

Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir Watershed Association
Technical Committee Meeting
Thursday July 28th, 2022 (9:00am – 10:00am)
Virtual

Draft MINUTES

In attendance:

Curt Bauers – FRICO
Brad Cox – Denver
John Stednick – FRICO
Jim Dorsch - Metro
Bethany Green – Aurora
Kelly DiNatale – United
Jim Dorsch – Metro

Erin Sandos – S. Platte Renew (SPR)
Chris Newton – ECCV
Steve Lundt - Metro

Guests:

Amy Conklin – Coordinator
Samantha Miller - Coordinato

Approve May Meeting Minutes – The minutes will be approved pending corrections sent to Sami by end of day Friday. John brought up that some of the questions that arise in the meetings haven't been resolved after appearing in the minutes. For example, might Joni Nuttle, CDPHE, be joining the Technical Committee (TC)? Steve reported that he has spoken to Joni and she doesn't have the time to attend our TC meetings. **Sami** will send John the minutes and list of questions from the state from Tuesday's BMW Board meeting. He suggests that items in the minutes should be carried forward on meeting agendas. Steve responded that it would be good to get more participation from the group in answering the questions.

FRICO data is in the DSN. Steve reports problems in finding FRICO current data. **John and Curt** can send Steve the spreadsheets although FRICO data through 2021 is in the Data Sharing Network. Reminder: all the data entities collect is 'BMW data' regardless of who collected it. It might be worth hiring a technical person under contract to BMW to help guide the work of the TC. Can TC meeting attendance be opened to a wider group? Ken Wagner had filled that role but he retired. His participation kept the committee focused.

Maybe one of the consultants interested in the coordinator role would be a good candidate to take a lead on the TC. The challenge is that none of the participants have the time to complete the tasks identified in the TC. We have the technical knowledge to get the work done, just not the time. In the past, there were specific goals where there was consensus around the work that had to be done. There was a clear path in the past of working towards completing the TMDL. The uncertainties had to be researched and then the modeling had to be completed. In canal treatment is one of the options that could be pursued but there is no leadership. Ditto for the modeling.

At the next meeting the TC will develop a wish list and have a discussion about hiring experts to accomplish the goals. Stormwater monitoring folks will be coming to the next meeting. A brainstorming session with MS4s next month could be good. Maybe GEI could participate? It might help us decide how to proceed with the modeling. The conversation should also include a budgetary discussion for the larger Stakeholder's Group to consider. The over-arching questions are if the water quality is improving, and how do we measure success? That is another issue that the group may want to explore and define.

Next month's agenda will focus on coming up with a work plan and figuring out a path forward. Topics to be included are:

- Modeling
- Consultant possibilities
- In reservoir techniques for internal loading
- In canal treatment
- What are the impacts of nutrient standards being applied to water storage reservoirs.
- Stormwater monitoring

Committee members should send their topic ideas to Erin ahead of time so she can share them no later than **September 8th**.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Creek Loads – Follow-up on sampling discussion from May meeting:

Is SAWSD still collecting data to calculate Lawn Irrigation Return Flows (LIRFs)? - Curt followed up with S. Adams County. They are still trying to collect data to support their assumption that they are generating LIRFs in order to take credit for the LIRF flows. S. Adams County has data at First Creek but not much LIRF makes it to First Creek. And 2nd and 3rd creeks don't appear to show any accumulating LIRF.

Were we able to collect some grab samples? Access issues? - Steve reported that he tries to collect samples at First, Second and Third as well as BB pipeline as part of his sampling program. There wasn't any flow in the creeks but there was in the BB pipeline which he sampled. He's been trying to collect samples for the last few months. Kelly is still working on finding an easier access point for sample collection. That will improve chances for sample collection. **Kelly** will be working with **Steve** on that access and will include **Curt**. Access to First and Second Creeks is fine. He hasn't sampled Third Creek yet because there hasn't been any flow. He'll keep trying to collect samples and share the data as it becomes available. Curt added that he has been sampling downstream from the BB pipeline. Sometimes he also samples the BB pipeline.

If the modeling isn't matching the data, there could be a change in the flows that we have yet to find. There could be inputs to the ditches we haven't identified yet. There may be a correlation to stormflows. It will be good to determine what the loads are from the creeks and BB pipeline. Commerce City has done a lot of stormwater protection work. In the past, there was more flow in Third Creek but DIA has built some detention facilities which have reduced flows. The drought may have impacted groundwater flows. **Steve** will share the data as it becomes available. Monitoring the creeks and BB pipeline should be part of the brainstorming session at next month's meeting.

United Water Quality – In the May meeting we discussed collecting water quality data from United's inputs to the BB pipeline (storage cells near E-470 and 85). Some follow-up questions are:

Where is the best sampling point? The pump station? - **Steve and Kelly** will be working on finding a good sampling point and include **Curt**. There is a plan to start sampling the nearby reservoirs as well. It's likely that Barr Lake will start getting some more water due to the recent storms. They will report on progress on sampling at next month's meeting.

What water quality data is available in the CDSN? Could this help calibrate the WQ model? - This can be included in the list of topics for next month's meeting.

Internal Loading Discussion – Continue to evaluate alternatives to control internal loading - This can be included in the list of topics for next month's meeting. Erin asked about the dredging project at Milton and if there was any additional information. The project is underway to remove as much material as possible until funding is exhausted. Over the years, a lot of sediment has accumulated. As much will be removed as possible. Sediments are being stockpiled where de-watering will likely infiltrate, but some water may runoff back into the lake. No monitoring of the de-watering is proposed. The infiltration rates at the site are so high that collecting samples would be problematic. It will be interesting to see how much material is removed and any impacts to the lake's ecology.

Erin reported that SPR will begin optimizing P removal in October/November timeline. They aren't sure what level of removal they will be achieving. She'll keep the group informed about the timing of the reductions. Once SPR achieves P reductions, along with the other point sources, what is the next source of loading to focus on? Curt also brought up the issue of de-icers where there has been progress in reducing P loads. **Curt** will share any information he has with **Brad**.

Next Meeting

Tech. Committee: September 22, 2022 (Hybrid – virtual and at South Platte Renew)