



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 9th, 2022

Attendees:

Blair Corning – South Platte Renew
Julie Tinetti – Centennial
Katie Koplitz – Metro
Andra Ahrens – Pueblo
Wes Martin – Plum Creek
Gave Racz – Vranesh and Raisch
Nathan Moore – CDPHE
Anne Noble – Longmont
Annie Berleman – C. Springs
Bonnie Pierce – Fort Collins
Barb Biggs – Roxborough Metro Dist.
Tara Wilson - Westminster
Bryan Burks – Mt. Crested Butte
Cynthia Lane – Platte Canyon
Mark Thomas - NFRWQPA
Hunter Greeno -C. Springs
Mary Paterniti - Longmont
Jim Heckman – Lower Fountain Metro
Joe Kunovic - Greeley
Jason Kruckeberg - Silverthorne
John Handzo - Aurora
Manuel Freyre - Northglenn
Sam Calkins - Centennial
Diana Trejo Calzada– LRE Water for BHCCSD
Meg Parish - CDPHE

Roy Heald – Security
Tyler Eldridge - Greeley
Toby Ormandy - Fremont
Jeremy Woolf - Greeley
Jessica DiToro – LRE Water for BHCCSD
Jim Heckman – Lower Fountain
Jim Kendrick – Tri Lakes
Robert Fleck – St. Vrain
David Bries - Montrose
Mark Cubbon – S. Adams
Steve Lundt – Metro
Gabe Racz – Vranesh and Raisch
Caoline Byus – Pinyon Environmental
Jim Dorsch – Metro
Bethany Green – Aurora
David Bianchini - Niwot
Dawn Cowell - Broomfield
Brandon Bernard - Security
Mike Smith – Brownstein Hyatt
Tanner Kraft – Westminster
Travis Jones - Widefield

Amy Conklin – CWWUC Coordinator

Amy got the virtual meeting started and Blair welcomed everyone. Amy asked that everyone help her with the impossible task of keeping track of everyone at the meeting.

Nathan Moore (CDPHE) – State updates

Nathan, Water Quality Control Division (WQCD), talked about The Regulation 22 work group that was planned to start in February and may be delayed due to staffing shortage but they hope to get it started soon along with the biosolids work group. Randy Huffman Johnson is now one of the permits section managers but they are still short staffed. The grey water rule has just been released and there

will be a stakeholder work group. Regulation 21 is coming up and will be published on February 15th for comments. There will be a hearing on March 14th. For more information, visit the [Water Quality Control Commission \(WQCC\) webpage](#). Regulation 84 was recently published as well. There was a long stakeholder process and the proposed changes are on the [WQCC website](#).

Meg Parish reported that the permit temperature work group will meet on Feb 22nd. She sent a [link](#) to draft changes to water quality policy 23. The antidegradation/NILS draft memo is out for comment until Feb. 14th. There is an ongoing work group around alternative analysis guidance for anti-degradation. She wants more input in that group. She and Nathan encouraged everyone to share any requests for specific updates so they could report at the next meeting.

Gabe Racz (Vranesh & Raisch) – Updates and discussion

Gabe reported on updates on anti-degradation issues. He sent out draft comments to be submitted by CWWUC on WQCC limits on anti-degradation. The comment memo is longer than the WQCD memo. The stakeholder process wasn't adequate to address issues. The current implementation for anti-degradation encourages reductions in pollutant concentrations which is not the purpose of anti-degradation. The comments are due on Monday so he is looking for **any comments by Friday Feb. 11th**. Amy has sent the comments out.

Temperature in Permits work group - There is a meeting of the temperature in permits work group. The group is narrowly focused on implementing temperature limits in permits. Its focus is on how the temperature limits get implemented. The standards were developed in 2008 and there have been changes since then. Section 316 A limits alternatives to temperature waivers and requires a demonstration that aquatic life isn't harmed. There was a meeting of the group on January 25th. Data protocols are also being discussed. Warming issues from Regulation 31 may be added to the group's agenda. There is an indication that the temperature standard may be allowed to be exceeded under certain conditions. There are only 4 meetings scheduled for the group. The next one is February 22nd. None are scheduled so far after that. Julie Tinetti moved that Gabe represent the CWWUC at the temperature in permits work group which was seconded by Jim Kendrick. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Anti-degradation Alternatives Analysis Work Group - The last meeting of the anti-degradation alternatives analysis work group was on January 19th and the next meeting is March 2nd. Gabe explained that if a facility is given an effluent limit because of anti-degradation requirements that they can't meet, they can do an alternatives analysis and propose a different limit. Proposed alternative limits have been accepted for Leadville and Eldorado Springs. The work group will provide input into the process for doing an alternatives analysis. The WQCD presented an outline of what will be in their memo and a draft of the memo will be circulated on February 18th.

For a domestic wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), usually there is not going to be an issue. Issues may arise with the type and intensity of economic analyses required for the alternative analysis. The level of effort required for smaller facilities is under discussion. He encourages people to participate. Jim Kendrick made a motion to have Gabe participate with the alternative analysis work group and Andra seconded it. There was a unanimous vote to approve.

Chemical evaluations – There are still some follow up questions outstanding with the issue. He suggested that the topic be included on a future agenda.

Steve Lundt, Phosphorus Free Fertilizer coalition– Steve made a presentation about the harm caused by runoff from lawn fertilizers that contain Phosphorus (P). He explained that most lawns in Colorado are naturally high in P and don't need additional P fertilizer. Steve will share his slides with anyone who wants them. Steve explained that he works for Metro Water Recovery and also represents the Barr Lake and Milton Reservoir Watershed Association (BMW) who is trying to reduce P in the watershed. Many people don't know how to take proper care of their lawns. What runs off their lawns can lead to algal blooms that everyone has to pay for.

He shared the list of coalition members that continues to grow. One purpose of his presentations is to determine if anyone objects and so far no one has. He shared utility bill inserts that have been developed and are available to anyone. There will also be a bill board and radio ads encouraging the use of P Free Lawn Fertilizer in April. There are postcards for the 4 Rs; right rate, right place, right time, right product. The effort will continue with education to both home

Utility Inserts –

LIVE LIKE YOU LOVE COLORADO WATER!

Choose Phosphorus-Free Fertilizer to Keep Lawns Green and Waters Blue!

Fertilizers that contain phosphorus can harm our environment. When it rains or snows, the phosphorus runs off your lawn and pollutes nearby rivers, lakes and streams. Phosphorus is like junk food for algae and weeds. It feeds them until they grow out of control, turning ponds green and possibly killing fish. If your lawn is not phosphorus-deficient (test your soil to confirm), choose phosphorus-free lawn fertilizers to help keep Colorado's waters blue.

DO:

- Carefully follow all manufacturer's instructions.
- Check the weather forecast before applying fertilizer.
- Clean up all spills – no matter how small.

DON'T:

- Over-apply fertilizer – more is not better. Apply fertilizer right before or after a storm.
- Apply fertilizer when it's too hot or on frozen ground.

Visit lovecoloradowater.org for more water quality tips and to learn the 4 R's (right product, rate, place, and time) of applying lawn fertilizers.

Logos for: BARR MILTON WATER RECOVERY ASSOCIATION, DENVER TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE, H2O, and a circular logo with the number 7.

Learn How to Apply Lawn Fertilizers

The 4 R's – Right Rate, RIGHT PRODUCT, Right place, RIGHT TIME

Step 1: Lawn Area
Estimate lawn area using GPS, apps, Google Earth, or physically measure 10' x 10' grid squares (length x width).

Step 2: Read Directions
Find out what percentage nitrogen is in your fertilizer. Apply 22 lbs of N per 1,000 sq ft of lawn each year.

Step 3: Do the Math
Multiply the weight of the bag by the % N to know how much N you have. Multiply 1.0 (100%) by your lawn area to know how much N you need to apply each year.

Step 4: Apply Fertilizer
Fertilize 3-4 times between April and November. Watch your soil pH and test it every 3-5 years. Spread evenly and water up.

Lawn Starter
Use: All-Natural, Organic, Slow Release. These products "nurse" new grass and help get new lawns established.

Compost
Use: All-Natural, Organic, Slow Release. These products are great overwaters and are low in P. Great soil amendment to improve topsoil.

Weed & Feed
Lawn Fertilizers that have broadleaf herbicides. Goes right to work to control harmful weeds and others.

Water 22
Water your lawn with 1 inch of water every 7-10 days. Use a rain gauge to measure.

Green Lawns, Blue Waters – Protecting Colorado's Water One Yard at a Time

Learn How to Apply Lawn Fertilizers

The 4 R's – Right Rate, Right product, RIGHT PLACE, Right Time

To keep your lawn green and beautiful, water like a pro. Water your lawn with 1 inch of water every 7-10 days. Use a rain gauge to measure. Water areas that receive storm water. Keep away from impervious surfaces and wet/dry areas.

DOING:

- LATE SPRING**
Apply 1/2 bag of 22-0-0 fertilizer to your lawn three times. This will help your lawn get established.
- FALL**
Apply 1/2 bag of 22-0-0 fertilizer to your lawn once. This will help your lawn get established.

DO NOT:

- Apply fertilizer when it's too hot or on frozen ground.
- Over-apply fertilizer – more is not better.
- Apply fertilizer right before or after a storm.

Green Lawns, Blue Waters – Protecting Colorado's Water One Yard at a Time

owners and lawn scape professionals. All ACE Hardware stores will be participating in encouraging the use of P Free Lawn Fertilizer. There'll be a webpage soon. The coalition has partnered with the [Live Like You Love It \(LLYLI\)](#) campaign and [Water 22](#).

The ask is purposely vague. He hopes people will join the coalition and let us know what objections they might have. He's hoping people will help educate people and change behaviors. Steve is

available for anyone who wants more information. Once the website goes live, there should be a lot more information available, including stores and landscaping

companies that sell or use P free lawn fertilizers. The effort mimics what happened with P being removed from laundry and dish washer detergents, nationally in the 1970s. Hopefully the industry will start supplying P free lawn fertilizers as Scotts has. There are a few local fertilizer manufacturers who still add P.

Julie reported that there is a draft bill in the legislature to encourage people to remove turf. Roy was confused by the messaging. Are there some cases where you do need P? Steve replied that there isn't a ban on P. Lawn owners who want their lawn to look it's best should test the soil every few years. Most lawns will need nitrogen (N) not P. We should be able to have a green lawn and blue water. If you're going to have a lawn, here are some things that you can do to protect water quality as well as have a good lawn. There are exemptions for cases where P will be needed. The program is targeted for folks who just buy an all purpose fertilizer and apply it without knowing if they need P. There are [guidelines posted](#) for maximizing lawns and water quality. The coalition is trying to bring Coloradans up to speed on existing information.

Board Action Items

Approval of invoices for payment – Andra moved to approve the first 2 checks, Wes seconded it. She

Checks for Approval, Feb. 2022		
2308 - Amy Conklin	\$2,863.08	Jan. 2021 Coordinating
2309 - Rose Melville, CPA	\$ 230.00	2021 Tax prep and filing
2310 - Vranesh & Raisch	\$1,197.00	Invoice 42038

also moved to conditionally approve the 3rd check, pending a resolution of outstanding issues. The vote was unanimous to approve payment.

Approval of the January meeting minutes – Wes moved and Julie seconded a motion to approve the January minutes. There was a unanimous vote for their approval.

Discussion Items

- a. New PFAS – Barb Biggs reported on a proposed bill to require facilities to report on PFAs in biosolids that is redundant with other reporting requirements. The Sierra Club is the bill's proponent. Barb is planning to meet with them and ask them to remove reporting requirements. Barb will report back on how the conversations progress. Barb sent the bill to Amy who forwarded it to the membership. Gabe also received a copy of the bill and suggested that the CWWUC may want to support the ban on consumer products with PFAs in the bill. Metro Water Recovery is also lobbying on the issues and would be very willing to collaborate with her. Biosolids reporting is the concerning part. CDPHE has a biosolids work group. The authors don't seem familiar with the reporting requirements for people who apply biosolids.

Barb added that she participated in EPA's initial discussion of NPDES requirements related to cybersecurity on behalf of NACWA. The follow up at the NACWA Winter Meeting was that the industry should develop Best

Practices for Cybersecurity to demonstrate the industry is taking the issue seriously and try to avoid regulation

- b. Temperature in Permits update – **Jim Dorsch** – He reported that Gabe covered the updates earlier in the meeting.
- c. February 16th – Industrial Stormwater general Permit stakeholder work group meeting, COR900000 – **Julie Tinetti** – the [permit is up for renewal](#) and first meeting is Feb. 16 specifically for airports. Feb 22nd and March 23rd are meetings for the general stakeholders.
- d. Tier 2 Warm Fish Species Literature Group – **Julie Tinetti** reported that CSU, CPW, GEI and others did [a literature review](#) on Tier 1 and Tier 2 species with a specific list of species. In the conclusion, some species are not suitable to testing, others haven't been successful, others are harder to test. Only the northern red bellied Dace was left as a suitable testing species. There were no solid answer to any of the questions being asked. Effluent limits to protect Johnny Darter will stay the same. Stream studies below and above WWTP discharges are ongoing to determine impacts to instream populations which should be different than those in the lab.

There will be another Technical Advisory Committee meeting in march where Dana Winkleman, CSU, will talk about what a new lab study might look like and the cost. Julie will update the group after the next meeting. There is about \$3,000 left in the line item to cover the cost of representation in this effort. The money has been assigned for GEI to use to represent CWWUC so no vote is required for them to continue.

- e. Registration for TENORM – **Wes Martin** – He hopes people are registering to share results by July 14th. Pipe classifications are an issue with the reporting. The process on the wastewater side has been smooth but we can set up a meeting with Colorado Oil and Gas Association (COGA) for anyone who wants. CWWUC has no issues with TENORM as far as wastewater is concerned. The stakeholder process was fair and collaborative. The process works for wastewater but may not work as well for oil and gas.
- f. Thermal Presentation from Metro on Heat Recovery System, February 24th – **Katie Koplitz** – Katie reported that Metro is putting on a workshop to talk about the growing renewal solutions for heating and cooling buildings using wastewater heat as the National Western is doing along with small applications at Metro's Hite facility. They are targeting builders and not just utilities, especially with temperature limits being a pressing issue. They're working on a hybrid option for the presentation so people can join online. **Katie** will send the link for the hybrid option to Amy to distribute.

Mark Cubbon introduced himself. He's the acting manager for South Adams County Water and Sanitation District. He's been in WW about 30 years. He's replacing JM Grenbenc who has retired from South Adams.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 9th, 2022 at 1:00 pm