

**Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir Watershed Association
Public Stakeholder Meeting
Tuesday, March 28, 2017
Barr Lake State Park Nature Center
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

In attendance:

Shelley Stanley, BDCWA
 Steve Lundt, Metro Wastewater
 Sarah Reeves, SPCURE
 Laurie Rink, FRICO
 Michelle Seubert, Barr Lake State Park
 Mary Dawson, City of Aurora
 Julie Kinsey, EPA
 Keith Pass, DIA
 Michelle Neilsen, Metro Wastewater
 Dennis Stowe, Littleton Englewood POTW
 Jillian Taylor, Metro Wastewater
 Roy Wardell, Pelican Lake Ranch

Emily Jackson, Metro Wastewater
 Joe Hogan, Solitude Lake Management
 Erin Stewart, Solitude Lake Management
 Jim Arnold, Haven Sporting Club/Milton Res.
 Derek Sowell, Haven Sporting Club/Milton Res.
 Stacey Eriksen, EPA
 Jeff Ramey, Ramey Environ./Lochbuie
 Caroline Powell, Caroline Powell Consulting

Guests:

Amy Conklin, BMW Coordinator

Welcome, Sign-In, and Introductions – Amy welcomed everyone to the first BMW Stakeholder meeting in 2017. Everyone briefly introduced themselves.

Storm Drain Marking App (Caroline Powell) – Caroline presented an App she has developed as part of her course work through Turning School of Software & Design. The mobile part of the App is still under design and she demonstrated the capabilities of the App on the internet. The App will allow people to mark stormdrains with messages about the water draining directly to the waterway untreated, upload a photo of the marked drain and locate other drains near their location. She hopes to pilot the App in the next few months and roll it out commercially by the fall. She is scheduled to present to the Colorado Stormwater Council in April. BMW may participate in the pilot project, using their intern.



Water Quality Report (Steve Lundt) – Steve made one of his usual scintillating presentations on the water quality in Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir. He explained the complicated water quality measurements and how they relate to the uses of the lake. He compared the 2016 water quality data to the median concentrations and the goal values. The goal of the TMDL is to reduce pH and increase Dissolved Oxygen (DO) to attain water quality standards. Levels pH and DO are driven by the

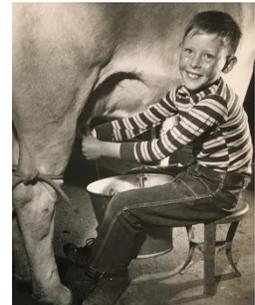


amount of algae growing in the water bodies. The amount of algae is measured by the amount of chlorophyll a in the water and is limited by the amount of phosphorus (P) available to the algae. Just like fertilizing lawns with P make the grass grow, high P levels in the water make the algae grow. The growth of algae, especially blue-green algae impact the uses of the water in the lakes.

Barr Lake did not meet the pH goal in 2016, but had met the goal for three years prior to 2016. Even though the pH was above the standard, the perception of people using the lake is that the water quality was good in 2016. In Milton Reservoir, the pH standard was met in 2016. Steve thinks what may be happening is the diversity of the algae in the lakes is changing because of the reductions in P. As the amount of P decreases, green algae are becoming more prevalent and blue-green algae, the ones that are smelly and toxic, are decreasing. The timing of the growing season may also be changing as a result of climate change. The group thanked him for his work monitoring and evaluating the results of water quality measurements in the lakes.



Brief History of Milton Reservoir (Roy Wardell, Rancher) - Roy shared with the group some of the history of the area. One of the geologic realities people often overlook is the sandy nature of the area; similar to the Sand Hills in Nebraska. The geology made the irrigation ditches very porous. When parts of the ditches were lined with concrete, nearby Cottonwood trees often died. In the 1950s, Milton Reservoir was so empty, Roy remembered big dust storms over the lakebed. In wetter years, he learned to water ski on Milton. He has witnessed the growing conflict between Agricultural and Municipal water uses. The value of the water often exceeds the value of the land. His family’s ranch began as a 160 acre homestead and is now a ranch of more than 3,000 acres. When he was a boy, a professional photographer came to his family’s ranch and took photos of rural life which he shared. Some of the photos have been used in publications all over the world. He also shared other family photos of the area from decades ago.



General Business:

- Updates
 - **Board (Laurie Rink)** – Laurie reported that the Board has been working on updating the watershed plan and hope to finish the update by the end of the year.
 - **Technical Committee (Steve Lundt)** – Steve reported that the Technical Committee has been continuing work evaluating implementation options. Another model update is coming up soon and will require us to collect another round of data.

- **Treasurer's Report (Shelley Stanley)** Shelley reported that membership dues invoices will be coming in the next few months. She briefly went over revenues and expenditures and shared that the budgeting process has started with Board review of the proposed budget for 2017-18 in June and adoption in July.
- **Information and Education Committee – (Steve Lundt)** Steve reported that the I&E Committee was coordinating with Michelle Seubert and her many activities at Barr Lake State Park. They have used their budget to purchase T-shirts and designs for people to color and put onto the shirts. BMW has hired an intern, Erica Wenzel, a student at MSU, who will begin work in late May. BMW has been actively working with other students including Graduate students at CU Denver. They will be presenting their projects on **May 10th at the Barr Lake Nature Center**. The projects include studies of Lawn Fertilizer runoff rates, Barr Lake sediment core analysis, and GIS mapping of P sources in the watershed.
- **Coordinator -** Amy reported that the BMW Watershed Tour/Bike Tour with Colorado Stormwater Council would be **June 6th and 7th, 2017**. Amy reported that this year for the Watershed Tour, we are again partnering with the CFWE to arrange for bike tours of the South Platte River from Johnson Habitat Park to Riverside Cemetery. The June 6th tour is being organized as the next Stakeholder meeting and watershed tour. We will be sending information about the tour. She reported that the BMW Board would also be working with Denver Water regarding their plans to use P for corrosion prevention in response to drinking water issues in Flint, MI.

Open Forum – Dennis Stowe shared that the 40th Anniversary of the Littleton/Englewood POTW was coming up and a celebration was planned. He will send information to Amy to distribute about the event.

Tour of Nature Center – Michelle Seubert led the group on a tour of newly remodeled Nature Center. The official Grand Opening was March 31st.

Upcoming Meetings/Events (see www.barr-milton.org for more information):

- **BMW Board meeting – April 25 , 9:00** am to noon, Metro or Nature Center
- **BMW I&E Committee – May 2, 9:00** am to 11:00, Barr Lake State Park Nature Center
- **Technical Committee – May 18, 9:00** am to 11:00 am, Metro
- **Watershed Tour - June 6th** (in the am, targeting BMW) and **June 7th** (in the pm, targeting the public), beginning at Johnson Habitat Park.