



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 11th, 2024

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

A copy of the recording can be found [here](#). Dan welcomed everyone and started the meeting.

Nathan Moore, CDPHE – Nathan reported that they are gathering input on several issues including the increase in fees. They are tracking the impact of the new permit writing staff. The budget process at the legislature has begun. The NWRI panel effort is moving forward. They're working on a workplan/project plan for Regulations 34 and 85, the Nutrient regulations. The first hearing will be in 2027 to discuss issues that will expire. The second/next hearing will be in 2030 when the effluent removal goals will be decided.

The WQCD setting up a standards feasibility group. The former standards group will be dividing work into 2 groups. One will be more on the environmental basis for the standards and the other will be on the technical feasibility.

Mark Koch asked about the timing for rulemaking for the food producing permits versus the domestic dischargers. The food producers' impacts will be decided mostly at the 2030 hearing.

Dan asked about the process improvement work group. Nathan explained that the WQCDD will be asking domestic permittees to participate as well as trying to select organizations that have had recent experience with permit renewals. If anyone is interested in participating, they can let Nathan know and he'll pass on their interest.

Jesse asked about Clean Water Policy 14. Nathan responded that the comment period was extended so the policy will not be finalized until 2025. However, they're trying to keep it on an urgent schedule. He hopes they'll be communicating next steps in January. Jesse also asked about a recent NPR story but no one had additional information on the article.

Discussion Items

Regulatory Updates –

Clarification of Legal Services effort – Justine explained that \$10,000 of their budget is for participation in workgroups meetings; \$20,000 for legislative issues. The workgroup budget should cover work group meeting attendance. CWWUC can't lobby but we can provide input on feedback on legislation and still be in compliance with our 501 c 3 limitations.

The permit renewal work group will have one or 2 meetings. They will keep the council informed about their budget expenditures. The fee regulation group will also be meeting. They will be tracking lobbying efforts versus other efforts. No one is a registered lobbyist at Vranesh and Raisch. Erin is a registered lobbyist. The [lobbying definition in Colorado](#) is very narrow and includes pretty much just asking for votes. What we've done up to now shouldn't be considered lobbying. We can provide input and feedback on bills and it wouldn't be lobbying.

NWRI Panel Process Update – Julie shared that NWRI is working with CDPHE to collect data to finish the Scope of Work. Until that's completed the effort is in a holding pattern. Julie shared that CWWUC has a lot of data that we're willing to share. There is a meeting coming up soon. Mark added that 208 planning entities have written watershed plans for nonpoint sources. Those should be included in the NWRI effort. NFRWQPA is getting success with education and outreach. Sometimes it's better to treat water quality with nonpoint solutions and he wonders if that issue is being included in the NWRI scope. **Julie and Mark** will talk offline.

Legislative Issues – Erin Bertoli, Metro Water Recovery reported on developments since the last meeting. Erin says there hasn't been a lot of forward movement since last month. They continue working on the legislation draft. Gabe has been working on a bill concept outline. The WQCD knows that there is frustration with the fee setting efforts; that the issues brought forward are not being addressed. The WQCD knows that meetings are happening and conversations are happening about the frustrations.

Dan asked for members to weigh in on how best to proceed with the legislative process. Maybe a survey of if members have any concerns about potential legislation. Erin reminded us of the process. The orbital bill would be introduced with the budget in about March. CDPHE has requested an increase of 14% to keep them where they are once the temporary funding ends. **Justine and Gabe** will set up a meeting with the CWWUC leadership.

CWWUC representatives could meet with WQCD and discuss how the permitting process is not working and discuss solutions. CWWUC could support the 13% increase while still supporting legislation that increases transparency. It might be helpful to ask staff if there is anything we could advocate for to be included in the bill that would help them but they aren't comfortable asking for. The tone would be that we want to work with the WQCD. We could ask the WQCD if there are components that are especially

challenging. **Erin** will coordinate the meeting. She'll work with **Dan** from CWWUC. The poll will be developed at a future meeting.

Fee Stakeholder workgroup - Justine reported that there is a meeting tomorrow. The Clean Water sector would have a 14% increase in their budget request. The concern remains with the backlog of clean water permits. Final permit actions have not been happening. She provided feedback as Vranesh and Raisch as general comments echoing the concerns of transparency and communication. Tomorrow's meeting will continue collecting feedback about supporting or opposing the 14% increase. They are also collecting feedback on Environmental Justice considerations. Since the funding increase requests have been reduced there is a little less concern. The current funding request just maintains current staffing levels but the proposed new staffing won't happen. It's tied to CDPHE's spending authority. The problem has been years in the making and will likely take multiple years to fix. It's another potential opportunity to find common ground. We can ask about the process with the spending authority and why it wasn't included in past discussion.

Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board – Chris Kampmann, St. Vrain Sanitation District Manager, explained the issues with the certification process and requested that the letter sent out with the packet be sent to the Operator Certification Board from the CWWUC. The broader issue is that some operators have relevant experience that isn't getting counted and there is no appeal process. He hopes that a letter from CWWUC voicing the concerns will have a bigger impact than one from just St. Vrain. He hopes that any member organizations share their experience with the portal denying appropriate experience. Where the issues arise varies greatly among the different levels of certification.

The portal should match the Board policy. Opening the policy could be problematic and inject subjectivity into the process. There may be concerns about any effort that loosens the current high standards. There is a software problem with the portal. The regulation still regulates high standards for certifications and there may be advantages to injecting subjectivity. It might be a good idea to have a committee review the applications.

The portal doesn't exactly match the policy. There are spots to add 'other' experience on the form but that experience isn't counted. There may be ways to use the portal to input appropriate experience, but it isn't clear how to do that. Getting new people into the industry will require adapting the certification process to accommodate changes in the industry. It's rare to have people who spend their careers gathering exactly relevant experience requested but their other experience should be included, at least to some degree. South Platte Canyon is happy to send a letter of support for the proposed changes.

The issue will be brought back to the members next month for a vote to support or not. Chris put his email in the chat for people who want to reach out directly to Chris - ckampmann@stvrainsdco.gov Chris may be well served to bring the issues to the Certification Board without CWWUC participation.

Chemical Evaluations – They are waiting on Andrew to address some of the issues that are his responsibility. Discussions on the MN regulations continue.

RMWEA Government Affairs Liaison – Julie reported that there is a new Chair from Eagle River Water and Sanitation Dist. They are developing a plan for 2025 including the fly-in. There will be more to report at future meetings. Dan reminded that there are scholarships for the fly-in event.

Water Quality Forum Updates - There was no one to make a report.

Drinking Water Forum Updates – Cynthia reported that the Drinking Water Council is open for AWWA members. There are many CWWUC members who are actively involved. At the last meeting they discussed the lead and copper rule and PFAS. They also discussed impacts from the new administration but no one knows what they are at this point. PFAS CERCLA exemptions may be coming up soon because the past sponsors are in the majority party. They will be watching any progress. House Bill 13-44 through the CO plumbing board that limits who can work on back flow devices has an amendment that CWWUC may want to support. People should reach out to Brandon if they want to submit a letter of support. Colorado Water Congress will be supporting the amendment as well.

Board Action Items – Wes moved, and Brandon seconded a motion to approve the invoices as presented. The vote was unanimous to approve payment of invoices presented.

Approval of November 13th, 2024, minutes. Julie moved, and

Checks for Signature in Dec 2024		
#2425 - Regency Interactive	\$ 899.00	Website
#2426 - Amy Conklin	\$ 2,537.50	November 2024 services
#2427 Vranesh and Raisch	\$ 930.00	Inv. 50534

Jessee seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes as presented.

Speakers/topics for 2025 – Amy requested members send her any requests for meeting topics in 2025. So far a salinity expert will present in June. We'll get an update from Dr. Pepper at some point and we'll request a presentation on the PFAS risk assessment after it's released. **Amy** was directed to forward information to the membership from other solicitations from organizations to present to the council.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, January 8th at 1:00 pm

Attendance

Amy Conklin, Coordinator

Nathan Moore

Andrew Sayers Fay

Justine Beckstrom

iPhone

hwebb

Member	Last	First	email	
Peublo	Callaghan	Andrew		x
St. Vrain	Arnold	Alex		x
Mount Crested Butte	Bembenek	Adam		
SPR	Stucky Acob	Andrea		x
	Berlman	Annie		
		Anthony		x
Grand Junction	Firl	Ashley		x
Longmont	Bilgin	Azra		
	Johnson	Ben		
	Green	Bethany		x
Security	Bernard	Brandon		x
Cherokee	Zembles	Brandon		x
	Zachman	Brad		
S. Platte Renew	Corning	Blair		
	Stanfield	Bent		
	Burks	Bryan		
	Icenogle	Bret		x
	Z	Brian		
	A	Brianne		
Pinyon	Byus	Caroline		x
St. Vrain	Kampman	Chris		x
Boulder	Sigmon	Cole		
	Bieker	C		
	Lane	Cynthia		x
South Platte Renew	DeLaughter	Dan		x
	Richardson	Daniel		
Montrose	Bries	David		x
	Louch	Dave		
	Kurz	David		
Lafayette	Jackson	David		x

	Bonsall	Desirray		
Broomfield	Trejo	Diana		x
Broomfield	Cowell	Dawn		
Mott Macdonalds	Farias	Elizabeth		
Metro	Bertoli	Erin		x
Dominion	Bahn	Evan		
		Heather		
C Springs	Greeno	Hunter		
	Smith	Gary		
Louisville	Venette	Greg		x
Silverthorne	Kruckeberg	Jason		x
	Shivvers	JD		x
Fort Collins	Schlam	Jesse		x
Black Hawk	DiToro	Jessica		x
Fountain	Heckman	Jim		x
Monument	Kendrick	Jim	jfkendrick@q.com	x
Metro Water Recovery	Dorsch	Jim	jdorsch@mwr.dst.co.us	x
Gypsum	Hancock	Jim		
Loveland	Creaghe	Joe		
Greeley	Kunovic	Joe		x
	Coyle	Jon		
Longmont	Gage	John		
	Moore	Jonathan		
	Watkins	Joshua		
Westminster	Nims	Josh		
	Tinetti	Julie		x
	Koplitz	Katie		
		Kayla		x
	Cline	Kelly		
Grand Junction	Carson	Kurt		
	Swenson	Lauren		
	Haxby	M		
Eagle	Harris	Madeline		x
	Freyre	Manuel		
	Parker	Mark		x
	Christiansen	Mark		x

	Volle	Mark		
Molson Coors	Koch	Mark		x
NFRWQPA	Thomas	Mark		
	Deminski	Mary		
	Paterniti	Mary		x
Boulder	Wilson Outcalt	Meghan	wilsonm@bouldercolorado.gov	
Boulder	Mimna	Melissa		x
	Morgan	Mike		
	Fabbre	Mike		
	Hoffman	Mike		x
C springs	Gustafson	Mike		x
	Marcum	Mike		x
Broomfeild	Monacelli	Natalie		
Aurora	Harmon	Nick		x
	Marusin	Nick		
C. Springs	Zeitlow	Patti		x
	Heald	Roy		x
	Kim	Randi		
	Calkins	Sam		x
	Harcus	Scott		
Northglenn	Stanley	Shelley	sstanley@northglenn.org	
Eagle	Wilson	Stephan		x
Westminster	Wilson	Tara		x
Fremont	Ormandy	Toby	tormandy@fsd.co	x
	Kraft	Tanner		x
	Eldridge	Tyler		x
	Eaves	Wally		
		Vic		
Plum Creek	Martin	Wes		x
	Zachman	Brad		