



Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir Watershed Association
June Stakeholder Tour
June 25th, 2024, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Heron Pond

June Stakeholder Tour Minutes

Attendees: Caleb Owen (City of Thornton), Sami Miller (BMW), Steve Lundt (Metro Water Recovery), Brad Cox (City & County of Denver), Mike Prado (CDOT), Curt Bauers (FRICO), Jack Cline (City & County of Denver), Krystina Spencer (City of Denver – DIA), Dillon Ross (City & County of Denver), Kate Williams (Green Infrastructure), Jim Cokeley (DOTI), Alton Waco, Aditi Bhaskar (CU Boulder), Janet Kieler (City of Denver – DIA), Alexia Lor (BMW), Julie Kinsey (EPA), Liz Rogers (EPA), Juliana Archuleta (Adams County), Keller Smith (FRICO), Bennett Costabile (Metro Water Recovery), Peter Munson (Metro Water Recovery)

Arrival, Welcome & Intros – Caleb Owen, BMW Chair, led introductions for the group and we met our first tour guide, Jim Cokeley.

Heron Pond Stormwater Project Tour – Jim Cokeley, Senior Engineer with the City and County of Denver DOTI, led the group through a tour of the Heron Pond/Carpio Sanguinette Park stormwater improvements project. Construction projects include:

- Grading the area for stormwater detention
- Stormwater outlet structures to slowly release stormwater to the river
- Two forebays (sediment traps) and a trash vault to improve stormwater quality
- Sanitary sewer and waterline improvements
- Park trails and a nature overlook
- Improved ecological connections and habitat restoration
- Paving of Emerson Street and part of E. 51st and 52nd Avenues
- Two parking lots



Construction is still currently underway for many projects and the park remains closed at the time but is expected to be open sometime in early 2025. The master plan for the project includes areas within the Asarco Globe Cleanup Site, which includes the requirement for Heron Pond to be at least partially filled per the settlement for cleanup. The project overall aims to provide several recreational opportunities within the park and for the surrounding community, while maintaining the necessary environmental remediation.

The 40-million-dollar project treats just over a square mile, with two outlet structures on the property. As it relates to Barr-Milton Watershed Association, the project is downstream from

Barr Lake, so the stormwater treatment efforts are beneficial for Milton's water quality.

Heron Pond is approximately 660 acres, with the park being 700 acres. The pond is very shallow, which is intentional. There are several efforts on the property to treat stormwater, including grass-lined channels, revegetation, of 2000 feet of temporary fencing (for construction purposes), trash traps (with fiber glass to reduce weight), and more.

The old Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was decommissioned in 2009, when the DOTI bought it and teamed up with Parks to get the project started. Some of the old WWTP structures can still be seen and function as public art and retention areas. The stream through the park has a higher base flow than what was anticipated. The outfall structure where the stream starts is deeper than expected, with algae build up so it's being treated with barley which has been relatively effective.

As mentioned, the goal for project completion is late 2025 and park currently remains closed due to construction, but it's well under way. The [project website](#) is [here](#) with many great resources included. A flythrough of the project site can be [located here](#).

Burlington Headgate Tour – Keller Smith, with Farmer's Reservoir & irrigation Company (FRICO) showed the group around the Burlington head gate and gave a brief history of the structure.

Just south of the Heron Pond stormwater project and North Side Park is the new Burlington head gate, which was redone in 2008. The head gate feeds Barr lake 17 miles North East of the location, which is of note for the Barr Milton Watershed Association. FRICO's water rights span from 1864-2002 (1885 & 1909). This means that FRICO can dry the river occasionally and take

water almost any day of the year, but they have to bypass a

certain amount at other head gates. There is a gauging station just south of the head gate and every drop is measured in the South Platte. There is also a gauging station at 64th Avenue that requires compliance. Overall, there are over 50 sites for monitoring and 12 along the Burlington Canal. All of these sites have SCADA or telemetry. FRICO/Burlington work closely with the state to only divert what they're allowed to.

Water calls can change and available water in the river is not sufficient for water rights today. Enough is taken to supply the Burlington users. The flows was higher during the tour, but later in summer it's much lower and usually just a pond.

There is a trash rack at this head gate (which was flushed the day before the tour) to keep it clear of debris/trash build up. .



Riverside Cemetery Talk – led by Ray Thal, FHF Riverside Tour Guide. Ray spoke to Riverside's history as well as the impact of losing irrigation rights in the recent past.

There are two artesian wells originally at the cemetery with a boiler system, but over time they have dried up. For a short time, the irrigation ditch thru cemetery allowed them to get water from (FRICO/Burlington), but that did not last.



Over time, watering at the cemetery stopped and to this day, there is no water on the property. Watering is a big effort in a cemetery because of not having underground irrigation. Mowing, trimming, maintenance and water needs (overhead) can be incredibly extensive and expensive. At one point, the cemetery employed about 50 people for these tasks, but obviously not anymore without water for landscaping.



There are many stories about what happened with water rights at the cemetery took over, but essentially about the time that Fairmount took over ownership, the water rights were lost. Overall, there are many theories about what happened around the water rights and availability, and to this day, there are still many unanswered questions. It's thought that most cemeteries will likely all look like this down the road due to water accessibility. There is a pond on the property, which is considered a wetlands area (ground water/seepage).

There are many interesting facts about Riverside cemetery:

- 1888-1890 this cemetery was the “place to be” because it was one of the only cemeteries open in Denver
- It's home to the first crematorium in CO (in the chapel pictured here)
- Over 60,000 people are buried here, with about one burial a month still
- 52-65 acres are developed, 20-25 acres undeveloped
- They typically lost money each year with a \$1 million endowment or so (and 2 full time employees)
- Most of the cemetery is located in Adams County, with portions located in City & County of Denver
- Overall, this is a tough spot for a cemetery due to the industrial nature of the area; historically it was located close to smelters, stockyards (tanneries, slaughterhouses), oil refineries, all right down stream which doesn't create the most pleasant environment, but they're still in operation!

Lunch at Stockyard Saloon – The group reconvened at the Stockyard Saloon for lunch. All meeting items were kept for discussion via email in July.

Next Meetings

- I&E meeting – July 2nd, meeting conducted via email
- Board meeting – July 23rd, meeting conducted via email
- TC meeting – July 25th, 9-10am (virtual)

Standing(-ish) Agenda Items

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

BMW Meeting Calendar 2024

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I/E meeting • TC meeting • Study session TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board meeting (1) (approve new contracts?) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I/E meeting • TC meeting • Study session TBD
APRIL	MAY	JUNE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board meeting (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I/E meeting • TC meeting • Study session (3) ○ tour prep? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Tour (4) ○ vote on new budget?
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I/E meeting • TC meeting • Study session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board meeting (5) ○ Vote on bylaws update for 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I/E meeting • TC meeting • Stakeholder BBQ/Meeting (6) ○ vote on at-large members
OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study session (7) ○ retreat prep? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I/E meeting • TC meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Retreat (8) – 2nd Tuesday in Dec; vote on corporate docs/updates; vote on tax return

BMW I/E Events for 2024

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

Date	Event/Activity	Location	Name and contact
April 6	Raptor Run	Barr Lake	Steve
May 4	Fishing Clinic	Barr Lake	Steve (?)
May 4	Furry Scurry	Wash Park	Donny, Steve, Alexia
May 30	Tbd; Army Corps event	TBD	Steve?, Donny (?)

June 1	Carp Tournament	Barr Lake	Steve, Michelle, Erica
June 26	Bike to Work Day	TBD	Steve, Alexia, Donny (?)
July 13	Cross Currents	TBD	Donny (12-8pm)
July 20	Lakes Appreciation Day	Barr Lake	Steve, Lisa
August TBD	Cherry Creek Stewardship Partners Conference	Denver, CO	Steve, Alexia (?)
September 28	National Public Lands Day	Barr Lake	Lisa, Steve
October 26	Halloween Trail	Barr Lake	Michelle, Steve (?)