

Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir Watershed Association
 BMW Board Retreat
 February 28th, 2017 9:00 am – 11:30 am
 Metro Wastewater Reclamation District

Minutes

Board Attendance:

Michelle Seubert – CPW
 Shelley Stanley – BDCWA
 Steve Lundt – Metro
 Amy Woodis – SPCURE (phone)
 Chris Douglass - ECCV
 Dennis Stowe – L/E WWTP
 Emily Jackson – Metro

Julie Tinetti – Centennial
 Blair Corning – S. Adams
 James Bowell - Thornton

Public Attendance:

Amy Conklin – BMW Coordinator

Steve welcomed the group and Chaired the meeting in Laurie’s absence.

Updates/Action Items –

Chair’s Report -

Sky Ranch Wastewater Utility Plan -

Steve projected the plan file onto a screen for viewing, noting that they are on First Creek. The plan specifies that there will be zero discharge of wastewater; it will all be reused. It was interesting to see all the other nearby wastewater treatment plants. The Sky Ranch plan is to construct smaller satellite plants to treat wastewater for reuse rather than send the wastewater to Metro. The wastewater plan is driven by water rights. All the water is non-tributary groundwater. Eventually they may need to purchase renewable surface water and revise their plans. They are currently just outside of Aurora city limits.

Milton Recreation Contract Update – The Farmers Reservoir and Irrigation Company (FRICO) is negotiating with the Haven Sporting Club for the recreational rights to use Milton Reservoir. Haven is proposing to open by April 21, 2017. They are proposing to use two boat ramps and to sell beach area around the lake. They plan to allow motor boats and water skiing. Their plans include developing camp grounds, hiking and event venues. The contract exempts FRICO for responsibility for water quantity or quality. **Amy Conklin** was tasked with contacting them and inviting them to the March 28th Stakeholder meeting.

Treasurer’s Report

Shelley Stanley reported that as of the January 31, 2017, we have a balance of **\$181,198.02**. All expenses since the last meeting are within budget and will be recorded as part of the minutes.

Update on Regulation 85 and 31 discussions. – Emily reported that

January expenses - paid	
1/19 - Shirtcamp - I & E t-shirt expenses	\$ 915.98
1/27 - Santiagos - burritos for TC	\$ 27.58
Check 1940 - Friends of Barr Lake Membership	\$ 500.00
Check 1942 - Hughes & Stuart - 3 months of website management	\$ 900.00
Check 1943 - Amy Conklin - December 2016 Coord. Services	\$ 993.75
Total	\$ 3,337.31
February checks to sign	
1947 - SPLASH membership	\$ 100.00
1948 - Amy Conklin - Jan. 2017 Coord Services	\$ 3,848.75
1949 - CU Denver Graduate Capstone Project	\$ 1,500.00
1950 - CMF Membership	\$ 4,850.00
Total	\$ 10,298.75

she carefully read last meeting minutes and will send corrections. She also reported that there has not been any progress on implementing the path laid out in the 2012 Water Quality Control Commission Nutrient hearings since last month. The next Water Quality Forum meeting is scheduled for March 6th. A resolution is being circulated through the Colorado Water Congress to delay implementation of Regulation 31. There is not much support for it.

Segment 14 Permitting – Dennis Stowe reported that groundwater dischargers are being issued permits without nutrient limits or monitoring. As more parking is being built in Denver, some construction near the river is excavating below the water table requiring the groundwater that accumulates to be discharged. The nutrient concentrations in the discharge waters are likely pretty low but there may be some concerns with metals. The total of the groundwater discharges is 2.8 MGD with more requests coming in. Another issue is that the discharges are being converted from General Permits to Individual permits. Two of the permits are out for comment. There was a Thumbs up vote for BMW to comment. **Amy Conklin** will send the committee of **Emily Jackson, Julie Tinetti, Laurie Rink and Steve Lundt** information about the Morning Fresh Farm CAFO that BMW commented on in 2013.

Coordinator Updates (Amy C.)

The January 24th, 2017 Meeting Minutes were approved with a Thumbs up vote and **Amy** was asked to include Emily's comments. Amy updated the group on progress organizing the BMW bike tours/watershed tours on June 6th and 7th. The route selected will be from Johnson Habitat Park to Riverside Cemetery. There are a lot of changes in that stretch of the river. The group discussed the increase in the homeless population along the river. At some point, we may want to have a presentation on the homeless issue and what is being done. It is that time of the year when Amy will start invoicing members for membership dues. **Amy** will work with **Laurie and Shelley** to begin that process. The agenda for the March Stakeholder meeting is still draft. **Michelle Seubert** said that the meeting could be held at the new Nature Center at Barr Lake. Quarterly review of the BMW budget will also need to be done at that meeting.

Continuing Implementation –

January Board meeting

Elect new officers

Update on Reg 85/31 discussions with CDPHE (keep as on-going agenda item)

Stormwater monitoring station on Burlington Canal – objectives of study, how we will use the information, plan to move forward on discussing with stormwater entities

February Board meeting

Shelley explained the proposed changes to the Implementation Plan (IP) tables, noting that the Uncertainty section was changed. Once the Board has reviewed the table, a revised timeline can be prepared. The vision for the IP is likely to be to work towards setting site specific standards for Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir. Currently the process for developing site specific standards is in flux but for budgeting purposes, the Board may want to try to anticipate work products that may be needed and plan for them. Updating the model will need to occur within the next year or two and should include consideration of studies that would be necessary for establishment of site specific standards such as a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA). Watershed groups may be particularly well positioned to participate in discussions regarding the process for establishing site specific standards as part of the conversations around implementing Regulations 85 and 31. It may be helpful for CDPHE to establish a work group for the site specific standard process. A request for a work group needs to be submitted to the Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) by May.

Laurie sent out the table to be used in updating the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) in the watershed. Some of the POTWs may not have any changes. All the **POTWs** were asked to review the table Laurie sent and prepare updates, as appropriate, by the April Board meeting.

The Board will also try to finalize the Watershed Plan update at the April meeting. It may need additional changes to reflect the potential addition of a stormwater monitoring station.

March Stakeholder meeting

April Board meeting

Review updates to Watershed Plan (include updates to tables, etc. discussed in February)

Discuss goals and whether to revise/update

May Board meeting

Review list of entities working in the watershed

Discuss MS4s – what do we need from this sector i.e., action, data, involvement, etc. and develop strategy for how we get it

June Stakeholder meeting – tour or bike?

July Board meeting

Review of NPS contribution technical analysis (by **Steve and TAC**)

August Board meeting

Discuss Outreach and Education Program – refine objectives/goals of this element of implementation

September Annual Meeting

October Board meeting

Review list of big decisions developed at 2016 retreat – decide which to tackle again for 2017 retreat

November Board retreat

Stormwater Monitoring Station – Steve reported that the meeting of the Joint Task Force, that includes Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD), Aurora, Denver, and Lakewood was cancelled. Steve shared the presentation he intends to make to them when the meeting is rescheduled. He’s hopeful that the idea will be received well. He showed the large area of Denver that is not currently monitored for stormwater and it includes the area where a lot of the North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative (NDCC) projects will be implemented. The problem with the stormwater issues is that they’re tied to the very controversial I-70 project. The proposed stormwater monitoring station would provide some background levels that can be used to measure improvements to stormwater quality from implementation of the projects. **James and Laurie** will continue to keep FRICO in the loop about the new station. One thought is to use other flow meters since there are several in the Burlington Headgate area that could be accessed rather than constructing a new one. It would be UDFCD’s station that BMW would help pay for. Right now the goal is to get consensus to install the station. The details of the location of the station can be worked out later. Steve will keep the Board informed about his progress.

Draft Op Ed article on Platte to Park Hill – Steve reminded the group that almost every day there is negative press about the Platte to Park Hill because it’s being tied to I-70 project. People have not been informed about the benefits to stormwater drainage and quality. Steve projected a version of the article onto the screen and the Board went over it paragraph by paragraph. Comments were made that:

- A better word than ‘flashy’ should be used.
- The point that stormwater improvements will have to happen regardless of what happens with the NDCC projects needs to be stressed.
- The stormwater improvements will benefit everyone.
- There were questions about the word ‘treated’. Is the stormwater really treated since it doesn’t go to a plant?
- A suggested title was, “Undeniable Benefits of Platte to Park Hill”

The Board discussed who should review the article concluding that we needed to send it to our colleagues in Denver to be sure it is accurate and may be beneficial. Our colleagues at the Greenway Foundation should also get a chance to review and decide if they wanted to sign it, too.

When final, the article can be submitted to the Denver Post and Colorado Community Newspapers, Westword and other entities that may be interested. We can also post it on the BMW website.

Steve will send the Board a revised file. The **Board** needs to get final edits to **Steve** no later than end of business on **Monday March 6th**. **Amy** will sign the letter as the BMW Coordinator.

Website Maintenance Firm Selection – Shelley Stanley has been compiling proposals from website maintenance firms and presented the subcommittee’s preferred option of Joy Labadie to take over website maintenance. The site will need to be reformatted to make it relational (mobile friendly) and there may be other issues. There is \$3,600 in the budget for website maintenance. There was a Thumbs Up vote to hire Joy to take over the website. **Amy and Shelley** will work with Joy. **Shelley** will inform Sheryl that she was not selected; **Amy** will inform Hughes & Stuart. In working with Joy, Amy and Shelley will migrate the site off Word Press, make it relational, make sure the security is adequate and include Google maps and calendar.

I&E Committee Report - Michelle Seubert presented a letter soliciting funding from BMW to continue the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) inspections that will be halted due to lack of funding. When the Colorado Supreme Court ruled that Severance Tax revenues had been spent improperly, programs such as the ANS inspections lost their funding. There is a plan to replace the revenue necessary to continue the inspections but it won’t be in place until next year. The funding request is for a stop gap effort to continue the inspections until the new revenue source is in place. There was a Thumps Up approval to contribute \$5,000 to continue the inspections. There was also a Thumbs up vote to modify the budget to reflect the reallocation of \$5,000. **Michelle** will report back to the Board on the progress in stabilizing funding for the ANS inspection program.

Steve reported that we have advertised the intern position at MSU and will be interviewing the candidates in March. He has also been working with CU-Denver Graduate students on some exciting capstone projects. In addition, a student from Turning School of Software & Design has been developing a storm drain marking app as part of her program. **Amy** will follow up with **Shelley and James** to see if data for storm drains in Thornton and Northglenn may work in the app. A summary of the student projects BMW is involved in is included below.

BMW Student Projects in 2017

1. Intern – The Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Association (BMW) is again working with Metro State University (MSU), One World One Water (OWOW) center to hire a student intern. We have posted a job description at their recruitment center, will be interviewing students in March and hope to have our intern begin work in May. The exact tasks the intern will perform will depend on their interests and will include participating in public outreach and education activities and possibly working to organize storm drain marking efforts.
2. Stormdrain marking App – BMW is working with a student from the Turing School of Software & Design, Caroline Powell, to help her design and implement a tool for locating and keeping track of storm drains that have been marked with signage to communicate that water in the drains is not treated before entering the streams. We anticipate that the users of the App will include Municipal Storm Separate Sewer System (MS4) permittees who may want to use the App in meeting the requirements of their permit. BMW may have their OWOW intern use the App to organize storm drain marking events. The App will be mobile, direct users to the storm drain closest to them, and allow the users to indicate that the storm drain has been marked, including uploading a photo of the drain. We are working with the Colorado Stormwater Council to try to include the locations of as many storm drains as possible. The App should be completed by May of 2017. We are hoping to make presentations on the App, when completed. Please contact Amy Conklin at amy.conklin@comcast.net for more information.

3. CU Denver Capstone Projects – Steve Lundt, Metro Wastewater, has been working with Dr. Christy Briles, CU – Denver to help her 13 Environmental Science Master’s students conduct fieldwork in the watershed as part of their capstone projects. The students have reviewed the BMW Implementation Plan and selected three projects. The students will be presenting their results **May 10th at the Barr Lake State Park Nature Center**. Go to www.barr-milton.org more for more information on the presentations or contact Amy Conklin.
- Lawn Fertilizer Studies – The students will be sampling lawns in the Stapleton and Park Hill neighborhoods, as well as at a background location, to measure phosphorus levels.
 - Barr Lake Sediment Core analyses of phosphorus content and diatoms over the last 100 years – The students have already collected a 90 cm sediment core from Barr Lake and will be evaluating the phosphorus content as well as diatom populations. The goal is to try to determine the impacts on phosphorus levels, sedimentation rates, and diatom populations as the lake uses and inflows have changed over time.
 - GIS mapping of phosphorus sources in the watershed – Related to the Lawn Fertilizer Studies, students will be creating GIS maps to show sources of phosphorus in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Creek sub-watersheds of the BMW watershed. The maps will also identify the best areas for riparian zones and be developed to be interactive as a ‘story map’.

Technical Committee Update – Steve will send out some slides summarizing water quality.

Dennis requested that a committee be formed to review the By-laws in lieu of the potential changes to the IP. **Amy Conklin, Emily, and Julie** volunteered (or were voluntold) to participate. **Amy** will contact Steve Janssen who helped draft the By-laws to see if he might be willing to assist.

Next Meetings

I/E Committee Meeting – **March 7th, 2017 9am, Barr Lake Nature Center**

Technical Committee meeting – **March 23rd, 2017, 9 am, Metro**

Stakeholder Meeting – **March 28th, 2017 - TBD**

Barr Lake Nature Center Grand Opening – **March 31st from 3pm to 5:00 pm for VIPs (like us).**

Board Meeting – **April 25th, 2017, 9 am Metro**

CU Denver Graduate Capstone Presentation – **May 10th, Barr Lake Nature Center**

Bike Tours/Watershed Tour – **June 6th, 9am – 1pm; June 7th, 1 – 5 pm**

BMW I/E Events for 2017

Date	Event	Activity	Name and contact
Saturday 3/11/17	Barr lake Volunteer Training	Presentation	Steve L., Michelle S.
Friday 3/31/17	Nature Center Open House (3:00-5:00pm)	Table	Steve L., Michelle S.
Saturday 4/8/17	Barr Lake Raptor Run	Water station	
Saturday 5/6/17	Barr Lake Spring Fishing Clinic	T-shirts, Booth	
Saturday 7/15/17	Lake Appreciation Day	T-shirts, Booth	Steve L., Michelle S.
Saturday 8/10/17	Commerce City Neighborhood Event	T-shirts, Booth	Steve L., Michelle S.
Friday 5/?/17	End of School Event	Demonstration	Steve L., Michelle S.
5/11/17	Tri-City Water Festival	Speak	James and Michelle S.
Thursday 5/18/17	Aurora Water Festival	Speak	
Friday 8/1/17	Adams County Fair	T-shirts, Booth	
6/3/17	Brighton Culture Fest	T-shirts, Booth	
9/?/17	Nat. WQ Awareness Week	T-shirts	
Saturday 9/9/17	Barr Lake Fall Birding Festival	T-shirts, Booth	
10/10- 12/17	Watershed Assembly Conference	Booth, speak	
Saturday 9/30/17	Barr Lake Shoreline Cleanup	Pick up trash	
Saturday 10/14/17	Barr Lake Harvest Festival	Help out	
Saturday 10/28/17	Barr Lake Halloween Trail	Help out	