

# Barr/Milton Watershed Association

## Technical Committee

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BMW Technical Committee Meeting  
Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Virtual Meeting - 9:00am – 10:00am



**BARR MILTON**  
Watershed Association

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**Draft Minutes (01-29-24)**

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Attendance: Steve Lundt, Sarah Erickson, John Stednick, Brad Cox, Al Polonsky, Chris Newton, Bethany Green, Noel Browning, Caleb Owen

We started with introductions since we had some new people on the virtual meeting.

### **1. BMW Reservoir Monitoring Data Questions for CDPHE**

- a. Steve gave a summary of the different monitoring efforts through BMW's history (Metro's open water sampling, FRICO's inlet/outlet/shore sampling, new continuous probe monitoring, Ditch and stream inlets to the ditch sampling, and special studies). Sarah provided a short summary of what the assessment group does and how they use data for reservoir assessments. CDPHE designate the deepest open water sampling site as the "index" site. At this index site, they assess profile data from 05. To 2.0 meter to get a top layer after. Then they look at the bottom 2 meters of profile data to get an average for the bottom layer. They assess both layers for temperature, DO, and pH. This would Barr Lake Dam (BL03) site that Steve has been monitoring since June 2002. John asked about continuous profile data. Sarah said that the state has never used continuous probe data for assessments and would need to figure out how to best do that. Nobody has ever sent in continuous profile data to the state for standards assessment. John asked about what time step the state uses for assessment. Sarah said that it all depends. Some lakes they get one profile data a year on. For nutrients and chl-a, there is the growing season (July through September). For profile data, it is just assessed based on what data they get. Steve explained that for Barr and Milton, 20 profiles are collected at the index site. These 20 top and bottom layer averages are then used for assessment for pH, DO, and temp. Sarah offered to send out a link to the listing methodology for lake assessments and Steve will make sure the committee gets it. John asked a general question about how the lakes are doing overall in Colorado. Sarah said that some are getting better, and others are not so it depends but overall that they seem to be doing well. Sarah offered also to send out a link to the most recent 305(b) report that summarizes CO waters. Steve will send that out to the committee. Steve asked Sarah about how the State handles data for ditches and for waters that enter a ditch. Sarah suggested Steve to ask that question to Skip Feeney. John asked how the state uses the Colorado Data Sharing Network (DSN). Sarah did not know for sure. Steve said he would ask his co-worker, Jordan Parman, who has worked on the DSN for a while. There was a data call for the S. Platte basin in 2023. The state will spend 2024 assessing the waterbodies in the basin, and then the hearing will be in May of 2026. This will be assessing data from 2018 thru 2022. Sarah

said she would send the information to get on the data call list and then Steve will send that out by email.

## **2. Technical Items to Discuss**

- a. Continuous Data Review – Steve summarized the continuous monitoring effort to date. Noel provided some input on how it went in the fall of 2023. The plan is to install the probes in early March depending on ice and weather. The BMW board would like to post a link to the HydroVu on the BMW website. Noel said that would be okay. One option is to post the link and provide the password. Al mentioned the risk of anyone seeing the data and using it. So, there could be a problem with the probe and have inaccurate data on HydroVu but then someone could take that data and use it. Steve suggested providing a statement next to the HydroVu link stating that this is raw data, there could be errors with equipment that could generate data that is not accurate. John thought that CO Pond & Lake QA/QC the data or at least cleans it up. Then Steve suggested that CO Pond & Lake coordinate with Steve's lake sampling schedule to be able to compare probes and field calibrate. John thought that twice a month was too much and that it would be hard for Curt, Steve, and Noel to meet regularly at Barr. John suggested a monthly QA/QC comparison. Noel said that the current contract was for monthly, and he would provide a quote to price out a cost to do it twice a month. Steve suggested twice a month because the probes may drift, water depth will change, and it will help eliminate any thoughts that the differences between readings is because of equipment problems. John then mentioned that the readings from the fall were spot on and that the shoreline probe reads should not be compared to the open water and suggested dropping the shoreline site. Steve said that because of space and time, all of these readings will never be spot on and will be different. pH and DO change by the minute so it will be hard to compare data. Noel will provide a quote and Steve offered to meet at Barr Lake with anyone anytime to calibrate equipment. Steve samples Barr and Milton between 10 and 2pm, he alternates which one he goes to first, but he is usually at Barr Lake boat ramp around 10am or noon or around 2pm. Noel agreed that it is a good idea to field calibrate and the quote should not be too much more to do twice a month.
- b. In-Canal Pilot Project – time was running out, so Steve suggested keeping this on the agenda for next time. This part of the implementation plan needs to be done at some point.
- c. 2023 P Loads to Burlington Ditch – Steve quickly went over slides to show a summary of 2023 data from the SP-BD autosampler and the Burlington Ditch monitoring for First, Second, and Third Creeks and the Beebe Pipeline. Steve sent the slides out as a PDF before the meeting and will send the slides out after the meeting as well.
- d. Modeling Questions – Steve updated the committee on what the BMW Board talked about on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The new timeframe is to wait until we get closer to 2027/28 when all of the nutrient standards are applied state-wide. The committee can still talk about a plan and brainstorm modeling options but the idea of contracting a firm to model the watershed and reservoirs is closer to 2027.

- 3. Next Meeting** – Tech. Committee: Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Steve will not be available for this date so he will send out a short list of other dates and times for the committee to meet in March. Brad Cox wanted to add to the meeting an update from GEI and

their work on estimating current storm water loads to Barr and Milton. Brad will let the committee know when GEI (Craig Wolf) is ready to present their findings.