

Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir Watershed Association  
BMW Board Retreat  
January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.  
South Adams County Water and San., 9702 Monaco St.

**Minutes**

**Board Attendance:**

Steve Lundt – Metro  
Dan DeLaughter– SPWRP  
Brad Cox – DPW  
Michelle Seubert – CPW  
Erin Jenkins – SPWRP  
Chris Douglass – ECCV

Curt Bauers – FRICO  
JM Grenbenc – S. Adams  
Sarah Reeves – SPCURE  
Katie Koplitz – Metro Wastewater

**Public Attendance:**

Amy Conklin – BMW Coordinator

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Dan welcomed the group and everyone introduced themselves, while enjoying delicious burritos.

**Implementation Plan (IP) Update** – Dan reported that the committee has met and begun working on the IP. They began with a review of the history and need. Committee members are reviewing the existing IP and Watershed Plan before the next meeting. The intent is to meet monthly before the Board meeting. The goal is to have a draft by June. The IP only includes changes as recently as Reg. 85 and we need to expand out and coordinate with the Water Quality Roadmap as well as include stormwater information. Denver has an intern who will be reviewing nutrient data. Denver has nutrient data as far back as 2006.

**Data Visualization Tool (Erin)** – Erin Jenkins, with South Platte Water Renewal Partners (SPWRP), brought up the tool on the screen and walked the group through the data. There is some Quality Control (QC) that needs to happen to clean up the data. The software they’re using will keep track of QC steps taken. Power BI is the name of the software.

There are very powerful visualization tools that can be used to present the data. Her presentation showed flows with nutrient concentrations and Reg. 85 and Reg. 31 limits. The program allows the user to isolate certain points of data, e.g. just the Burlington Ditch. The program also calculates loads. SPWRP can use the tool to use data to drive degrees of treatment to achieve desired levels in the river, after the effluent mixes with upstream water.

Last year, SPWRP spent about \$500K on methanol to remove Nitrogen (N) from the effluent. The data shows that the plant may be able to reduce the times they are using methanol and still protect water quality in the river. So far, they don’t have similar capabilities for Phosphorus (P). The program incorporates GIS so the data can be displayed at different sites on a map. The program allows the users to zoom in to the different sources. The Burlington canal data is from FRICO. **JM** would like to add in South Adams data. The data covers mostly segments 14 and 15.

The tool shows that only about 30% of the flow in the Burlington Canal is diverted to Barr Lake. However, there may be some review required to make sure the flows into Barr Lake as reflected in the tool are correct. Steve finds that the Burlington sweeps the river 45% of the time in a typical year. It is diverting some amount of water about 92% of the time; taking all the water in

the river 45% of the time. Steve would like to add effluent outfalls for Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) and stormwater outfalls. The data entry can be automated from different sources. **Anyone with additional data and sites should send Erin the data.** The group needs to decide how/if to publish the data. Anyone can get Power BI for free now. We could publish to a public Microsoft site and link to the website.

Anything posted on the public site would be, well, public. The data tool is being developed primarily for use by the BMW Board. It may be worth exploring using a Share Point site to host the tool although the Power BI and Share Point platforms may not be seamlessly compatible. The data on the Share Point site could be private. However the data and tool are used, we need to be sure to establish safeguards preventing people from editing the data without permission.

It would be nice to be able to use the tool in updating the IP. Some water quality projections could be explored and displayed using the tool. The Board will continue to wrestle with exactly how to use the tool. Everyone thanked Erin for her hard work.

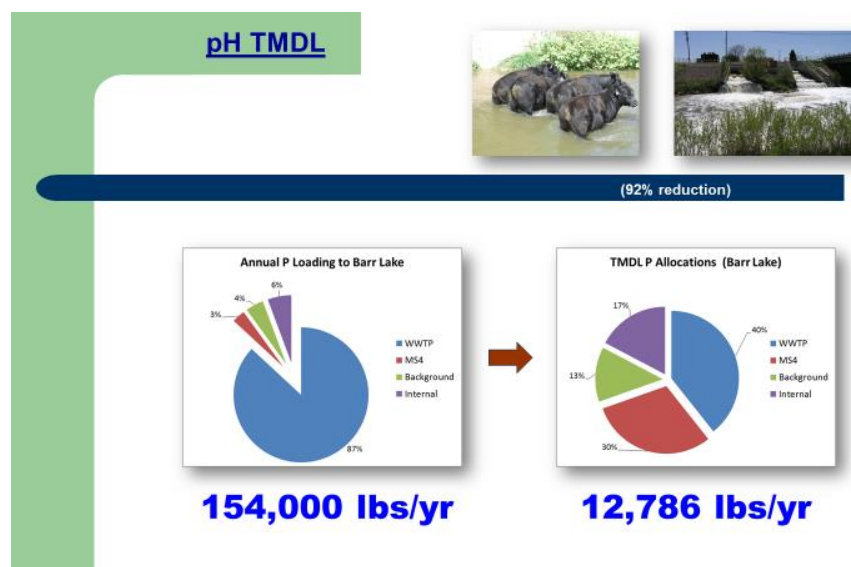
**Update on Dewatering Permits (Dan)** –Dan hasn't seen any response to our comments. It will probably be another 6 months or so before we get a response. Dan also reported that the WQCD has posted a policy on Temporary Modifications for comment that may impact Barr Lake and Milton Reservoirs Arsenic standards. The WQCD has stated that they won't establish limits that are below the detection limit of 1 ug/L.

**OCCT Presentation (Amy)** – Amy walked the Board through her presentation. Water quality has improved but it has primarily been because Metro is no longer pumping effluent directly into the Burlington canal. The pumps were washed out by flooding in 2012. It was noted that Metro has reduced P in their effluent from 3 mg/L to 1 mg/L. If Metro ever does resume pumping into the Burlington Canal, the water quality of the effluent will be much better than it was in 2012.

It was pointed out that the pie chart of TMDL loads is relative. As the POTWs begin treating for P, the relative contributions from other sources will increase.

As the presentation pivoted to the Denver Water (DW) part of the story, Amy was encouraged to

emphasize that there was a choice. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) required that the most protective of human health solution was chosen, but other options were considered. It was up to DW to show that another option was as protective as adding P and they did. The effort was one that required a 'Yes, and.....' answer instead of being completely prescriptive. DW's



solution met the bar of being the most protective of human health but they had to get creative. Amy was directed to include a summary of the hours of meetings and tremendous effort that was required to get to the creative solution. Also, the variance was something no one had done before.

When **Amy** finishes the last slide, she'll send it off to DW to get their comments. Once all the comments have been compiled, she'll submit it as a presentation to the Sustaining Colorado's Watersheds conference and the Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners conference. Michelle may want to have the presentation at the Park Rangers conference in March.

**Website Update** – Amy whined some more about the status of the website; that the links keep breaking and she doesn't know why. Carol, the volunteer that helped set up the website, is moving back to Texas and won't be available much to help resolve the issues. **Steve** offered to check to see if Metro could donate some IT help. If Metro can provide some expertise, Amy can post files and supervise interns to post files and fix links. **Steve** will let the Board know if Metro assistance is possible. **Amy** will prepare a brief summary to help Metro staff understand the issues. Other than that, she'll pause with website updates until the issues are resolved. Both Metro personnel and the new intern will need separate accounts to access the site, with different levels of permissions.

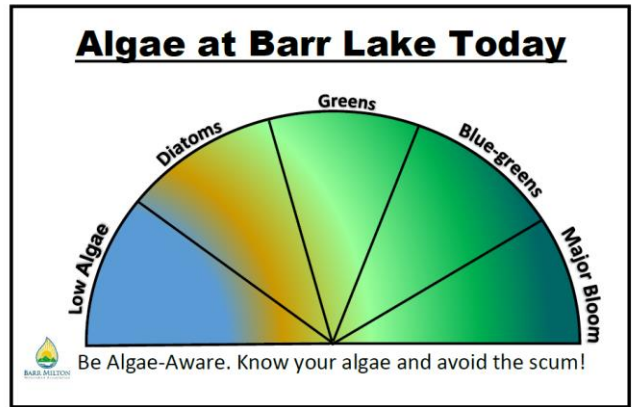
**Prairie Corner Lift Station** – JM shared with the group that South Adams County Water and Sanitation District is a member of the Adams County Water Quality Association (ACWQA) which is the Section 208 (of the Clean Water Act) planning agency and should be reviewing the lift station application. He doesn't know if this lift station has been reviewed yet and gave **Amy** the contact information for the person at South Adams to contact. Amy was also directed to ask Tri-County Health when the comment period will end.

The Board discussed issues BMW may want to bring up including secondary containment, lighting, odor and other issues related to the site being so close to the wildlife refuge. **Dan** will draft a letter and call the ACWQ contact. Dan can ask them if they'd like Amy to attend their meeting and make a presentation about who BMW is and why they should care. **Amy** will follow up with Tri-County Health by cutting and pasting meeting minutes to Mike Weakly. Both were encouraged to thank Tri-County Health for bringing this to our attention.

**I&E Committee Update (Steve)** – Steve reported that he reached out to Meg Parish, with CDPHE, regarding the Source Control Group of the OCCT effort to determine if there was going to be an effort to pursue legislation to ban P from lawn fertilizers. She invited him to make a presentation to the Source Control Committee but he was unable to. Metro will be producing a number of products that will be used in manufacturing fertilizers for consumers. Metro wants to think through their position on P free fertilizers before making presentations about removing it from lawn fertilizers. Steve showed the Board the presentation he would have made which includes a summary of what other states have enacted and the lessons they learned as they worked the legislation through their processes. One of the lessons from the experience in other states that have passed P free fertilizer legislation is to make the effort statewide. It makes the information and education as well as the implementation of the program much easier. Steve has developed a rapport with one of the executives at ACE Hardware. They may be willing to put up

signage to encourage people to use P free fertilizers on their lawns. He also makes a presentation to the Denver Master Composting Conference.

Steve reported that the next I&E meeting will be in March. We may be adding National Public Lands Day in late September as an event we sponsor because it includes an robust shoreline cleanup component. Michelle reported on a water display that is being developed for the nature center on fertilizer. It's part of a display on farming. There is an effort to protect farmland in the Splendid Valley near Barr Lake. The BMW intern drafted a new sign for the fishing pier about fish in the lake. Steve presented a sign he's proposing to alert park patrons about algae in the lake. He wants the sign to be permanent with additional signage that talks about the different levels of algae. The information will likely be put on postcards that are handed out to boaters, too. Steve and Amy worked together to purchase T-shirts. It was harder than it needed to be.



The I&E members will be interviewing intern candidates on February 11<sup>th</sup> at MSU. FRICO may be able to fund a separate intern. **Amy** will reach out to the contact Sam sent her who is a professor at MSU and may be able to refer good candidates to apply for the internship. There will be a stormdrain marking event at the end of March using the app.

**PFAs Legislation Update** - Sarah reported on proposed legislation and policy to regulate perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAs). Currently there is no federal maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFAs. The proposed legislation would allow the state to set its own MCL. The difficult part of the issue is whether or not permit holders can be required to add PFAs to their analyses protocols without opening up their discharge permits. The sampling that regulators would want to happen would be at sources for PFAs. Luckily, we don't have many sources in Colorado. There are also some issues around proper disposal of PFAs containing waste. The area where PFAs will likely be of most impact to BMW is with de-watering permits. **Sarah** will report back in February about the status of the legislation and policy. Chris reported that ECCV has signed up to perform some testing for PFAs.

**Updates/Action Items**

Chair's Report – Dan suggested removing the SPROWG project activity from the agenda for the near future.

Treasurer's Report - As of the December 31<sup>st</sup>, the balance is \$209,550.95. All expenses since the last meeting are within budget and will be recorded as part of the minutes. Chris reported that there was an issue with someone hacking the BMW debit card. It has been resolved but was a hassle.

<b>December Charges that cleared</b>		
12/9/19 - gas station in IN	\$ 89.98	disputed charges
12/9/19 - gas station in IN	\$ 90.00	disputed charges
12/19/19 - USPS post office box renewal	\$ 112.00	admin?
Check 2107 - Amy Conklin, Nov. Coordinator	\$ 3,730.34	Coordinator
<b>January Checks for Signature</b>		
2110 - Applewood Bookkeeping, 2nd Qtr	\$ 60.00	bookkeeping
2111 - Applewood Bookkeeping, 3rd Qtr	\$ 60.00	bookkeeping
2112 - GEI Stormwater Monitoring	\$ 1,297.00	Stormwater monitoring
2113 - Amy Conklin, Dec. 2019 Coordinating	\$ 3,298.50	Coordinating

Coordinator Updates (Amy C.)

Approval of the December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Retreat Minutes – Thumbs up approval.

Approval of Bike Tours Grant Application – Thumbs up approval

BMW hard drive – external hard drive was borrowed by Curt Bauers to back up on a FRICO hard drive somewhere. He'll return to Amy in February.

Letter of Support for Lincoln Hill Cares and El Laboratorio NPS grant application. Information included in packet - Thumbs up approval to send a letter of support barring some critical new information.

Water Conference concept – not giving up yet

Stakeholder meeting Prep.- the meeting will be at the Nature Center. **Chris, Julie and Steve** will be presenting along with **Sarah** (with a PFAs update).

Board meeting schedule of topics – All OK

- **Next Meetings**

- Stakeholder Meeting – **February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 9:30 am, TBD**
- I/E Committee Meeting – **March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 10 am to 11:30, Barr Lake Nature Center**
- Technical Committee meeting – **TBD, 9 am Metro**
- Board Meeting – **March 24<sup>th</sup>, 9 am Metro**

- **BMW Board 2020 'Schedule'**

- ~~January 28, 2020 – Meeting at South Adams Water and Sanitation District – Thank you **JM!**~~
  - ~~**Amy** will present an outline for a presentation paper on the BMW OCCT experience. Too many acronyms (TMA). Amy will reach out to DW to get their feedback on the outline.~~
  - ~~**Erin** will present what she's done with a Data Visualization Tool~~
- February 25, 2020 – Stakeholder meeting – Barr Lake Nature Center – Thank you **Michelle**
  - **Steve** - Water Quality update
  - **Chris** – ECCV update
  - **Julie** – Centennial update
- March 24, 2020 – Metro, Thank you **Steve**
  - **IP Committee** – progress report and brainstorming opportunities and funding
  - **Dan/Erin** – Industrial Permit update
- April 28, 2020 – Metro, Thank you **Steve**
  - **GEI or Steve** – Stormwater quality update
  - **IP Committee** - Update
- May 26, 2020 – Metro, Thank you **Steve**
  - Presentation from Lobbyist – **Amy** will work with **Michelle** to get CPW lobbyist to talk to the Board about the legislative process and what would be required for passing P-free fertilizer legislation
- June 23, 2020 – North Denver Cornerstone Collaborative tour – **Amy** will work with **Brad** to set it up
  - Include information on improvements at City Park
- July 28, 2020 – Meet at Metro, Thank you **Steve**

- **Steve** – will try to set up a tour of Metro’s P recovery facility
- **IP Committee** – Update, maybe draft
- August 25, 2020 – Meet at Metro, Thank you **Steve**
  - **Amy** will invite other watershed groups to attend this meeting and give them lunch. We can ask for an update on activities in Chatfield (including Chatfield Reallocation), Bear Creek (including progress on their TMDL) and Cherry Creek
  - **Curt** (?) – Present on how FRICO plans to operate in regards to the conservation pool at Chatfield
  - **IP Committee** – present final draft?
  - Preparation for Annual meeting and BBQ
- September 22, 2020 – meet at Barr Lake, try to engage more stakeholders, thank you **Michelle**
  - **Michelle** – will help arrange golf cart tour to area where in-canal treatment would be built
  - **Steve** – will present in-canal treatment concept, maybe Harvey Harper can call in
  - **Amy** – will reach out to WQCD (Meg Parish, Joni Nuttle, Nicole Rowan, Patrick P.)
- October 27, 2020 – Meet at Metro, thank you **Steve**
  - General catch up from whatever we didn’t get to or need to get to.
  - Other topics – PFAs, invite Paul Winkle to talk about Arsenic and fishing
- November 24, 2020 – Board Retreat