



**Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir Watershed Association
BMW Board Meeting
May 23rd, 2023, 9:00 – 11:30 am
Online & In-Person (South Platte Renew)**

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Attendance:

Erin Sandos – South Platte Renew
Caleb Owen – City of Thornton
Julie Tinetti – Centennial Water & Sanitation
Erica Klein – BMW Intern
Chris Newton – ECCV
Kelly DiNatale – United Water & Sanitation
Katie Koplitz – Metro Water Recovery

Curt Bauers – FRICO
Michelle Seubert – CPW
Sarah Reeves – SPCURE
Nicole Laurita – South Platte Renew

Public Attendance:

Sami Miller – BMW Coordinator
Gabe Racz -

Introductions – Erin greeted everyone and led introductions.

Nutrient Hearing Follow-Up & Site-Specific Standards – Gabe Racz joined the meeting to help BMW explore the idea of developing site-specific standards for our bodies of water as well as other options in response to the April nutrient hearing.

- A. The Commission approved new nutrient standards for warm lakes which will take effect in 2027 for Barr Lake & Milton Reservoir. While there was discussion about site specific standards (SSS) during the hearing, a theme that emerged is that there's some skepticism about SSS from the Division and the EPA. Gabe outlined that there are some alternative approaches to SSS that BMW might want to also consider.
- B. Another available approach is essentially a feasibility approach where BMW would analyze what concentrations are actually feasible to attain for Barr & Milton. This could look like an analysis of what is feasibly possible regarding a reduction at the Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs) that contribute to these bodies of water. This would require a comprehensive analysis of contributions to the watershed and could be a complicated analysis to run. A positive is that BMW does have a lot of historical data to work with.
- C. A third option proposed by Gabe (favored by WWCD) is focusing on facilities discharge variances. This approach would leave the table values (proposed standards) in place and each facility would have to determine its specific discharge variance.
- D. There was a suggestion proposed to work on the next phase of BMW's TMDL, but this would need to be done before the new standards are adopted in 2027 so timing is of the essence here.
- E. The question was asked: what is a feasible nutrient reduction goal for BMW?
- F. The Board reviewed the current timeline of upcoming milestones:
 - a. 2027 – Division proposes table value standards for all reservoirs
 - b. Sometime after that (undetermined, possibly a couple of years) there will be permit renewals based on the new standards, with a similar timeframe for MS4 permit renewals.
 - c. Implementation is the big question after this – when will the new standards be implemented?

- G. It was noted that an issue for BMW is that while there is an existing TMDL, if the Division takes over the TMDL, it may not align with BMW's goals. Something to keep in mind.
- H. The board concluded that a SSS would likely be challenging. BMW needs to decide if each of the uses are being met and that could be the deciding factor in the path forward.
 - a. Use attainment was discussed: In the hearing, Parks & Wildlife was showing Barr Lake looking very green/algae-ridden. The question was posed – do we have to get to the nutrient standards to attain the uses? And is the total Nitrogen (N) necessary to attain the uses? Attaining the N standard is probably the biggest hurdle.
- I. Gabe pointed out that standards can be changed even after they're adopted, it's just avslow and a tough process.
- J. The Board discussed that it might be helpful to update the models for the long-term since the models we have are not currently functioning anymore.
- K. Gabe's overall suggestion for BMW is to look at the data and models to plan for an update to the TMDL or develop a proposal to revise the standards (the variance approach would be an interim plan).
- L. Another suggestion was discussed called a sector variance approach (an example from Montana). In this example, standards were adopted for over 30 WWTPs as a whole, which was less of a lift for both agencies and permittees.
- M. A final suggestion was discussed for updating Regulation 85, which would be sector-wide and avoid the individual variances.
- N. The question was asked if it's too early to work on a variance package. Gabe responded that as things stand now, if individual facilities look at variance for 2027, BMW will want to complete an alternative analysis by 2026. It may be a little early to start but not by much; it would probably be best to get started sooner rather than later.
- O. The board's overall conclusion (and tentative plan) is to closely review existing data, identify what is missing, and consider the WWTP upgrades coming online so BMW can answer the question of whether the existing TMDL attainable. The Tech Committee has been working on data compilation anyway, so this could be a good place to start to help inform the next phases of implementation.

Committee Update - Erica and Michelle reported on the I&E Committee upcoming activities. Next meeting is TBD due to the July 4th holiday.

- A. Michelle and Erica recapped several events that are upcoming at Barr Lake and around the watershed:
 - a. June 3 – Carp tournament is sold out! Second year of doing it.
 - b. June 7 – Water Festival at SPR and we want to hand things out; Michelle can come and help out.
 - c. July 15 – Lakes Appreciation Day (clean up, maintenance).
 - d. Erica has been working on boat surveys for entry/exit and it's going well.
 - e. BMW attended a Water Festival recently and talked about water quality. The algae monster was there!
 - f. Erica finished the fertilizer survey as well, and Steve is also working on this.
 - g. Barr Lake is really full right now; highest since Michelle has been there!

Actions:

- **Erin** will email Brad and Michelle about Water Festival at SPR on June 7.

Technical Committee Meeting – Erin reported on the Tech Committee meeting and any other TC updates. Next meeting is July 27th.

- A. Meeting this week is virtual and the committee will be discussing other monitoring and studies we'd like to explore.
- B. The committee is still working on compiling data from DSN and improving data visualization and accessibility between entities.
- C. The SSS/DSV discussion will continue in the Tech Committee meetings.

Updates/Action Items

- Chair's Report (Erin) –
- Treasurer's Report (Michelle) – As of May 16th, the balance is \$299,156.53
 - All expenses since the last meeting are within budget and will be recorded as part of the minutes.

Checks for signature in May 2023	Amount	Notes
2268 - Carp Solutions LLC	\$ 3,500.00	I&E expense for Barr Lake carp net 2023
2269 - Sami Miller	\$ 4,134.26	April coord. Services
2270 - GEI	\$ 794.95	Stormwater monitoring

- Coordinator Updates (Sami)
 - Review & approval of April 25th board meeting minutes – *the unanimously approved the April meeting minutes.*
 - Sami's contract: moving 57 hours from I&E category to Admin for final few months of contract – *the board unanimously approved moving hours between categories.*
 - Invoicing/member dues progress – all invoices have been sent out, and Sami will be following up in June in hopes of having all dues by new fiscal year. Several checks have already come in.
 - June 27th Stakeholder meeting update: taking place at the SPUR Hydro building. Sami is reaching out for speakers/tours. Drinks are confirmed from Western Daughters and catering is confirmed by Michelle's dad.
 - Bylaws update – Erin & Julie will join preliminary call on May 26th at 130pm with firm.

Actions:

- **Sami** will send Julie bylaws notes from Nov. retreat.
- **All Board** please send updates for Stakeholder meeting send to Sami.

Next Meetings

- **Stakeholder meeting – June 27th, 9am – 1pm, CSU SPUR Hydro Building**
- **I&E meeting – Date & time TBD to avoid July 4th holiday**
- **TC meeting – July 27th, 9-11am (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	Gabe Racz join to discuss site-specific standards as plan for BMW as a result of Nutrient hearing in April
25	TC meeting	Dashboard Plan
JUNE		
27	Stakeholder Meeting	CSU SPUR Campus - Hydro building Tour of SPUR if they have staff for it GEI autosampler talk/tour Other tours? Steve has contacts
JULY		
4	I&E meeting	4th of July - Steve finding new date
25	Board meeting	marketing firm for Pfree fertilizer campaign phone tree list or plan for spills in S. Platte River
27	TC meeting	Drafta 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)