

Barr Lake/Milton Reservoir Watershed Association

Public Stakeholder Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2010 (9:00am – 12:00pm)

Wes Brown Water Treatment Plant, Thornton, CO

Draft MINUTES

In attendance:

Laurie Rink – Farmer’s Reservoir & Irrigation Company (FRICO)
Vic Lucero – City of Thornton
Al Baker – Centennial
Kipp Scott – East Cherry Creek Valley
Keith Pass – Denver International Airport
Jill Piatt-Kemper – City of Aurora
Linda Boyle – City of Aurora
Mary Dawson – City of Aurora
Charlene Seedle – S. Adams Co. Water & San.
Deanne Kelly – Tri County Health
Amy Woodis – Metro Wastewater

Connie O’Neil – North Front Range Water Quality Planning Association
Sarah Reeves – SPCURE & Suncor
Chris Piper – Denver Water
Blair Corning – S. Adams Co. Water & San.
Steve Lundt – Metro Wastewater
Bill Brennan – Metro Wastewater
Barbara Biggs – Metro Wastewater
Michelle Seubert – Barr Lake
Malinda Slaybaugh – Barr Lake
Dale Jones – Barr Lake
Ronda Sandquist - Jackson Kelly
Terry Baus – City and County of Denver

Guests:

Alice Conovitz – Integral Consulting
George Patten – Integral Consulting
Amy Conklin – BMW
Susan Thornton - BMW

The meeting opened with an attendance sheet sign-in and an introduction to the day’s agenda from George Patten of Integral Consulting. The group also went around the room and stated names and organizations.

The draft stakeholder meeting minutes from the October 20, 2009 meeting and the February 23, 2010 meeting were accepted.

Business Items

Board Updates

Laurie Rink provided a brief update of the status of BMW contracts. The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Kipp Scott later in the meeting. The Integral contract still has about \$18,000 remaining, which Integral will use, in part, to finish reporting on the 319 grant. The contract with AECOM has approximately \$4,000 remaining, which will be used to respond to comments on the draft TMDL. It is possible that more money will be needed to reimburse AECOM for their efforts to complete comment responses.

In addition to the regularly scheduled Board meeting on May 25th, a special meeting is being called with the other watershed associations. Representatives from Bear Creek Watershed Association, Chatfield Watershed Authority and Cherry Creek Basin Water Quality Association will be invited to a meeting at Denver Water to hear information about the BMW TMDL process. Ronda Sandquist stated that it would be better for BMW to attend meetings of the other watershed associations rather than scheduling additional meetings.

At this point in the meeting, Laurie Rink introduced Amy Conklin and Susan Thornton as the new BMW coordinators. Amy Conklin and Susan Thornton gave brief overviews of their qualifications and their excitement on joining the BMW team.

Information/Education (I/E) Updates

Michelle Seubert provided an update to the group concerning I/E activities. These involve the most recent issue of the newsletter, which has been distributed electronically and is available on the BMW website. The group is also preparing for Lake Appreciation Day planned for July 17th at Barr Lake. Last year over 500 people showed up for the event. The watershed tour is in the planning stage and will include a trolley ride along the South Platte River near the confluence of Cherry Creek with the river on June 22nd. More information would be coming along about the tour in the next few weeks.

Technical Committee Updates

Steve Lundt provided updates to the group concerning Technical Committee activities. Sarah Reeves would be presenting the latest version of the TMDL report later in the meeting. The Phosphorus Allocation Table was still in draft but was discussed at the April 15th Implementation meeting. Russ Clayshulte, coordinator of the Bear Creek Watershed Association, attended that meeting as did a volunteer interested in the effort.

The grant request to fund purchase of limnocorrals was not successful, so BMW will be purchasing as many as four of the corrals. The corrals will be used to experiment on the effects of different types of restoration and to measure the natural processes at work in the lake, as a microcosm of the entire system.

Steve Lundt further reported that he had sampled Barr Lake on Monday, April 26th. The Secchi disk depth was 3 meters, the pH was 8.7 and dissolved oxygen was at 70%.

Budget Committee Updates

Kipp Scott provided a Treasurer's Report on BMW finances. There is over \$142,000 in the bank that will be used as seed money for the lake projects and for administration of the group. There is about \$41,000 left to bill in the 319 grant. The CDPHE is requesting final invoicing in September of 2010. The remaining funds will be used to pay Integral and AECOM for their services and for public outreach.

So far, BMW has received \$63,000 in membership dues for the 2010/2011 memberships. At their last meeting the Budget Committee discussed changing the dues amounts to:

- \$12,000 for Sustaining members;
- \$4,000 for Active members;
- \$100 for Supporting members; and
- Approximately, \$25 for Friends.

The Budget Committee will present the changes as part of a firm proposal at a later meeting. The proposed membership dues are presented here for budgeting purposes.

Presentation: pH TMDL Implementation Plan (Sarah Reeves)

Sarah Reeves gave a presentation on the latest draft of the TMDL Implementation Plan. She recognized the work of the entire team and emphasized that this was a group effort. She went through the report chapter by chapter, including identifying chapters that are still under construction. Comments on the draft are still being solicited. The goal is to get the plan to the CDPHE by July. Although, the TMDL is the report in which the CDPHE is most interested, it would be acceptable if the Implementation Plan were delayed for a few weeks. The EPA will require the Implementation Plan in order to accept the phasing part of the TMDL. Vic Lucero stated that there was still a lot of uncertainty about how and when discharge permits would reflect the TMDL. The committee may want to consider adding a section about potential timing and impacts.

Later in the meeting, Barbara Biggs from Metro Wastewater agreed to allow inclusion of the Draft Table from their Utility Plan showing proposed flows and phosphorus concentrations from the North Plant. When Metro's North Plant goes on line, projected to occur in 2015, there will be reductions in the total phosphorus load being discharged and redistribution of discharge locations. It may be appropriate to incorporate those into the phasing of the TMDL and include the table in the Implementation Plan.

Break: The Group took a break to enjoy the fish cake Amy Conklin had brought, to network and socialize, and to enjoy the photographic retrospective Integral had assembled.

Presentation: Metro's Northern Treatment Plant (Bill Brennan and Barbara Biggs)

Bill Brennan and Barbara Biggs gave a presentation on the proposed Northern Plant. The project has three components: the plant; the interceptor feeding the plant; and the return pipe to pump treated effluent back to Thornton to meet water rights requirements. This project has been decades in the planning and development stage but be ready to go online by the end of 2015. The group discussed the beneficial impacts the plant will have on phosphorus loading to Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir. Not only will the Northern Plant remove phosphorus to a very low level (starting at 0.1 mg/L of phosphorus, eventually down to as low as 0.04 mg/L) but the plant will also accept flows from plants currently discharging at much higher rates. The amount of flow will be essentially the same but the phosphorus load will be much reduced.

As stated above, the group discussed including the beneficial effects of the Northern Plant going online into the phasing aspect of the TMDL Implementation Plan. The cost for the capital improvements of the plant will be around \$2 billion over the next 15 to 20 years. These costs will likely be paid by ratepayers. Metro Wastewater has been included sustainability components in the design, including having 40% of the energy needed to run the plant generated onsite using treatment by-products.

Presentation: Third Creek Spill (Michelle Suebert, Deanne Kelly, and Keith Pass)

Michelle Seubert introduced the topic and the presenters. Keith Pass presented the location, content and amount of the spill as well as lessons learned from the accident. Over a 10-hour period, 335,000 gallons of sewage spilled into Third Creek. Approximately 30% of the spill was industrial sewage, where the concern is with propylene glycol and its degradation products. The other 70% of the spill was sanitary sewage with the concern being fecal coliform, biochemical oxygen demand, chemical oxygen demand and dissolved oxygen. DIA instituted its emergency response procedures and continued monitoring until given permission to stop by CDPHE. Deanne Kelly reported on the supporting steps taken by Tri-County Health Department.

Passing of the Carp (Coordinators past and future)

Alice Conovitz and George Patten thanked BMW for the great opportunity to work with them. The group applauded the Integral team and looked forward to seeing them in the future. Amy Conklin and Susan Thornton accepted the symbolic fish pillow from the Integral team and stated how grateful they were to have been chosen as coordinators and how much they look forward to working with BMW.

Open Forum

Alice Conovitz shared that the Colorado Watersheds Conference was looking for speakers. Submittals are due to Randy Mandel (rmandel@earthlink.net) or Julie Ash (jeash@walshenv.com) by May 21, 2010. The conference is in Vail from October 5-7.

Next Meeting

The next Stakeholder meeting is scheduled for June 22nd and will include a Trolley ride.

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.