



Draft Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 8th, 2023

Attendees: See the table at the end of the minutes.

Julie got the meeting going and a copy of the recording can be found [here](#). Julie welcomed everyone and went over the agenda.

Nathan Moore, CDPHE staff – Nathan reported that there are 2 ongoing stakeholder meetings and he encouraged everyone to attend. Friday November 17th is the next meeting for the Clean Water group. Jesse reported that the experience has been productive. The feasibility work group which is a subgroup of the 10-year roadmap will be beginning work next year, probably at the Roadmap meeting in February. The feasibility group will be part of the roadmap meetings and will have their own meetings. He predicts that feasibility will be an ongoing topic for discussion.

Gabe asked about the timing of the work and if there is enough time for thoughtful rulemaking. Nathan reported that the Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) is looking at prioritizing the work ahead and revising the roadmap. There is some recognition that all the things identified in the roadmap may not be achievable within the timeline.

He said that there will be more conversations around temperature. There may be some confusion about warming events and about the standard in general. Gabe added that what the group wants is a discussion of the science of the warming events and the interpretation of the temperature regulations. No one is arguing for allowing fish kills. There is concern that interpretation of the regulation has changed. The warming event is considered an impairment according the 303 d listing methodology. The next meeting is November 15, 9-11 am, for the 303 d listing methodology.

Julie reported on the staffing information she got from the stakeholder meeting. EPA wants 75% of the permits to be current. Currently only about 30% are. The WQCD will need to triple the number of permits they're processing per year. Julie suggested that there may be some efficiencies that could be realized. Just hiring more staff doesn't seem like a reasonable way to meet the EPA goals. Julie encouraged everyone to participate in the process.

Recalcitrant Nutrient Pilot - Jeff Hlad, Metro Water Recovery.

jhlad@metrowaterrecovery.com ; 720-490-1632 Jeff presented information on Metro's

Dissolved Nutrients Evaluation. The slides can be found [here](#). He gave background on Metro's treatment plants and streams. The drivers of the project were included in the 10-year roadmap. The project is focused on reducing N and P in the effluent. Metro is trying to anticipate the capital expenditures they'll need for adding tertiary treatment streams. The costs increase quickly with greater levels of treatment.

The project includes benchmarking the treatment options at the existing facilities; identifying potential source controls; and assessing treatability of dissolved organic nutrient fractions. The recalcitrant portion of the nutrients is the dissolved fractions of the nutrients that pass through the treatment streams without being treated. Currently their Dissolved Organic Nitrogen (DON) is above 1.5 mg/L.

Their source investigations were conducted for industrial users to help identify hotspots for further investigation in Phase 2. Metro evaluated Flocculation/Sedimentation, Adsorption and O3 with Biological Activated Filter (BAF) treatments. They used jar tests and pilot projects to test treatment options. Moving forward, they'll be trying to identify sources and deciding if additional treatments are needed. They plan to team up with universities and other utilities. They would love to collaborate with our members!

Cole Sigmon asked about the timeline. They expect to be in compliance by 2037 with anticipated effluent limits. They would have to be well into construction by 2032. They monitored Chloride. Cole is anticipating Chlorine limits which will impact treatment options. Reverse Osmosis is the only treatment that will meet all the permit limits.

Gabe asked if the nonreactive portions are so hard to remove and don't seem to respond to biological treatment, are they necessary to remove at all? Regulations are for total concentrations of nutrients, not just the nonreactive parts. They are planning to research bioavailability. The treatments seem to only get effluent concentrations to 0.8 mg/L DON. Jim noted that nonpoint sources will be increasingly important as the effluent gets cleaner and cleaner. Andra asked if consideration of the feasibility of DON/P is part of the WQCD feasibility discussion. There seems to be a disconnect between standard setting and engineering practicality. Mark added that they are writing a watershed plan and will be emphasizing the importance of nonpoint sources. All the 208 planning agencies are writing watershed plans and they need to include consideration of the practicality of what can be achieved through point sources versus nonpoint source loads.

Discussion Items

Regulatory Updates –

Gabe reported that we had discussed the upcoming roadmap and 303 d listing methodology meetings. Temperature was discussed and will continue to be discussed. There appears to be a disconnect between the regulators and the regulated community. It is unclear in which forum the conversation about temperature will happen. Jim Dorsh

reported that the Temperature TAC was supposed to discuss the issue but the staff person has left so there is no plan for the TAC to meet. Andra reported that in the 303 d listing methodology meeting, the temperature excursion interpretation was discussed. [Here](#) is a link to the meeting materials: The presentation describes the methodology they used but did not follow methods developed in the 2016 regulation development.

The next step is to have a presentation on the science behind the temperature at the next CWWUC meeting. **Julie** will reach out to the relevant parties. Gabe also reported that next 303 d listing methodology meeting will include a discussion about nutrient levels. Jimmy McCutchan may be able to attend.

There was a Regulation 20 meeting. Patti reported that most of the discussion was about construction flexibility. She missed part of the meeting. Dan reported the construction flexibility discussion was pretty productive. There is a pretty well-crafted concept that's being developed that will allow more flexibility in how utilities plan for future treatments.

Only 3 permits have been issued since 2022. Included in the fee bill discussion should be consideration of priorities. The process of getting variances appears to be excessively time consuming. It might be worth considering having a consultant review the work situation and suggest efficiencies and priorities.

John reported that the Water Quality Control Commission is holding their annual meeting where they invite public comment on November 13th. It could be a forum to bring up some of the feasibility issues that have been discussed. John is not planning to attend and suggested some of the members attend the meeting. AF CURE did submit comments in letter form as part of the hearing. They would be happy to share the letter. They're hoping to summarize the comments orally during the meeting. **Patti** Zeitlow will share the letter. Gabe suggested selecting a topic or two and have some talking points and one or two key asks. **Julie** will draft some comments and present them at the meeting.

Chemical Form Evaluation Subcommittee – John reported the subcommittee is meeting and developing a mini-presentation on chemical evaluation forms. It highlights the issues they're having with the forms. They plan to present it at the permits webinar and get some feedback from WQCD staff. They're working with Andrew Sayers-Faye.

Water Quality Forum Updates – Meghan Wilson – Meghan sent comments after the meeting.

Drinking Water Council Updates – Cynthia Lane – Cynthia was unable to attend this meeting and reported that the wastewater and water facilities operator's certification Board are considering a scholarship honoring Barb.

Barbara Biggs Memorial – Amy reported that she had talked with both Nona Shipman with One World One Water (OWOW) at Metro State University and Ryan Aides with the Greenway Foundation (TGF). OWOW is planning to do something on campus to recognize Barb, like a bench. In Barb's memorial, donations to TGF were encouraged (as well as Water Education Colorado). Julie reached out to Lisa Darling with the Metro Basin Roundtable. **Brandon** reported that Ron Falco on the operator's certification Board is working on the feasibility of a scholarship and will report back. **Amy** will follow up with TGF and get more information on what an award might look like. Groups could contribute to TGF for the award or scholarship.

Biosolids Conference – Wes, Jesse and Julie reported they attended the conference. The focus was on treating PFAS. Dr. Pepper made a presentation on their progress. Their sampling should be done in 2024 and a model developed in 2025. WQCD staff was there requesting that organizations enter their data into a spreadsheet they develop. Katie reported on an in depth source investigation in the metro area that the members should be interested in. Broomfield and South Platte Renew are also doing source investigations. We should consider a presentation on the findings, probably in March.

Board Action Items –

Approval of invoices for payment – Jesse moved, Blair seconded approval for payment of all invoices. The vote was unanimous.

Approval of October 13th, 2023 minutes. Blair moved; Jesse seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, December 13th at 1:00 pm

Attendance

Amy Conklin, Coordinator
 Nathan Moore
 Gabe Racz
 Jeff Hlad

Member	Last	First	email	
Peublo	Ahrens	Andra		X
Grand Junction		Ashley		X
Longmont	Bilgin	Azra		X
Roxborough	Biggs	Barb	Gone but not forgotten. RIP dear friend	
Greeley	Johnson	Ben		X
South Platte Renew	Corning	Blair		X
Security	Bernard	Brandon		X

Pinyon Environmental	Byus	Carolyn	byus@pinyon-env.com	X
Boulder	Sigmon	Cole		X
South Platte Renew	DeLaughter	Dan		X
City of Broomfield	Cowell	Dawn	dcowell@broomfield.org	X
	Richards	Daniel		X
City of Lafayette	Jackson	David		X
Mott Macdonalds	Farias	Elizabeth		X
Silverthorne	Kruckeberg	Jason		X
Fort Collins	Schlam	Jesse		X
Fountain	Heckman	Jim		X
Monument	Kendrick	Jim	jfkendrick@q.com	X
Loveland	Creaghe	Joe		X
Metro Water Recovery	Dorsch	Jim	jdorsch@mwr.dst.co.us	X
City of Longmont	Gage	John	John.Gage@LongmontColorado.gov	X
Centennial	Tinetti	Julie		X
NFRWQPA	Thomas	Mark	mthomas@nfrwqpa.org	X
Boulder	Wilson	Meghan	wilsonm@bouldercolorado.gov	X
Widfield	Morgan	Mike		X
Aurora	Harmon	Nick		X
C. Springs Utility	Zeitlow	Patti	pzeitlow@csu.org	X
Centennial Northglenn Town of Eagle	Calkins Stanley Wilson	Sam Shelley Stephan	sstanley@northglenn.org stephan.wilson@townofeagle.org	X X X
Loveland	Jurgens	Tad		X
City of Westminster	Wilson	Tara		X
Fremont	Ormandy	Toby	tormandy@fsd.co	X
Greeley	Eldridge	Tyler		X
Plum Creek	Eaves Martin	Wally Wes	wesmartin@pcwra.org	X X