a conversation with the WQCD. The comments propose no change to implementation, just clarification of how to resolve the conflicts between Reg. 85 and the TMDL. No one else has voiced any other comments regarding the TMDL. Centennial feels strongly enough about the importance of the comments that if the WQCD decides not to have a conversation about the comments, they will raise it to the next level at the WQCD.

 - **Treasurer's Report** - Blair Corning's reported that as of March 31st, BMW had a balance of over \$139,000 with reimbursement request from the Urban Waters Grant for more than \$3,000. Discussion and approval of BMW's Budget is later on the agenda.

- **Coordinator Updates** (Amy C)
 - Amy reported that BMW had made a donation to Camp Sunshine in memory of Heather Bottone. A thank you letter from Camp Sunshine was passed around.
 - Amy reported that the Colorado Watershed Assembly has issued a call for papers for their October conference. Amy is working on a draft of a presentation on the BMW decision making by consensus. She requested Board assistance in writing that paper.
 - EPA Urban Waters Partnership – Amy reported that on March 28th EPA in conjunction with the US Forest Survey convened a meeting of the Urban Waters Partnership. The Partnership’s mission was developed as *“The South Platte River Urban Waters Partnership collaborates across jurisdictions and disciplines to engage communities, and protect and restore the South Platte River and Watershed.”* Amy will keep the Board updated on the work of the Partnership.

III. Morning Fresh Farm Facility – Morning Fresh Farms is a poultry Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) in close proximity to the Platte Valley Canal and Milton Reservoir. The Board discussed the permit renewal as well as BMW’s position on commenting on permit renewals in the future.

Steve showed where the CAFO is in relation to the canals on Google Maps. At the present time, there is no water treatment, just storage and land application. Laurie provided history on the CAFO permits; that this is the first time they are being put out for public comment. This is our first opportunity to comment on a CAFO permit renewal in the BMW watershed. The ponds at Morning Fresh are designed for 24 hour storm event; then they would overflow into Platte Valley Canal. The soils are very sandy, so there would be a lot of infiltration. The flows would have to cross a road, so there is very low potential for any flows to make it to Milton. Laurie was concerned with potential groundwater contamination, but concluded that this facility has a low potential of impacting our system. Shelley reported that she had submitted comments that she would share with the Board. There are likely to be other CAFO permit renewals in the future and the Board should consider a policy on how BMW wants to handle future comments.

The Board discussed the differences in regulations between CAFOs and Wastewater Treatment Plants. When the regulation governing the requirements for CAFO discharge permits comes up for renewal, BMW may want to comment on the regulation. Specifically, components of the General Permit may be something BMW would want to comment on. The Board discussed using an outreach approach to try to engage CAFOs in BMW. The Board decided to add the development of a policy on commenting on CAFOs to future agendas. Once a policy has been drafted, it will need to go to the Stakeholders for approval. Laurie volunteered to call Morning Fresh and have a conversation with them. She would report back on the content of the conversation.

IV. Budget Discussion – Blair Corning, BMW Treasurer, presented Cash flow information along with five-year projections, assuming no money is spent on Information and Education. The projections identify a shortfall of \$85,000. He presented options for

raising revenues including raising membership dues, having project specific special assessments, and reducing expenses. The group discussed the resources needed for the projects identified in the Implementation Plan. All the projects would need to be carefully scoped to determine actual costs. There are advantages and disadvantages to raising revenues through membership dues and special assessments. The Board decided to form subgroups to develop more details about the projects in the Implementation Plan and to try to prioritize them and identify funding options.

The Board discussed the possibility of pursuing legislation for a parks fee for Barr Lake State park similar to the fee currently used by Cherry Creek State Park. We need to put together better information before proceeding with a parks fee. Maybe that can be one of the subgroups. Once the prioritized list of projects has been developed, it will need to go to the Stakeholders for approval. A potential list of subgroups may include:

- CIP type projects –treatment, MS4 permitting
- Outreach – chicken farm, I&E
- Regulatory – TMDL, (subcategories Modeling and monitoring), pollutant trading
- WQ Monitoring
- TMDL
- Pollutant Trading
- Revenue - Parks Fee

The Board will add subgroup development to future agendas. The Board commented that for the last few years the group had been focused on getting the TMDL approved. Now we are really beginning the satisfying and enlightening work of implementing it.

- V. **Coordinator’s Outreach Contract** – The Coordinators submitted a revised scope of work for outreach activities for the Board to consider and discuss. The Board discussed who should be the target of BMW outreach and what the message(s) may be. The Board concluded that the proposed mini-conference may be premature. The Board needs to develop a better idea about what the message(s) need to be and then give the coordinators direction. The Information and Education/Outreach plan will be an outgrowth of BMW’s goals and vision that will be develop through the subgroups.
- VI. **Update on the Urban Waters Grant Effort** – A meeting of our Grant Partners was held April 10. The Board discussed the potential of partnering with PURE on future grants, concluding that is worthwhile to continue working together where appropriate and to very carefully explore options for projects where jointly pursuing a grant may be appropriate. At the very least we should try to be sure we aren’t working at cross purposes.

- VII. BMW Meeting Structure** – The Board discussed how the meeting schedule has become more erratic as the TMDL moved through the regulatory process. The Board decided to continue having 3 to 4 Stakeholder meetings per year and to have the Board meet every month the Stakeholders didn't, except for December. The Coordinators were directed to remind Stakeholders that they are welcome at any Board meeting. Using the nearly monthly e-newsletter allows us to keep in touch with Stakeholders.

Sarah Reeves moved and Chris Douglass seconded a motion to ask the Stakeholders to amend the by-laws to change the language about the Annual meeting to make it just once a year and not specify the month. Everyone voted 'Thumbs Up'. The proposal will be presented to the Stakeholders at the June 25th Watershed Tour.

VIII. New Business/Open Topics.

- Other conferences and meetings –
 - May 16th – Aurora Youth Water Festival, Community College of Aurora
 - May 21st – Northglenn-Thornton-Westminster Water Festival, Front Range Community College

IX. Next Meeting

- BMW Technical Committee **April 25th, 2013**. Steve presented the RFP for in-canal treatment the Technical Committee will be discussing to the Board. Steve moved and Blair seconded a motion to send out the RFP. Everyone voted 'Thumbs Up'.
- **May 16th** – Aurora Youth Water Festival, Community College of Aurora
- **May 21st** – Northglenn-Thornton-Westminster Water Festival, Front Range Community
- BMW Board meeting, **May 28th, 2013**