



Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir Watershed Association
BMW Board Meeting
April 25th, 2023, 9:00 – 11:30 am
Online & In-Person (Metro Wastewater Recovery)
 6450 York St, Denver, CO 80229
 HR Training Room, first floor in the Technical Service Building

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Attendance:

Steve Lundt – Metro Water Recovery
 Erin Sandos – South Platte Renew
 Caleb Owen – Thornton
 Erica Klein – BMW Intern
 Chris Newton – ECCV
 Kelly DiNatale – United Water & Sanitation
 Katie Koplitz – Metro Water Recovery

Curt Bauers – FRICO
 Sarah Reeves – SPCURE
 Dan DeLaughter - SPR

Public Attendance:

Sami Miller – BMW Coordinator
 Craig Wolf - GEI

Introductions – Erin greeted everyone and led introductions.

GEI MS4 Permit – Craig Wolf joined from GEI to summarize and present their recent project. City and County of Denver has consulted GEI to quantify their contribution to the TMDL MS4 Wasteload Allocation. The TC has met with GEI and reviewed their progress to date. Erin Sandos led the board in a discussion to approve their approach.

- A. The purpose of this agenda item was to make sure the whole board is in alignment with what Denver is doing with the MS4 permit requirements. GEI has been implementing the MS4 allocations. GEI presented several summary slides of their approach. These can be found in detail on the [BMW website](#) under the March 2023 Technical Committee meeting minutes (which will be uploaded at the end of May 2023).
- B. Denver is the largest aerial coverage and influence – the statement was put into the permit to identify what their contribution is to the TMDL. Their goal is to achieve a 20% reduction. GEI was brought in to help identify what their overall Total Phosphorus (TP) contribution is so they can move forward showing what their reduction is/will be.
- C. GEI looked at geospatial overlays from the SWAT model. They identified the subbasins that overlaid the shed data and three areas for Denver’s purpose that are outside the dashed that import flow. The boundary was based on elevation data; the elevation boundary delineated one watershed from the next. The question was posed if we need to change our boundary – Craig said no, he doesn’t think that’s necessary.
- D. Outlier basins were also identified that all drain into the watershed/Barr-Milton reservoirs. There are 19 basins that Denver’s MS4 boundaries cover.
- E. GEI evaluated the results of the SWAT model and took the percentage contribution, with considerations that this model outcome didn’t really drive the TMDL. The numbers are different than the TMDL, mostly because a “best professional judgement” was used. Ultimately, contributions were calculated using these TMDL numbers. The numbers between the TMDL and the SWAT model numbers ended up being pretty close.

- F. After the contribution was calculated, they took into account the land use. Both agricultural land use and urban/residential land use was found. The overall adjustment was about 2 kg/yr – adjusted for ag uses.
- G. Barr Lake accounted for 83% of total value; Milton accounted for 17% of total value. Barr – 818kg/yr, Milton 169kg/yr was the final answer for contribution to Total Phosphorus.
- H. City of Denver is the first to have this MS4 permit requirement. Aurora and Lakewood now still have the same permit requirements.
- I. *The board gave all around approval and thumbs up for GEI/City and County of Denver's approach to this. The Tech Committee has heard this full presentation and has no major concerns.*

Rulemaking Hearing Debrief – Erin led a discussion and debrief on the hearing.

- A. The Commission accepted the Division's consolidated proposal; the adoption of the standards into the individual basins is delayed to 2027.
- B. Overall thoughts:
 - a. The numbers will remain the same, but they will be looking at streams next.
 - b. They need to do a full cost analysis still, before 2027.
 - c. There were over 40 individual parties, each with several members in it. The general takeaway was that a lot of money/resources went into diving into the data, but at the end of the day, the Commission adopted exactly what the Division proposed anyway.
 - d. The 2012 hearing was pretty intensive, this seemed to be less intense – maybe because it was the second round.
 - e. In 2027, it will be rolled out basin by basin (except chlorophyll-A will be statewide).
 - f. The 4b designation: if we avoid being listed as impaired, we might be able to get designated as 4b; site-specific (wouldn't work for Nitrogen in the 4b) might work for TP or Nitrogen.
 - g. We should start having the conversations now about our plan and next steps so that at the 2025 hearing we can bring up our idea/plan early.
 - h. It's a small victory that the Commission did accept all of the water rights concerns – considering everything else.
 - i. The BMW TMDL covers Dissolved Oxygen (DO) and TP. Our TMDL numbers are higher than the proposed numbers. The plan is that all of the TMDLs will stay in place, with a new TMDL for TP.
 - j. It would be beneficial to see what our site-specific standards would look like to get a first run/evaluation of numbers and see where we stand. BMW could spend some money, have the Tech Committee put out an RFP and hire someone to evaluate this (sounded from hearing, like many orgs will look at site-specific route).
 - k. Thoughts on the 17-1 policy update – it was stated that the language was changed to make definitions clearer, but the intent didn't change. When it came out in 2017, the communication from the Division to permittees was that you WILL get a certain amount of years. Now, the language seems to have changed from ensuring you would get a certain number of months/years for a schedule, to basically saying that no one is guaranteed any amount of time and it's at the Division's discretion. The concern is that the intent has actually changed.
 - l. The idea to get in a meeting with The Commission periodically to give (positive) updates on Barr Lake and what's going on there was thrown out. Barr lake is

often referenced as an example of “worst case” scenarios, algae blooms, “worst lake in CO”, etc., so getting on their agenda to shed light on the progress there and the positive things going on could be really helpful and impactful.

Actions:

- **Tech Committee** – will meet and reconvene about the possible RFP process and the route of exploring the site-specific option.

Newsletter Update – Sami showed a preview of the newsletter for the board. It will be sent out April 27th.

- A. Ideas for August newsletter – equipment rental business idea from Steve – highlight the amenities and how that’s a sign of improved water quality; carp tournament and net updates

I & E Committee Update – Steve & Erica reported on the I&E Committee and upcoming activities (see calendar below). Next meeting is May 2nd.

- A. MSES grad program presentations are available to attend – see flyer Sami sent out with board packet.
- B. LLYLI website updates are complete for this year!
- C. Steve has spoken with CSU extension about statewide certification program for landscaping companies; the idea is to team up to make sure the P-Free initiative is a part of any statewide training efforts.
- D. Rain barrels are still a really popular workshop. Steve has run them in Globeville landing, SPUR campus, and the Holly Hills African American mountain fly fishing camp – workshop for youth. The current law is you can have two 55gal barrels on a house or an apt building with up to four units, it must be covered and contained. There is just a huge flood of workshops this year! The barrels are only free from coca cola; they’re happy to give them out, but they’re pretty much the only source.
- E. Carp tournament – the carp net is about \$4k to rent and \$1k for corn. We took a year off last year and didn’t get as many carp but did fishing tourney instead and used \$2100 for cash prizes. It’s a huge push to do carp tourney again, but also want to do the net again. Steve needs board approval to do both and spend the money in the budget. Kelly threw out idea of NasCarp and make it a more athletic event.
 - a. *The board gave thumbs up approval for Steve spending the money as long as the budget allows for it once he checks with Michelle.*
- F. CPW is doing PFAS testing of their fish at five parks. Steve has been recruited to help with catching the fish at Barr Lake for testing.
- G. Steve was at Earth Day with Donny Roush at Denver Botanic Gardens. It snowed, but they still had about 1,000 people and handed out P-Free collateral.
- H. The Furry Scurry at Wash Park is coming up and should have several people.
- I. Collab efforts – Confluence at the Confluence, topic will be Denver watershed groups; Steve is also helping plan Cherry Creek conference in the fall.

Actions:

- **Steve** will check with Michelle on budget for both the carp tournament and the net.

Technical Committee Meeting – Erin reported on the Technical Committee meeting and other TC updates. Next meeting is May 25th.

- A. Next meeting will be going through calculations and assumptions for the loads.

- B. In-canal treatment – Can we begin a potential pilot program for this? It would mean getting an updated cost estimate. Steve would like to revitalize this idea overall.
- C. Site-specific standards plan/potential for this path will be discussed next time.

Updates/Action Items

- Chair's Report (Erin) –
 - A. Erin, Steve, Sarah, Curt met on watershed plan – work on this continues; the subcommittee is making it easier to update each year by including no actual results, but instead linking to the Implementation Plan where the results live. The goal is for it to be more of a living doc with a table with initiatives, ongoing/past initiatives, and a tentative schedule that's updated annually. The board would read this once a year then we'd all be ready for the board retreat in the fall!
- Treasurer's Report (Michelle) – As of April 18th, the balance is \$303,151.53.
 - All expenses since the last meeting are within budget and will be recorded as part of the minutes.

Checks for signature in April 2023	Amount	Notes
2265 - Applewood bookkeeping	\$ 76.00	1st quarter bookkeeping
2266 - Sami Miller	\$ 3,685.00	March coord. Services
2267 - GEI	\$ 194.00	Stormwater monitoring

- Coordinator Updates (Sami)
 - Review & approval of March 21st board meeting minutes
 - *The board gave thumbs up approval of the minutes.*
 - Wordpress site/domain renewal @ \$300/year; if we renew for two years it's 20% off; expires 7/26
 - *The board gave thumbs up approval to renew for 2 years at a time.*
 - Stakeholder survey results
 - Majority of people have attended 2+ meetings in the last couple of years
 - Majority of people want 2 meetings: meeting, then the annual BBQ
 - Most people want tours/experience (with networking opportunities)
 - Comments: both updates & tours are appreciated; addressing the TMDL is of priority & interest; the annual water quality summary is valuable, with comparison to past/future; how is BMW working to improve water quality and how can stakeholders help?
 - Takeaways: we're on the right track looking to have 2 meetings this year
 - For our June meeting: what are some ideas of where/what we'd like to do?
 - SPUR campus idea with tour of building, possible tour of autosampler; GEI talk about stormwater; Lakewood/Littleton/Denver updates on water quality with stormwater (could help with their permit); tour the Metro heat recovery system; stockyard saloon; WEco could do a talk?
 - Bylaws update – still waiting to hear back from Brownstein; recently followed up again.

- Invoicing – have started sending out invoices; will have all sent out by May 1; might have a couple stragglers as I work with them to discuss how much invoice is for this year.

Actions:

- **Sami** will reach out the SPUR campus contact about renting space and a possible tour for the June stakeholder meeting.

Next Meetings

- **TC meeting – May 2nd, 9-11am (virtual)**
- **Board meeting – May 23rd, 9 – 11:30 am, Location TBD**
- **I&E meeting – May 2nd, Time TBD, (virtual?)**

Standing(-ish) Agenda Items

- P Free Lawn Fertilizer coalition
- I&E Committee
- TC Committee
- Chair, Treasurer, and Coordinator reports
- Modeling effort/watersheds coordination
- 2023 Hearing preparation

BMW 2023 Board Calendar

**Meeting dates and topics may change*

Date	Meeting/Event	Topic / Notes
JANUARY		
3	I&E meeting	
24	Board meeting	Watershed Plan Watershed group collaboration prep Stakeholder meeting discussion
26	TC meeting	
FEBRUARY		
28	Board meeting	Guest organizations: Cherry Creek, Chatfield, LRE Water Quality update from Steve
MARCH		
7	I&E meeting	CANCELED
21	Board meeting	DATE MOVED UP FOR SCHED CONFLICTS Chris Newton - example dashboards for ECCV Revisit 208 planning discussion Corporate docs update and ADA update
23	TC meeting	DATE MOVED UP FOR GEI'S PURPOSES Ken Wagner - review of model assumptions, and discussion of areas to improve/expand Cherry Creek Authority/Kelly Close (LRE) dashboarding efforts
APRIL		
25	Board meeting	GEI/Ken Wagner Fresh Water Trust trading programs Newsletter update/discussion?
MAY		
2	I&E meeting	
23	Board meeting	Reaching out to landscapers Partnership with nonstandard permittees Metro (Reinna) discuss marketing the ideas of P-free fertilizer Newsletter update/discussion?
25	TC meeting	Dashboard Plan
JUNE		
27	Stakeholder Meeting	Possible tour of CSU hydro building & GEI present on autosampler?
JULY		
4	I&E meeting	4th of July - find new date!
25	Board meeting	
27	TC meeting	Draft data dashboard for review
AUGUST		
22	Board meeting	
SEPTEMBER		
5	I&E meeting	Tuesday after Labor Day
26	Annual Stakeholder Meeting & BBQ	
28	TC meeting	
OCTOBER		
24	Board meeting	
NOVEMBER		
7	I&E meeting	
28	Annual Board Retreat	
30	TC meeting	
DECEMBER		
	TBD - meetings as needed	

BMW I/E Events for 2023

**Schedule of events, times & locations may change!*

Date	Event/Activity	Location	Name and contact
March 25	Volunteer Training	Barr Lake	Michelle, Erica
April 8	Raptor Run	Barr Lake	Michelle
April 22	Earth Day	Denver Botanic Gardens	Erica, Donny
May 6	Furry Scurry	Wash Park	Erica, Donny, Steve?
May 20	CO Public Lands Day	Barr Lake	*Volunteer event TBD
June 3	Carp Tournament	Barr Lake	Steve, Michelle, Erica
June 28	Bike to Work Day	TBD	Steve, Justin
July 15	Lakes Appreciation Day	Barr Lake	Michelle, Steve
August 23 (or 24)	Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners Conference	Denver, CO	Steve, Erica?
September 24	National Public Lands Day	Barr Lake	Michelle, Steve
October 9	Indigenous Peoples Festival	Barr Lake	*Event TBD
October 28	Halloween Trail	Barr Lake	Michelle, Steve?
October	CO Watersheds Conference	Avon, CO	
TBD Events			Sunset Tours (led by Steve on pontoon); Volunteer Open House at Barr Lake (date TBD)